# 27 year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday 14 May 2024 | Srinagar | Vol: 27 | Issue: 113 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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# Srinagar Records Historic Voter Turnout, Highest Since 1989

### KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Buoyed by the massive participation of people in the democratic process, Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) P K Pole, Monday said that Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency recorded over 38 per cent voting, a figure highest ever since the eruption of militancy in 1989.

"I am glad to announce that Srinagar parliamentary constituency today recorded the highest ever voting percentage of over 38 per cent. This is the highest figure since the eruption of militancy in 1989," Pole said addressing a press conference. He added that the figure was likely to go up as data was pouring in from districts. The official app of the J&K administration also confirmed the voting percentage of 38.3 per cent in Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency at 10 pm.

Pole said that there was a great enthusiasm among the voters and the polling took place in a peace-ful atmosphere. "There was no polling station that

witnessed zero per cent polling. No law-and-order incident was reported anywhere," he said, adding that not even a single polling booth witnessed zero percent polling in Srinagar parliamentary constituency.

"People voted in large numbers here. We are thankful to each and every person involved in making this democratic process a success," said Pole.

As per the data provided, the polling percentage until 5 P.M. stood at 36 percent, marking the second-highest turnout since 1989. The figures for previous years were shared as follows -2019: 14.43%; 2014: 25.86%; 2009: 25.55%; 2004: 18.57%; 1999: 11.93%; 1998: 30.06% and 1996: 40.94%

Highlighting the logistics involved, Pole mentioned that there were 2135 polling stations across 18 assembly segments. Over 8500 civil employees, along with police and CRPF personnel, double that number, worked tirelessly over the past two days to ensure the smooth conduct of the polls. "We had special arrange-

ments in place for females and aged persons, | More on P6



## Groom, Super-centenarian, Selfies & More

ohammad Ashraf started a new chapter in life on Monday when he got married and his first stop was a polling station in this Jammu and Kashmir constituency to cast his vote - complete with sherwani. colourful turban | More on P6

## **People Defy 'Boycott Trend', Vote Without Fear**

**Auqib Javeed** 

arhad Mir's experience at the polling station in Srinagar's Eidgah on Monday stood in stark contrast to the last Lok Sabha elections in 2019. Back then, he swiftly entered the polling station and completed the voting process within a mere 20 minutes, while today, he had to wait for two hours to cast his vote. This transformative shift in scenes | More on P6

## 'We Put Our Belief In **Candidates, Not Parties'**

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency went to polls on Monday. many voters demonstrated a pronounced preference for individual candidates rather than traditional party affiliations.

"It's not just about party politics anymore," Naveed Ahmad Wani, 31, from Pulwama's Awantipora, said. "Aga Ruhulla took a stand for what he believed was right, sometimes he even went against his party," Wani said, adding, "He is articulate and moderate in his views." from Another voter

### Srinagar's Lal chowk said that Ruhulla's campaign has been a pivotal factor in his decision to vote. "He reached out to people in the most humble way, he feels like our own."

Mohammad Amir Qureshi, also echoed a similar sentiment, underscoring his allegiance to a candidate rather than a political party. "I ex-ercised my electoral right for the second time in favor of the People's Democratic Party. My allegiance goes beyond party lines, it is tied to the visionary ideologies of Wahid Para," Qureshi tweeted on the social media app X. Another voter speaking on anonymity | More on P6

## **Elderly Voters Rally For Change**

## **Majid Nabi**

n an effort to bring about positive changes on the ground, many senior citizens today signaled to have supported irreproachable candidates, who could more effectively represent Jammu and Kashmir in the National Assembly. Ninety-year-old civil line resident, Qazi Ghulam Rasool Shah, said he voted for a change that the Kashmir valley had been longing for decades. | More on P6

## High Turnout In Srinagar Signals Potential Shift In Political Participation

## **KO Political Bureau**

Srinagar: Srinagar witnessed the highest turnout over two decades but still has fallen short of expectations. The turnout is, however, a big jump from the 2019 parliament polls

### when a mere 14.43 percent of people turned out to vote. The figures for 2014, 2009, 2004 and 1999 are 25.86 percent, 25.55 percent, 18.57 percent and 11.93 percent respectively.

The election in Srinagar was crucial as the city has

consistently boycotted polls since 1987 Assembly polls which were widely perceived to have been rigged. The city has been in a limbo ever since. Though there has been an occasional furtive urge to reassert its electoral power, Srinagar

has generally shied away from political participation. Whether Monday's hesitant participation will now set the stage for an active political participation in the subsequent polls will be a development of profound significance.

Unlike the past, Hurriyat factions refrained from calling for a boycott. Moderate Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a recent statement said that "the drastic unilateral changes had complicated the dynamics of the Kashmir

issue in 2019, making boycott of elections irrelevant.

"In the changed circumstances, issuing a boycott call does not seem to carry the sense or yield the impact like in the past," he said in his election | More on P6

## **KPs Vote For More Jobs, Safe Return To Valley**

## People Reaffirmed Faith In Democracy:LG

## **Never Issued Boycott Call: Banned Jel Leader**



### **Press Trust Of India**

Jammu: Despite the hot weather, Kashmiri Pandits from the Srinagar constituency flocked to special polling stations in Jammu on Monday and voted for the rehabilitation of their community on "social, economic, and political" fronts.

The community which was forced to flee from the valley in the early 90s under fear of militancy demanded their permanent return and rehabilitation with guarantee of peace and security.

Kashmiri Pandits lined up in long queues amid tight security to cast | More on P6

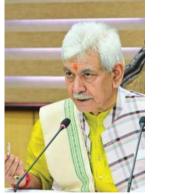
## Appeals To Vote Without Fear In Coming Phases

## KO Web Desk

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Monday lauded voters in the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency for coming out to ex-ercise their right to franchise in large numbers.

In a post on X, the LG said he hoped to see a historic turnout in the next two phases of the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency recorded a voter turnout of 36 per cent till 5 pm, the second highest since 1989. The final figure of the

voter turnout is awaited. "Today, people came out in large numbers to cast their votes in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency and reaffirmed



their faith in democracy and the Constitution. I commend the hard work by all the stakeholders for free, fair, peaceful and smooth conduct of the polling," Sinha said.

"I truly appreciate the

## **TODAY, PEOPLE CAME OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS TO CAST** THEIR VOTES in Srinagar **Parliamentary Constituency** and reaffirmed their faith in democracy and the Constitution. I commend

the hard work by all the stakeholders for free, fair, peaceful and smooth conduct of the polling,"

enthusiasm of electors and hopeful (hope) to see historic turnout in the next two phases (in Baramulla and Anantnag parliamentary constituencies on May 20 and 25, respectively). I appeal | More on P6

### Agencies

Pulwama: Jamaat-e-Islami has always believed in the idea of democracy and the decision about taking part in the assembly election will be taken later, a member of the banned organisation said on Monday.

Speaking to the media persons after exercising the franchise, the member of Jel, Ghulam Qadir Wani, said they always believed in the idea of democracy and have never given a boycott call.

"In the name of the freedom movement, many parties came into existence and related slogans of boycott in the name of Jamaat-e-Islami but that was not true as Jamaat has never given the boycott call," he said. "We believe in democracy and want to resolve all issues democratically. We have mentioned in our constitution that we will not do anything that is against the government."

Wani said the decision about participating in the upcoming assembly election will be taken later. "As of now, Jamaat is a banned organisation and cannot contest elections," he said after casting his vote in the Goosu area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Once the ban is over, then any decision regarding taking part in assembly elections will be taken, he said

When asked about youth in large numbers coming to vote, the Jamaat leader said it is an encouraging sign. "Youth need to work together in a way to create a better environment which will be free from social evils," he said. | More on P6

## **EVM-VVPAT** Case **Review Petition** Filed In SC

### **Press Trust Of India**

New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of its April 26 judgement by which it had rejected the demand for reverting to the old paper ballot system and the complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

The review petition was filed by Arun Kumar Agrawal, who had filed the PIL on the issue earlier, through lawyer Neha Rathi.

The review plea filed on May 10 said, "There are mistakes and errors apparent on the face of the impugned order..., and as such there are sufficient reasons which require review of the impugned order/judgment...

'The petitioner respectfully seeks review on | More on P6

## **Private Interest Must Be Subservient To Larger Public Interest: HC**

### M Ahmad

Srinagar: Private interest must be subservient to larger public interest, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said as it vacated its interim order regarding projects of national security.

"The court should always keep the larger public interest in mind in order to decide whether its intervention is called for or not. Only when, the court comes to a conclusion that overwhelming public interest requires interference, under that circumstance, the court should intervene," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said while hearing an application filed by government, seeking vacation of an interim order passed by the court regarding the construction of e construction

Bureau, Doda besides IRP Battalion Headquarters, Mess

cum dining hall in ground floor and separate toilet/bathroom blocks 20+20 and septic/ soakage block-B, C & D), construction of 10 double storey sentry posts, construction of four Guard Room, construction of drain for road, parade ground and sports stadium etc in Kishtwar. "After hearing learned

counsel appearing for the parties, this court is of the

opinion that to buttonhole the project is in nobody's interest but is only antithetical to public interest," the court said, adding, "The passing of interim direction, in favour of the petitioner (M/s A L Construction), has helped no-one, rather has only caused loss to the parties with no corresponding gain to anyone."

The interim direction, the court said, is visiting very harshly to the authorities.

"The project, in question, relates to larger public interest, more so, when the question of national security is involved," the bench said, adding, "This court, after pe-rusing the record, is of the view that there was no blanket stay order, which could have caused legal impediment for | More on P6

## Hajj Pilgrims from Kashmir **Face Hardships In Saudi**

### Agencies

Srinagar: Concerns have been raised regarding the responsibilities of the Haj Committee of India and the State Haj Committee Jammu and Kashmir following the arrival of Jammu and Kashmir pilgrims in Saudi Arabia for Hajj 2024

The recent arrival of pilgrims in Makkah has shed light on several issues and challenges faced by the pilgrims.

A Hajj pilgrim from Kashmir, shared his experience with the news agency over the phone from Saudi Arabia. He revealed that their scheduled flight on May 12, 2024, was meant to land in Madina. However, due to heavy rainfall, the flight had to

be diverted to Jeddah airport. Upon landing, the pilgrims were boarded onto a bus, which remained parked near the airport for the entire night. Shockingly, the pilgrims were left without food and water, spending the first night of the holy pilgrimage in distress. He expressed dismay, particu-larly for the aged pilgrims and those with ailments like diabetes, who endured starvation and dehydration throughout the night. He lamented, "We were bundled into a bus like cattle and kept in a corner for the entire night. The next day, the bus proceeded towards Madina, and we reached the beloved Prophet's (saw) city in the same condition, without

food and water." Despite claims of effective arrangements | More on P6

## 93% Pass CBSE **Class 10 Exam**

## Girls Outshine Boys, Supplementary **Exams From July 15**

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday announced the results for the class 10 Exams 2024 with a pass percentage of 93.60 per cent. This represents a 0.48 percent gain over the 93.12 per cent who passed the CBSE 10 exam in the previous year.

This year, the board conducted the class 10 exams from February 15 to March 13.

According to reports, 132337 or 5.91 per cent of students have been placed in CBSE 10th compartment exams 2024. The pass percentage among girls is 94.75 per cent and among boys, 92.71 per cent.

More than 47,000 students have scored above 95 per cent marks and more | More on P6





## **Athletes Who Can Run A Mile Under 4 Mins Outlive General Population: Study**

### **Press Trust Of India**

thletes who run a mile in under four minutes are found to live for about five more years than their predicted life expectancy, according to a new study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

Researchers tracked the longevity of the first 200 athletes ever to have run a mile (roughly about a kilometre-and-a-half) in under four minutes.

The athletes' 4-minute mile achievements spanned a period of 20 years from 1954 to 1974 and

the runners came from 28 different countries across Europe, North America, Oceania and Africa.

The researchers, including those at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Australia, found that these athletes outlived the general population by several years. On average, they were found to live nearly five years beyond their predicted life expectancy. Further, the runners whose first

successful attempt was in the 1950s were found to outlive the general population by nine years, while the runners having their first successful attempt in the 1960s and the 1970s were found to live 5.5 years and

nearly 3 years longer than the general population, respectively.

The analysis also found that the average age of the surviving athletes was 77 years, while the average age of the dead athletes when they died was 73 years. All the 200 athletes were men, born from 1928 to 1955, and were aged about 23 years (on average) when they ran a mile under four minutes for the first time. The times ranged from 3:52.86 and 3:59.9 minutes.

The researchers said it has long been thought that exposing the body to bouts of extreme endurance exercise may push it too far and shorten life expectancy.

However, the latest findings challenge these notions, they said.

"This finding challenges the upper ends of the U-shaped exercise hypothesis (as it relates to longevity) and, once again, reiterates the benefits of exercise on the lifespan, even at the levels of training required for elite performance," the authors wrote.

They explained that the high aerobic and anaerobic requirements of running a mile necessitate putting in relatively high training volumes of around 9-12 hours or 120-170 kilometres a week.

While all this can mean pushing the body beyond its limits,

particularly from an intensity perspective, this does not seem to affect lifespan, and if anything seems to prolong it, the researchers said.

They also acknowledged that a healthy lifestyle and genes may also have contributed, as 20 sets of brothers, including six sets of twins and father and son combinations, were among the first 200 runners to break the 4-minute mile.

The first person to achieve the feat was English neurologist and middle-distance athlete Roger Bannister on May 6, 1954, to mark the 70th anniversary of which, the study was released, the authors said.

## **ASF ENTERPRISES**

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Father of Hamyah Trumboo (DOB: 05/04/2019 Class UKG)

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My daughter's name and Parentage has been wronlgy written in her school records as Haneefa Trumboo Father's name: Suhail Ahmad Tumboo Mother's Name: Hafsa while the corect details are Haneefa Trumboo, Father's Name: Suhail Bashir Mother's Name: Hafsa Altaf Charoo which needs to be corrected. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the St. Joseph Hr. Sec School Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Suhail Bashir

Father of Haneefa Trumboo (DOB: 10/05/2014, Class 5th)

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## **Study links childhood** inactivity with heart enlargement

Press Trust Of India

eing sedentary or performing little activity in childhood is associated with heart enlargement, which progressed with an increase in time spent sitting or being inactive, according to new research.

An excessive increase in heart mass and size, known as left ventricular hypetrophy, is a known risk factor for heart attacks, stroke and premature death in adults.

However, light physical activity of about three or four hours a day, including running errands and playing outdoor games, was found to reverse the increase in heart mass, with more of such activity being associated with better cardiac function, according to researchers who observed child and adolescent participants for 13 years.

"There is growing evidence that childhood sedentariness is a health threat that needs to be taken seriously," Andrew Agbaje, a physician and an associate professor of clinical epidemiol-ogy and child health at the University of Eastern Finland, said.

"There must be a paradigm shift in how we view childhood sedentariness, as the mounting evidence is pointing at a ticking time bomb," Agbaje, the author of the study published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, said.

For the study, the researchers followed nearly 1.700 children from the UK's University of Bristol's 'Children of the 90s cohort' from age 11 until 24 years. At the start of the study, the children spent about six hours a day performing seden-tary activities, which increased to nine hours a day as they became young adults.

The participants wore accelerometer devices (for tracking movement) on their waists at ages 11, 15, and 24 years for a duration of 4-7 days and had echocardiography measurements taken of their heart structure and function at ages 17 and 24 years.

Other aspects like lifestyle factors and socioeconomic status were also analysed, along with fasting blood samples for cholesterol, glucose, insulin and C-reactive protein -- an indicator of

## From Deepfakes To Bioweapons: All You Need To Know About Threats Posed By AI

## Agencies

ashington: The Biden administration is poised to open up a new front in its effort to safeguard US AI from China and Russia with preliminary plans to place guardrails around the most advanced AI models, Reuters reported on Wednesday.

Government and private sector researchers worry US adversaries could use the models, which mine vast amounts of text and images to summarize information and generate content, to wage aggressive cyber attacks or even create potent biological weapons.

Here are some threats posed by AI: This is a modal window.The media could not be loaded, either because the server or network failed or because the format is not supported.

### **DEEPFAKES AND MISINFORMATION**

Deepfakes - realistic yet fabricated videos created by AI algorithms trained on copious online footage - are surfacing on social media, blurring fact and fiction in the polarized world of U.S. politics.

While such synthetic media has been around for several years, it's been turbocharged over the past year by a slew of new "generative AI" tools such as Midjourney that make it cheap and easy to create convincing deepfakes.

Image creation tools powered by artificial intelligence from companies including OpenAI and Microsoft, can be used to produce photos that could promote election or voting-related disinformation, despite each having policies against creating misleading content, researchers said in a report in March.

Some disinformation campaigns simply harness the ability of AI to mimic



viously circulated false claim that the United States was running a lab in Kazakhstan to create biological weapons for use against China, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in its 2024 homeland threat assessment.

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, speaking at an AI event in Washington on Wednesday, said the problem has no easy solutions because it combines the capacity of AI with "the intent of state, non-state actors, to use disinformation at scale, to disrupt democracies, to advance propaganda, to shape perception in the world.

"Right now the offense is beating the defense big time," he said.

### **BIOWEAPONS**

The American intelligence community, think tanks and academics are increasingly concerned about risks posed by foreign bad actors gaining access to advanced AI capabilities. Researchers at Gryphon Scientific and Rand Corporation noted that advanced AI models can provide information that could help create biological weapons.

they "can provide information that could aid a malicious actor in creating a biological weapon by providing useful, accurate and detailed information across every step in this pathway.'

They found, for example, that an LLM could provide post-doctoral level knowledge to trouble-shoot problems when working with a pandemic-capable virus.

could help in the planning and execution of a biological attack. They found an LLM could for example suggest aerosol delivery methods for botulinum toxin.

### **CYBERWEAPONS**

DHS said cyber actors would likely use AI to "develop new tools" to "enable largerscale, faster, efficient, and more evasive cyber attacks" against critical infrastructure including pipelines and railways, in its 2024 homeland threat assessment.

China and other adversaries are developing AI technologies that could un-

Rand research showed that LLMs

inflammation.

The researchers found that over a period of seven years, during which the adolescents grew into young adults, the heart enlargement associated with the increase in sedentary time contributed 40 per cent to the total increase in heart mass.

Being sedentary or inactive was found to increase heart mass, regardless of obesity or elevated blood pressure status.

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real news articles as a means of dissemi-
nating false information.

While major social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube have made efforts to prohibit and remove deepfakes, their effectiveness at policing such content varies.

For example, last year, a Chinese government-controlled news site using a generative AI platform pushed a pre-

Gryphon studied how large language models (LLM) - computer programs that draw from massive amounts of text to generate responses to queries - could be used by hostile actors to cause harm in the domain of life sciences and found

dermine U.S. cyber defenses. DHS said including generative AI programs that support malware attacks.

Microsoft said in a February report that it had tracked hacking groups affiliated with the Chinese and North Korean governments as well as Russian military intelligence, and Iran's Revolutionary Guard, as they tried to perfect their hacking campaigns using large language models.

**Mohd Yaseen Dar Ghulam Ahmad Dar** Ellahi Bagh Grid Station

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زنيابت گوم احمد پوره درخواست از جانب سیدفردو<sup>ر حس</sup>ین ولد سیدعلی شاه ساکنه گوم احمد پور پختصیل پیژن بار به وله بمراد حصول D.O.B مرلفکیٹ تجق سید مرتضٰی علی۔ **اشتېار بمراداً گا بی خاص دعام** معامله مندرد بیعنوان الصدر کے نسبت رپورٹ پنچایت سکٹری د نبررارد به دوچوکیدارعلاقه دآشامیڈم سے موصول ہوئی۔مطابق ریورٹ عملہ فیلڈ ہے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کے پسر سید مرتضٰ علی کی پيدائش مورخه 2007-11-14 كوہونى ہے اور سائل مذکور نے تا حال کوئى بھی سند D.O.B حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔سائل مٰدکوراپنے پسر کے حق میں D.O.B حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ س بارے میں بذریعہ اخباراشتہارشتھر کیا جاتا ہےا گرسی شخص کوکوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرنفکیٹ ہوتو دفتر لھذیبیں اندرسات یوم پیش کریں۔بعد گز رنے میعاد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصيلدا fko

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## Apni Party Workers Allege Deletion Of Active Voters From List

## Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A high voltage drama unfolded at a polling station in Srinagar after workers of Apni Party alleged 'deletion' of active voters from the voter list on Monday.

The Apni Party workers claimed that the Booth Level Officer (BLO) in question had removed the active voters off the list, preventing them from exercising their right to vote.

A high voltage drama unfolded at the Tyndale Biscoe and Malison polling booth after an Apni Party activist found a number of voters deleted from the voter list.

"This is not an error, as claimed by the BLO, but he has done this as part of a conspiracy to prevent people from supporting the Apni Party candidate," an Apni Party activist shouted, prompting police to intervene.

In order to pacify the agitating Apni Party workers, police asked them to wait till the facts come to fore and let the polling process go smoothly.

The BLO concerned later acknowledged that it was not his fault and that a technical error had resulted in the removal of certain voters from the list.

"There might be some deletions in the list, but it's not my fault at all, why would I do this under the influence of a particular party as alleged by the Apni Party workers. There are some deceased individuals in the list as well whose name hasn't been deleted as of now," BLO Kothibagh, Shubhat Ahmad said.



## ECI Establishes 119 Special Polling Stations In Srinagar PC

## Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the hilly terrains of Srinagar outskirts, nearly 900 households have never opted to boycott in the past several decades, but have always turned up at the polling stations to cast their ballot and elect their representative.

Similarly, since the wee hours today (May 13), Fakeer Gujri, located over 22 kilometers away from Srinagar's busiest place— Lal Chowk, has once again witnessed the enthusiasm amongst the voters, who believe that staying away from the polls, is tantamount to give away from your rights.

Two parallel lines were witnessed outside the polling booth in the locality, where the males in left and females in left were seen waiting for their turn to cast their ballot.

It is not for the first time that the polling station, set up at Government Middle School, Fakeer Gujri has witnessed the massive turnout, but the people living in the area have always preferred to elect their candidates by casting ballots. Some among them, who have never boycotted, were also present at the polling station. Muhammad Israeel Bajran and Gulla Badana were the elderly amongst all, who were 85 and 95 years

## old respectively.

Fakir Gujri Never Side With Boycott,

Witnesses' Massive Turnout

"Since we have grown up and become eligible to vote. We have never wasted our right, but always preferred to elect our candidates," the duo said.

Bajran said that he doesn't even remember the number of times he turned up to cast his ballot, but it is a fact that he has never wasted the vote. "I believe that staying away from the elections is tantamount to giving away our rights," Bajran said.

However, he stated that "by casting the ballots amidst the boycott calls, we gave respect to every person, but we were not respected as per our expectations. In response to our votes, we should have got quality education, better roads, but unfortunately, we are witnessing a hike in the monthly tariff by almost 500 per cent. Besides. we don't have jobs here. Our educated youth are struggling to earn their

livelihood," Bajran said. Nazir Ahmad Khatana, also present at the polling booth, said that the

Observer News Service

wn by to be to state of the sta

today in the fourth phase of General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024. These innovative polling sta-

tions viz; women manned, youth manned and PwD manned besides green model and unique polling stations were designed to cater specifically to the needs of women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and other voters besides promoting eco-friendly practices. These polling stations were established with specific themes in all five districts of Srinagar Par-

liamentary Constituency. In Srinagar district, eight Women manned, eight PwD manned and eight youth manned besides eight green, seventeen model and two unique polling stations were established. Similarly, four women manned, four PwD manned and four youth manned besides six green, eight model and three unique polling stations were established for ease of voters in Ganderbal district.

Likewise, Pulwama district had three women manned, three PwD manned and two youth manned besides four green, eight model and one unique polling station was established. In Budgam (29,30,31) district, three women manned, one PWD manned and three youth manned besides three green polling stations were established. Similarly, Shopian (37) had one woman manned, one PwD manned and one youth manned besides two green and two unique polling stations.

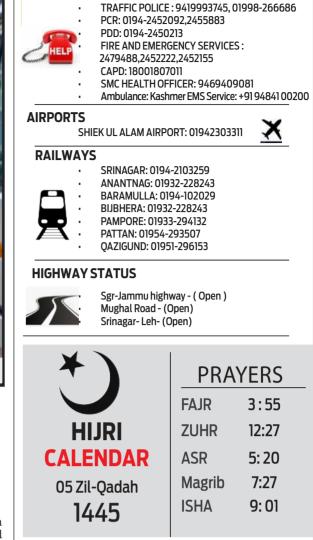
The newly established polling stations aim to revolutionize the electoral process by ensuring accessibility and representation for all segments of society. With a special focus on women, youth, and PWD, these stations had been equipped with amenities tailored to meet their unique needs, fostering an environment conducive to their active participation in the democratic process.

Furthermore, the ECI's commitment towards environmental sustainability has visibly been reflected through implementation of green practices at these polling stations. Every aspect is meticulously designed to minimize environmental impact and promote a greener future.

Speaking on this milestone initiative, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Pandurang K Pole, said that establishment of these unique polling stations underscores ECI's unwavering dedication towards fostering inclusivity and sustainability in the electoral process.

He added that the ECI believes that every citizen should have equal access to exercise their democratic right, and these polling stations represent a significant step towards achieving that goal.





## This Day In History

- 1264 Battle of Lewes, 2nd Barons' War: Simon de Montfort the younger, Earl of Leicester, defeats English King Henry III
- 1509 Battle of Ágnadello, French beat Venetians in Northern Italy
- 1664 Turkish Grand Vizier Köprülü Fazıl Ahmed attacks 120,000 Donau soldiers
- 1702 England & Netherlands declare war on France & Spain
- 1702 Swedish troops under King Charles XII occupy Warsaw
- 1811 Paraguay gains independence from Spain (National Day)
- 1853 Gail Borden, land surveyor, newspaper publisher and inventor, patents his process for condensed milk
- 1861 The Canellas meteorite, an 859-gram chondrite-type meteorite, strikes the earth near Barcelona, Spain
- 1862 Adolphe Nicole of Switzerland patents chronograph
- 1863 American Civil War: The Battle of Jackson, Mississippi takes place
- 1868 Japanese Boshin War: end of the Battle of Utsunomiya Castle, former Shogunate forces withdraw northward to Aizu by way of Nikk
- 1897 Great Britain signs treaty with Emperor Menelik II of Abyssinia
- 1907 Sweden adopts universal suffrage for

educated youth continue to struggle to find jobs. "Despite pursuing higher degrees, our beloved are finding it tough to serve in the offices and are being forced to work as labourers," Khatana said.

Khatana was waiting for the turn to cast his 8th vote of his life.

## 3 siblings-First-Timers Vote For Quality Education, Employment

Srinagar: Amidst the election fervor, the three siblings in the hilly Fakeer Gujri area of Harwan here were enthusiastic to cast their ballots for the first time in their life.

The three siblings, who got eligible for the first time vote, turned up at the polling station 9-Fakeer Gujri, 19 Assembly Segment Hazratbal.

The three siblings Sahil Ahmad (26), Shahnawaz (23) and Mumtaz Ahmad (20) were standing in the large queue at Fakeer Gujri, waiting for their turn to cast their vote. The trio stated that they are voting for the first time with an aim to ensure a change on the ground.

"We are voting for a change. We are voting for the employment, electricity crisis including the hike in the monthly tariff and other related things like roads and water," said the trio.

"We woke up in the morning with excitement as it was for the first time that we are exercising the franchise. There are multiple things in our mind, which include the education, development of roads and the locality alike," Sahil said, adding that such is the situation in their locality that a teacher, who was teaching at a Government School here in 2001 is still deputed there. "There is no change from 2001 to 2024. At least the students living in these areas deserve an equal education," Ahmad said.

Mumtaz and Shahnawaz echoed the similar views, saying that though the condition of the schools has witnessed an improvement, the quality education has taken a hit. "We are out today to vote with an aim to ensure that the change takes place. It is not only about schools, the conditions of the health facility here is also the same as only one doctor, who comes from a far-off area. Maximum of times, we are being forced to visit other hos-

pitals," they said.

elections to its lower house and proportional representation for both houses

- 1921 Mussolini's fascists obtain 29 parliamentary seats in Italian elections
- 1939 Lina Medina becomes the world's youngest confirmed mother in medical history at the age of five.
- 1944 British troops occupy Kohima
- 1944 General Rommel, Speidel & von Stulpnagel attempt to assassinate Hitler

From KO Archives

'Tribal Justice' Surfaces In Sleepy Kokerag Village Women Branded with Red-Hot Irons For 'Illicit Ties'

Observer News Service

RINAGAR- The police has arrested two persons and is looking for another five for branding two married women with red-hot iron rods in a village on the outskirts of Kokernag.

Some people in the Dardyu village of the Larnu area in Kokernag yesterday accused two local women of having an illicit relationship with one Riyaz Ahmad, a youth living in the neighbourhood.

The villagers caught the three accused and awarded punishment to the two women on their own. According to, the police, the villagers took the law into their own hands and shaved the heads of the two women, and later branded their bodies with reds-hot irons. The women were stripped by their accusers, reports said.

The area is seething with anger at the incident. The women lodged a case with the Kokernag po-

lice, who arrested two persons, Syed Javed Ahmad Shah and Muhammad Ashraf Shah for causing injury, to the women.

A hunt has been launched for five more villagers identified as Syed Arshad Ahmad, Syed Nisar, Naseeb Ahmad, Basheer Ahmad and Manzoor Ahmad. Raids were conducted at several places to nab the suspects whose arrest has been demanded by the people of the area.

(Kashmir Observer, 14 May, 2007)

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Tuesday | 14-05-2024

## 4th Phase

ndia is currently in the midst of what can be rightly described as a historic election. With nearly one billion eligible voters, the sheer scale of this democratic exercise is mind-boggling. As the fourth phase of the seven-phase election unfolds, the rhetoric surrounding the campaigns has become more intense, reflecting the deep economic disparities and religious divisions within the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a rare third term, is facing a formidable challenge from a diverse alliance of more than two dozen opposition parties, including the main rival Congress. The contest between Modi's BJP and the opposition INDIA Alliance is not just about political power; it's about the direction India will take in the coming years.

The BJP's campaign, which initially focused on Modi's economic achievements, has taken a different turn. The PM has shifted his focus to accusing the Congress of favoring Muslims over other disadvantaged groups. His rhetoric, accusing the Congress of planning to redistribute wealth from Hindus to Muslims, has intensified the already existing religious tensions in the country.

However, the PM's narrative has been met with skepticism. Many analysts doubt whether the BJP can secure the landslide victory predicted by opinion polls. The lower turnout in the initial phases of the election has prompted Modi to change his campaign strategy. He has moved away from discussing his economic record to focus more on identity politics.

The opposition, on the other hand, is focusing on issues such as unemployment, price rises, and wealth inequality. Congress, in particular, is advocating for better representation and welfare programs for poor and disadvantaged groups. They argue that wealth inequality has worsened during Modi's tenure, a claim the government vehemently denies.

The election is not just about politics; it's about India. However, it is essential to remember that India's strength lies in its diversity, and any attempt to divide the country along religious lines is detrimental to its democratic fabric. Moreover, this election also holds significance for the troubled region of Kashmir. Srinagar, the main city in the Kashmir Valley which voted for the first time since the Modi government's decision to remove the region's semiautonomous status in 2019.

As India votes, it is crucial for all citizens to participate actively in the democratic process. The outcome of this election will shape the future of the country for years to come. Regardless of political affiliations, it is imperative for all parties to respect the democratic values and ensure a free and fair electoral process.

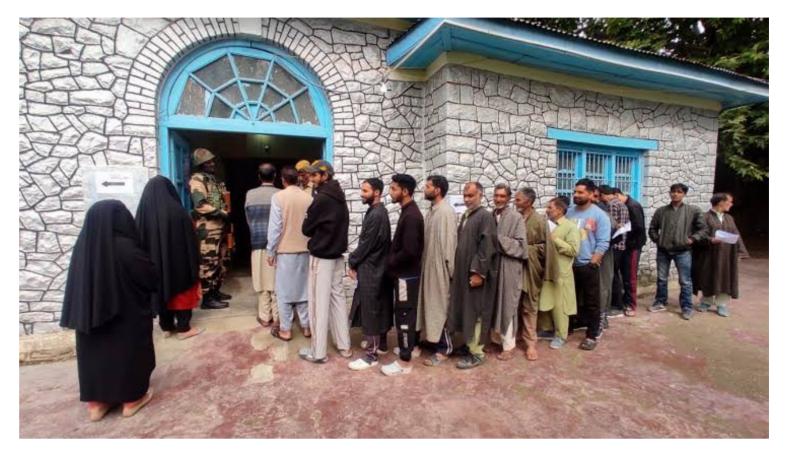
In the end, what matters most is not which party wins, but how the democratic principles are upheld throughout the election process. India's democracy is its greatest strength, and it is the responsibility of every citizen to protect and preserve it.



## Did you know?

## Lok Sabha Elections

## **An Open Plea** Voices from Kashmir to Lok Sabha Election Candidates



ear Candidates. As I continue to pour my heart out to you, the weight of our collective hopes and struggles grows heavier with each passing moment. Our beloved Kashmir, once a land of breathtaking beauty and boundless potential, now stands scarred by the ravages of conflict and neglect. Yet, amidst the rubble and ruins, the spirit of our people remains unbroken, resilient in the face of adversity.

Every word I pen here is infused with the anguish of a mother who fears for the future of her children, the despair of a father who struggles to provide for his family, and the longing of a youth robbed of opportunities and dreams. It's not just me; it's the collective lament of a people yearning for a brighter tomorrow.

The election season dawns upon us like a flickering candle in the darkness, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the despair that has engulfed our land for far too long. Yet, as I look upon the faces of those who seek to lead us, I cannot help but wonder: Will you be the beacon of he

we so desperately need, or will you suc the temptations of power and privilege us to languish in the shadows?

These questions weigh heavily on n for they speak to the very essence o istence as a people. Why should we tr when the echoes of broken promises st berate through the corridors of our What assurance can you offer that you forsake us, once the votes have been cas banners taken down? I implore you to listen to the cries of ple, to heed the silent screams that ech the valleys and mountains of our homeltheirs are the voices of the forgotten, ginalized, the oppressed - the voices been drowned out by the cacophony of rhetoric and empty promises. The housing crisis that plagues ou not just a statistic on a spreadsheet, bu reality that haunts the dreams of eve miri family. How can we speak of progress and development when our people are forced to live in overcrowded slums and makeshift shelters, their dignity trampled underfoot? How can we trust in the democratic process when our most basic rights are denied to us? Small businesses and local entrepreneurs, the lifeblood of our economy, struggle to survive amidst a sea of corruption and cronyism. How can we hope to prosper when the odds are stacked against us from the very beginning? The gap between rural and urban areas widens with each passing day, leaving behind a trail of despair and disillusionment in its wake. How

## Shahi Shahbaz

## The promises of politicians ring

hollow, their rhetoric empty and devoid of meaning. It is easy to lose faith in the democratic process when it fails to deliver on its most basic

like these that true leadership is tested, that the strength of character shines brightest.

In every corner of Kashmir, there are stories of hardship and hope and of resilience. From the bustling streets of Srinagar to the remote villages nestled in the valleys, our people endure with a quiet determination that is both inspiring and humbling.

Yet, amidst the chaos and uncertainty, there is a palpable sense of disillusionment that hangs heavy in the air. The promises of politicians ring hollow, their rhetoric empty and devoid of meaning. It is easy to lose faith in the democratic process when it fails to deliver on its most basic promises, when it leaves behind those who need it most.

But even in the darkest of times, there is always a glimmer of hope, a spark of light that refuses to be extinguished. It is the hope of a better tomorrow, the belief that change is possible, that drives us forward in the face of adversity.

Dear candidates, I urge you to embrace this hope to nurture it and let it guide



## The Magic of Growing Wealth: Your Rs 10K Monthly Can Work Wonders

magine planting a tiny seed and watching it grow into a magnificent tree. That's the power of compounding interest at work, transforming modest, consistent in-vestments into substantial wealth. By investing just Rs 10,000 every month in a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), you're not just saving—you're on a voyage to materializing your financial dreams. Let's explore how this strategy can dramatically over time.



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- At 12%, your portfolio burgeons to Rs 91 lakh.
- Accelerate to 15%, and you're looking at Rs 1.32 crore.
- At an 18% climb\*\*, your investment skyrockets to Rs 1.92 crore.
- Hitting a 20% stride, it reaches around Rs 2.47 crore.
- Reaching a 22% peak, it ascends to a staggering \*Rs 3.18 crore

### The Difference Between Saving and Wisely Investing

Simply depositing your money into a savings account won't shield it from inflation's eroding effects. On the flip side, choosing to invest in a well-strategized mutual fund portfolio allows your wealth to not just maintain its value but significantly grow, thanks to the wonders of compounding interest.

The key lies in choosing the right mutual fund path that aligns with your financial goals. The vast array of choices demands careful navigation.

Pro Tip: Embark on this journey with a trusted financial advisor by your side. Their expertise can simplify the complex process of fund selection, ensuring it harmonizes with your financial dreams, risk tolerance, and timeframe.

Irshad Mushtaq is an entrepreneur, business partner at Sharekhan, and author. Email: Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com



can we reclaim our dignity and our destiny when our pleas fall on deaf ears?

Dear candidates, the road ahead is fraught with peril and uncertainty, but it is also illuminated by the flickering flame of hope. Please, do not let that flame be extinguished. Hold it aloft like a beacon in the night, guiding us towards a future filled with promise and possibility.

As I continue to reflect on the plight of our people, my heart aches with the weight of their suffering. Each day brings new challenges, new struggles to overcome, yet the resilience of our community never wavers. It is in times

compassion.

For it is only through your dedication and leadership that we can hope to build a brighter future for Kashmir, a future where every individual is treated with dignity and respect, where every voice is heard and valued.

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

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## Bowlers at IPL

he sympathy for bowlers in the IPL has never been as strong as in this season, where batters have pulverized the ball and have broken records with ease. However, if there is one bowler who still commands respect amidst the batting carnage, it is MI and India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has taken 18 wickets

so far with an exceptional economy rate of 6.21, the best by any bowler in IPL 2024.

Even if you keep aside the number of wickets Bumrah has taken so far across formats and talk about the diversity of his skill sets alone, hardly any fast bowler in present day international cricket comes close to him. No matter the format or the

game situation, Bumrah will be at you with his skill, mind, and everything that helps him get a wicket. The whippy action and his bent back also help him to hit the deck consistently, and his seam position extracts every ounce of lateral movement off the pitch. With the old ball, the extra moment that Bumrah gets becomes deadly, especially when reversing.

And that's what obliterated England batter Ollie Pope's middle and leg

stumps in the Vizag Test in February this year. Bumrah is a bona fide great and the most complete modern day fast bowler.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

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



# AI Genius: Mustafa Suleyman A Beacon For Muslim Youth

### **Asad Mirza**

ustafa Suleyman's Syrian father worked as a L taxi driver and his English mother as a nurse. He grew up off Caledonian Road in the London Borough of Islington, where he lived with his parents and his two younger brothers.

Suleyman went to Thornhill Primary School, a state school in Islington, followed by Queen Elizabeth's School, a boys' grammar school in Barnet. Around that time, he met his DeepMind co-founder, Demis Hassabis, through his best friend, Demis's younger brother. Suleyman initially attended Mansfield College, Oxford, before dropping out at 19.

Mustafa's practical life began when he started the 'Muslim Youth Helpline' with his friends at the age of nineteen. In fact, the situation of the Muslim youth in Britain was very similar to the dictum; "Faith has stopped me, which has drawn me to disbelief". That is, on the one hand, it was their (Muslim youth's) compulsion to blend into the British society; on the other hand, they had to avoid the drug culture and immorality. This phone helpline service was for their guidance. Coincidentally, this service started around when 9/11 happened, as a result the incidents of Islamophobia started to increase and the Muslim youth came under more pressure. So in that era this service helped Muslim youth to get out of social isolation. It has become the largest mental health service for Muslims in the UK today.

Suleyman subsequently worked as a policy officer on human rights for Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London, before going on to start Reos Partners, a 'systemic change' consultancy



that uses methods from conflict resolution to navigate social problems. As a negotiator and facilitator, Mustafa worked for a wide range of clients such as the United Nations, the Dutch government, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

But for Mustafa Suleyman, essentially a philosopher and brilliant manager, this was just the beginning. The turning point in his life came in 2009. An environmental conference was being held in Copenhagen. Mustafa was also among the organisers. His effort was to get the delegates to the conference to agree on a common strategy against deforestation. He was very disappointed when he saw that they could not agree on a common strategy. But there was a new way out of that despair.



The number of Muslims in the tech world is very small. In such a situation, if a genius, a layman basically, comes forward and reaches for the sky, we should also be happy about it and it should motivate our youth to become like him

This was the year 2009. Facebook was emerging as a huge company. In those days, Mustafa read somewhere that the number of active Facebook users has reached one hundred million. This thing stuck in his mind.

He realised that not even a few people could be brought together on a common goal at the Copenhagen Conference; on the other hand, it takes only a few days for millions of likeminded people to connect on social media.

That day Mustafa realised that in the future it would be technology that would bring people together. Thus he entered the computer field from the world of philosophy and ideas. The very next year he started a company called DeepMind along with his friends. It was an artificial intelligence research firm.

What was the goal of Deep-Mind? Making decisions that humans might have to think about for an infinite amount of time, better prepare computers to make them in a much shorter amount of time!

Just think, in 2023, most of us were being introduced to the world of artificial intelligence for the first time, but Mustafa Suleyman and his friends were creating AI algorithms 13-14 years ago, when even in the West very few people were aware of this field. In one of his interviews Mustafa said that at times he had to hide his work from people because people started laughing when they used to hear about artificial intelligence/AI; as it seemed to them like a silly dream of children reading science fiction, which is impossible to interpret

"Deep Mind" must have been hidden from the eyes of the general public, but the people of the tech world were watching its rise very carefully. Several big names including Tesla's Elon Musk and PayPal's Peter Thiel started investing in it. Then in 2014, Google bought DeepMind for sixty five million dollars. It was Google's largest and most expensive acquisition outside the US at the time.

The achievements of Deep-Mind could be the topic of a separate discussion. For now a simple anecdote would suffice. Google has data centres around the world that require a lot of electricity to keep cool. Mustafa was given the task of finding a solution. He applied DeepMind's algorithm to find the optimal solution. Now such solutions are actually a large combination of many decisions. Finding the perfect combination that gives the best results is a very time-consuming task. Take an example of

**AI-Assisted Writing Is Quietly Booming In** 

Academic Journals. Here's Why That's OK

biryani. Everyone is aware of the 12 to 15 different spices in it, but still there are only a few shops where there is huge rush. This is because they have found the perfect combination of spices and the perfect time to add them to the pot, to bring out the flavour.

So, if this project of saving electricity at the Google data centres was given to a person, he might not have been able to find the best and ideal situation even in ten years. However, after 'considering' not hundreds of thousands or millions, but billions of combinations, DeepMind proposed the best solution that reduced the power consumption of Google's data centres by forty percent. Mustafa wanted to use the same solution in buildings around the world to reduce global electricity consumption and environmental pollution.

This same Mustafa Suleyman has become a part of Microsoft last month. In March 2024, Microsoft appointed Suleyman as EVP and CEO of its newly created consumer AI unit, Microsoft AI. Now, as the chief executive of Microsoft AI; he has a wide world to conquer and limitless skies to soar. Let's see to what heights he takes the field of AI.

The number of Muslims in the tech world is very small. In such a situation, if a genius, a layman basically, comes forward and reaches for the sky, we should also be happy about it and it should motivate our youth to become like him. Today we need such heroes to inspire and motivate our youth to emulate him.

Asad Mirza is a Delhibased senior political and international affairs commentator.

## **Unveiling The Greatest Detractors Of Personal Genius**

trapping individuals in their

**T**f you search Google Scholar for

By contrast, it is debatable whether AI systems like ChatGPT can have ideas, let alone deserve credit for them. An AI tool is more like your phone's autocomplete function than a human researcher. mistakes have been referred to as "AI hallucinations" and "AI

with the following output. It then confidently told me I could use this image of a "mushroom" for my own nurnoses

These kinds of overconfident

bullshit". While it is easy to spot

that the above ASCII image looks

nothing like a mushroom (and

quite a bit like a snail), it may

be much harder to identify any

mistakes ChatGPT makes when

surveying scientific literature or

describing the state of a philo-

Unlike (most) humans, AI sys-

tems are fundamentally uncon-

cerned with the truth of what they

say. If used carelessly, their hallu-

cinations could corrupt the schol-

sophical debate.

arly record.

after it was found to have only a 26% accuracy rate (and a 9% false positive rate). Humans also make mistakes when assessing whether

n the pursuit of greatness, individuals often encounter obstacles that challenge their journey towards realizing their full potential. While external factors such as societal norms and systemic barriers play a role, internal detractors can be equally formidable. These detractors. often subtle and insidious, undermine personal genius and hinder individuals from reaching their pinnacle of achievement. Let's delve into some of the greatest detractors of personal genius:

The pervasive feeling of self-doubt can cripple even the most talented individuals. It plants seeds of uncertainty and undermines confidence, leading to hesitation and second-guessing. If the fare is strong the genius gets suppressed. We all have prodigious potential and we all are bestowed with gifts. Yet the one thing that holds us back is some degree of hesitation and lack of self-certainty. It is not so much the lack of specialized information that holds us back, but the lack of self certainty.

Constantly comparing oneself to others diminishes the appreciation of one's unique talents and strengths. it fosters feelings of inadequacy and diminishes self-worth. Embracing individuality and celebrating personal achievements are essential for cultivating personal geniuses.

The fear of failure acts as a formidable barrier to personal growth and innovation. It stifles risktaking and experimentation,

comfort zones. Embracing failure as a stepping stone to success is crucial for unleashing personal genius and fostering creativity. If the thing you wish to do is right and you believe in it, go ahead with it and do it ! Put your dream across, and never mind what "they" say if you meet with temporary defeat, for "they" perhaps do not know that every failure brings with it an seed of equivalent success.

Navigating through the labyrinth of personal growth demands confronting not only external obstacles but also the internal adversaries that thwart our ascent to greatness. By acknowledging and addressing self-doubt, fear of failure and comparison individuals can embark on a transformative journey towards unlocking their true potential.Embracing these challenges as opportunities for growth fosters resilience and fortitude which are essential companions on the path of self development.

Wishing will not bring success but desiring success with the state of mind that becomes an obsession, then planning a definite way and means to acquire success, and backing those plans with persistence which does not recognize failure, will bring success.

If you truly desire success so keenly that your desire is an obsession you will have no difficulty in convincing yourself that you will acquire it. The object is to want success and to become so determined to have it that you convince yourself you will have it.

I model", you'll find plenty of AI research literature and also some rather suspicious results. For example, one paper on agricultural technology says:

I language

Julian Koplin

As an AI language model, I don't have direct access to current research articles or studies. However, I can provide you with an overview of some recent trends and advancements .

Obvious gaffes like this aren't the only signs that researchers are increasingly turning to generative AI tools when writing up their research. A recent study examined the frequency of certain words in academic writing (such as "com-mendable", "meticulously" and "intricate"), and found they became far more common after the launch of ChatGPT – so much so that 1% of all journal articles published in 2023 may have contained AI-generated text.

(Why do AI models overuse these words? There is speculation it's because they are more common in English as spoken in Nigeria, where key elements of model training often occur.)

The aforementioned study also looks at preliminary data from 2024, which indicates that AI writing assistance is only becoming more common. Is this a crisis for modern scholarship, or a boon for academic productivity?

### Who should take credit for AI writing?

Many people are worried by the use of AI in academic papers. Indeed, the practice has been described as "contaminating" scholarly literature.

Some argue that using AI output amounts to plagiarism. If your ideas are copy-pasted from ChatG-PT, it is questionable whether you really deserve credit for them.

But there are important differences between "plagiarising" text authored by humans and text authored by AI. Those who plagiarise humans' work receive credit for ideas that ought to have gone to the original author.

### The question of bias

Another worry is that AI outputs might be biased in ways that could seep into the scholarly record. Infamously, older language models tended to portray people who are female, black and/or gay in distinctly unflattering ways, compared with people who are male, white and/or straight.

This kind of bias is less pronounced in the current version of ChatGPT.

However, other studies have found a different kind of bias in

models: a tendency to reflect a

Any such bias could subtly dis-

The most serious worry relates

to a well-known limitation of gen-

erative AI systems: that they often

For example, when I asked Chat-

GPT-4 to generate an ASCII image

of a mushroom, it provided me

tort scholarly writing produced

left-liberal political ideology.

using these tools.

The hallucination problem

make serious mistakes.



Should Al-produced text be banned?

One response to the rise of text generators has been to ban them outright. For example, Science one of the world's most influential academic journals - disallows any use of AI-generated text.

I see two problems with this approach.

The first problem is a practical one: current tools for detecting AI-generated text are highly unreliable. This includes the detector created by ChatGPT's own developers, which was taken offline

something was written by AI.

It is also possible to circumvent AI text detectors. Online communities are actively exploring how to prompt ChatGPT in ways that allow the user to evade detection. Human users can also superficially rewrite AI outputs, effectively scrubbing away the traces of AI (like its overuse of the words "commendable", "meticulously" and "intricate").

The second problem is that banning generative AI outright prevents us from realising these technologies' benefits. Used well, generative AI can boost academic productivity by streamlining the writing process. In this way, it could help further human knowledge. Ideally, we should try to reap these benefits while avoiding the problems.

### The problem is poor quality control, not Al

The most serious problem with AI is the risk of introducing unnoticed errors, leading to sloppy scholarship. Instead of banning AI, we should try to ensure that mistaken, implausible or biased claims cannot make it onto the academic record.

After all, humans can also produce writing with serious errors, and mechanisms such as peer review often fail to prevent its publication.

We need to get better at ensuring academic papers are free from serious mistakes, regardless of whether these mistakes are caused by careless use of AI or sloppy human scholarship. Not only is this more achievable than policing AI usage, it will improve the standards of academic research as a whole.

This would be (as ChatGPT might say) a commendable and meticulously intricate solution.

By arrangements with The Conversation

# NEWS

## **Imran Ansari's Bandipora Visit Turns Confrontational**

**Aerial Firing** Damages Local Imambara

KO Webdesk

Srinagar: Peoples Conference

General Secretary, Molvi Imran Raza Ansari's guards resorted to aerial fire on Monday after he paid a visit to Shilwat Sumbal of district Bandipora. According to reports, Ansari had visited Shilwat to connect with local residents and seek their support for the upcoming parliamentary Elections in

North Kashmir.

Reports said that some locals expressed dissatisfaction, and someone from the crowd hurled a stone at Ansari's vehicle, shattering its window pane and causing chaos in the crowd. In response to the situation, Ansari's security personnel resorted

to aerial firing to control the crowd. Later, Police officials also visited the

area. Soon after the incident scores of people from different parts of Kashmir visited his residence at Qamarwari. Ansari assured his supporters he was fine and there was no need to worry.

"Someone pelted a stone and in order to control the crowd security personnel fired a couple of shots in the air. I am perfectly alright, there is no need to worry, we need to prepare for the upcoming elections," Ansari addressed his supporters. J&K Shia Association posted on X,

share that All J&K Shia Association President Molvi Imran Reza Ansari & Abid Ansari are safe and sound following the untoward incident in Rakhe Shilwat (Sonawari). May their safety persist as they continue their commendable efforts."

"Allhamdulillah! We are relieved to

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## Srinagar Records

with every polling station under CCTV surveillance," he added.

Regarding youth participation, Pole stated that there were 2 lakh registered youth voters, and 26 special polling stations were set up for migrants, with over 6,000 migrant voters casting their ballots, contributing to a tentative poll percentage of 36 percent among migrant voters.

Pole also addressed preventive measures, emphasizing the overall peaceful conduct of the polls. "Preventive measures were taken only in cases where individuals had a criminal background or anti-national history, ensuring that polling stations remained incident-free," he clarified.

Pole added that Srinagar recorded the lowest EVM replacement rate at 0.1 percent, while Jammu reported the highest at 3 percent. To query about absence of boycott calls, Pole said that people have realised the benefits of using the ballot and the futility of boycott.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-u-din Bhat said that for the first time in three decades. Srinagar Lok Sabha seat witnessed brisk polling and festival atmosphere. "Even children could be seen playing in the premises of polling booths," he said, adding that not a single polling station recorded zero voting.

LG Manoj Sinha congratulates people for high voter turnout: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the people and all the stakeholders on the high voter turnout in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency today. In a tweet, the Lt Governor said: "Today, people came out in large numbers to cast their votes in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency and reaffirmed their faith in democracy and the constitution. I commend the hard work by all the stakeholders for free, fair, peaceful and smooth conduct of the polling. It is heartening to see the huge surge in voting percentage in the biggest festival of democracy. I truly appreciate the enthusiasm of electors and hope to see historic turnout. "in the next two phases. I appeal to all to vote without fear and vote with responsibility and pride".

## Groom, Super-centenarian

and mehndi on his hands.

As Ashraf, the cynosure of much attention, spoke of the importance of voting, others in Jammu and Kashmir, voting for the first time in parliamentary polls since the abrogation of Article 370, also went the extra mile to make sure they exercise their franchise. Among them were centenarians, people in wheelchairs, the ailing and first-timers, the elderly and the young united in their enthusiasm for Election 2024.

There was a flutter of sorts when Ashraf entered the polling station at the Boys Higher Secondary School at Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, which is part of the Srinagar parliamentary constituency. People and poll officials were pleasantly surprised. And the groom had a message for the public too.

Today is voting day. I came here to cast my vote for someone who will do good for our state and the country," Ashraf said, asking people not to waste their vote and exercise their r

We expect him to talk about statehood and the return of power projects in the Lok Sabha," he said.

"If we look at past tenure of Mehbooba Mufti, there was no way I would have voted for PDP. But I put my faith in Waheed Parra," Noureena, a 30-year-old voter from Nigeen, said.

"I believe he has the potential to address the concerns of youth effectively."

Some voters expressed resentment with regional political parties and said that they are driven by their own agendas rather than the needs and aspirations of the people they claim to represent. However, placing their hopes on the candidates fielded stemmed from a belief that these candidates offer a more genuine connection to the community.

"We have lost all hopes from political parties, we placed our bet on the candidates," Farooq Ahmad Bhat from Ganderbal said.

According to few, these candidates gaining trust and support in this electoral process is also because of their youth, education, and eloquence in addressing significant issues during campaigns.

'The one I voted for is a great orator," a voter said, without revealing the one he voted for. "In those big parliamentary debates, you need someone who can speak up and make sure our concerns are heard loud and clear."

Notably, the polling percentage for Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency stood at 38 percent, marking the second-highest turnout since 1989. Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir P.K Pole said that not even a single polling booth witnessed zero percent polling in Srinagar PC.

## High Turnout In Srinagar

eve statement," Mirwaiz said.

Mirwaiz also clarified the Hurriyat's stance on elections, saying it never had reservations about the idea of elections.

"Constituents of the united Hurriyat did participate in elections held before 1990," he said while reiterating his objections to the "misrepresentation" of these elections by the government of India in the context of the Kashmir conflict.

However, the absence of a boycott call did not guarantee a high voter turnout in Srinagar. The reason is that the poll boycott has become a default response among a significant section of people, particularly in urban areas. It is an over three decade old habit which may not go away easily.

Since the early nineties, separatists have championed the boycott of elections, although this trend has seen diminishing returns over the years. The urban areas still witness significant boycotts but the rural areas generally experience higher voter turnout.

It is true that there have been unprecedented changes in the region over the past five years, such as politicians campaigning deep into Srinagar's interiors. Kashmir may have changed beyond recognition in recent years, but it is also true that much of this change is not organic. The Assembly election, likely to be held in near future, will be a better indicator of the public mood in the Kashmir Valley and will decide the future political trajectory of the

region **Elderly Voters**  reach the polling station and cast his vote.

The authorities had set up Special Polling Stations (Green/Pink/PWD/Youth manned) aimed at making the voting experience more accessible. The Green Polling Station in the lush, green

mountainous area of Naranag was exceptionally decorated. (with inputs from KNO)

## **KPs Vote For**

their ballots in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

"I have voted for our permanent return to Kashmir valley in an atmosphere of peace and security. We have been waiting for the past 34 years to live in the valley. We hope this dream of ours will materialise now," Om Prakash, who was carried on a wheelchair from his quarters in the Jagti migrant camp, said.

Forced to migrate with his family from the Pulwama area at the age of 47, Om Prakash said a return is needed to preserve the ancient civilization of Pandits in the valley. "It is a human issue, not a political issue."

Surinder Dhar, who cast his vote along with his wife at the Jagti polling station, said the community votes every time for a return to the valley but there has been no justice yet.

While Joyti Bhat said, "Every time, we vote with the hope of returning to our Kashmiri homes ... This time too we voted demanding justice. We want our township in Kashmir."

Anurodh Kaul, a first-time voter, expressed concern over the brain drain in the region and demanded restoration of peace in the valley so that youths don't feel the need to escape.

"We voted to urge the government to take such steps promptly so that the community returns and grows back with peace and our civilization is saved. They should also ensure economic and political empowerment and create job opportunities in the valley," Anurodh said.

Most of the Kashmiri Pandits said they have seen a change for good in the valley, which is seeing less militants and more tourists now

"We have not received much from this government as a community. But we are happy to see Kashmir changing from the home of terrorism to a paradise for tourism for some time now. We hope that terrorism will be completely eradicated," said Karan Zutshi.

Meanwhile, scores of Kashmiri Pandits were unable to vote due to their names missing from the electoral rolls.

"I came to the polling station with three members of my family to cast our votes despite such heat. We carried our EPIC (Voter ID) cards too. But we found our names missing from the electoral roll. It is a denial of our right to vote," Veena, a resident of Jagti camp and a migrant from the erstwhile Habbakadal area of Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, said.

She said what's the use of the voter ID card if that is not enough. "They (EPIC) should be cancelled by ECI. The gov-

ernment wants us to vote but at the same time has a process that denies us the right to exercise our franchise.'

Avinash Raina and four of his family members, who hail from erstwhile Budgam area of Srinaga LS seat, also had to return without exercising their franchise.

"During the course of hearing, it was suggested that instead of physically counting the VVPAT slips, they can be counted by a counting machine. This suggestion, including the suggestion that barcoding of the symbols loaded in the VVPATs may be helpful in machine counting, may be examined by the ECI," the top court had said in the judgement.

Seeking physical counting, the plea said the counting of all VVPAT slips can be done "accurately with a fraction of the employees and at a fraction of cost and within five to eight hours".

It said the VVPAT paper is of the same size as the thermal print out received when a credit or debit card is swiped on making a payment.

"The counting of the slips after they have been sorted candidate-wise, is in fact easier than counting normal paper because the VVPAT paper slip is sightly curled on account of being thermally printed from a roll. The curling makes the picking up of the paper slip from the surface of a table easy.

"Each slip can be counted while being picked to make bundles of 25 slips as mandated under instructions given in the ECI's Manual on EVM and VVPAT, 2023," the plea said.

It said EVMs do not allow voters to verify that their votes have been accurately recorded.

"Furthermore, given their very nature, EVMs are especially vulnerable to malicious changes by insiders such as designers, programmers, manufacturers, maintenance technicians, etc. Therefore, in light of the above there are apparent errors on the face of the impugned order dated April 26, 2024 and the impugned judgment, is liable to be reviewed," it said.

On April 26, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta had termed the suspicion of manipulation of the EVMs "unfounded" and trashed the

demand for reverting to the old paper ballot system. The bench had said that the polling devices were "secure" and eliminated booth capturing and bogus voting.

However, the judgement had opened a window for aggrieved unsuccessful candidates securing second and third places in poll results and allowed them to seek verification of micro-controller chips embedded in five per cent EVMs per assembly constituency on a written request upon payment of a fee to the poll panel.

It had directed that from May 1, the symbol loading units should be sealed and secured in a container and stored in a strongroom along with the EVMs for a minimum period of 45 days post-declaration of results.

By the judgement, the top court had dismissed the PILs which had also sought a direction to return to the ballot paper system.

"A voting mechanism must uphold and adhere to the principles of security, accountability, and accuracy. An over complex voting system may engender doubt and uncertainty, thereby easing the chances of manipulation. In our considered opinion, the EVMs are simple, secure and user-friendly. The voters, candidates and their representatives, and the officials of the ECI are aware of the nitty-gritty of the EVM system. They also check and ensure righ-

teousness and integrity," the bench had said. It had said the ssibility of ha

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## **Private Interest**

the respondents (authorities) to have finalized the tender, as merely, staying the communication would not ipso facto be construed as if the whole tendering process has been stayed.'

The authorities, the court said, have misinterpreted the staying of the communication as a stay on the entire tender process.

.....in view of the settled legal position that private interest must be subservient to larger public interest, this Court deems it proper to modify the interim order dated 01.03.2023 by giving liberty to the respondents to proceed ahead with the tender issued vide E-NIT No.EE/PCD/PHQ/82/2021-22 dated 06.08.2022, or else the respondents are at liberty to re-tender, if circumstances so warrant.

### Hajj Pilgrims

by the Haj Committee of India and the State Haj Committee, the reality experienced by the pilgrims has been starkly different. Reports of hardships and difficulties abound, with pilgrims citing a lack of available supervisors to address their issues. Furthermore, the Khadim-ul-Hujjaj, entrusted with serving and guiding the pilgrims, allegedly seemed preoccupied with personal engagements upon their arrival, further exacerbating the pilgrims' concerns.

The agency tried to seek comments from concerned Hajj committee officials. However, repeated attempts to contact them didn't fructify. (KNO) 93% Pass CBSE

"A vote has a huge value. It helps us to choose our representatives who frame policies for development and employment for us," he added.

Unmindful of the henna on his hand, he went ahead and got indelible ink on his index finger.

On August 5, 2019, Article 370 was abrogated and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was partitioned into the two union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Not far away from Ashraf's booth, a super-centenarian came out to vote at Shallabug in Ganderbal.

Noor Ded, who her family claims is 110 years old, can barely walk or even stand. Nonetheless, she held on to a stick and, supported by a family member, entered the polling station in a village housed inside the government girls high school.

Undeterred by her infirmities, she held up her hand to show her inked finger. She couldn't talk much either.

Out of the five Lok Sabha constituencies in J&K, Udhampur went to the polls on April 19 and Jammu on April 26. With elections held in Srinagar on Monday, the Kashmir valley voted for the first time in the Lok Sabha elections.

Elections will take place in Baramulla on May 20. After representations from some political parties, the Election Commission deferred the polls in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency from May 7 to May 25. Noorie Begum, a centenarian, cast her vote in the

Pulwama district in south Kashmir.

"We vote for a candidate with the hope that he would do good work for us, give employment to our children and address our problems," Begum said, as she displayed her voting mark.

Munawar Khan, despite being bedridden due to a leg fracture and plaster, came out to vote in the Kangan assembly segment of Ganderbal district.

Bound on a wheelchair, Khan said he did not want to waste his vote.

"I was injured. I have a fracture in my left foot. But I did not want to waste my vote. So, I cast my vote to elect our representative who will work for our development and betterment," he said.

Many voters, especially the first-timers, clicked themselves at the 'selfie points' established at the pink polling stations across the constituency.

A large number of women made up the majority of those who took selfies at the points and displayed their voting marks.

At several polling booths," designated as green booths to raise environmental awareness, the voters were felicitated by the polling officials.

The voters and poll officials even kick-started a plantation drive by planting tree saplings. **'We Put Our** 

said that our leader has witnessed all that an ordinary Kashmiri goes through in his life. "I hope that he resolves all our problems and talks about the problems of Kashmir in the Indian Parliament.

"Rather than voting for a particular party, as I used to do in the past, I chose a candidate who I believe will raise our issues in the Parliament." Shah told Kashmir Observer.

With his son in tow, Shah went to the designated polling booth, a private school in Lal Chowk, and joined the queue of voters, certain that his vote would count.

"The righteous candidate, not a certain party, will receive my vote. I told my family that this is the time for change and that missing the polls would cause us to lag behind," he added.

Rahti Bano, an 80-year-old widow, had similar opinions, asserting that she no longer let her emotions influence her vote as she previously did.

"My Kashmir has seen numerous ups and downs and I have decided to abandon my previous voting behavior this time around and support a candidate who is loyal to his people," Rahti told Kashmir Observer.

In a democratic system, a single vote counts, and I hope the Kashmir Valley will emerge from the shadows. Abstaining from the ballot will definitely make us suffer immensely, she added.

"I did not hesitate to exercise my right to vote even when militancy in Kashmir was at its peak, and have always participated in elections wholeheartedly. Therefore, given that voting is now required, why would I skip this time?" the woman questioned.

People would be able to get their desired outcomes by choosing an appropriate candidate, but it would be unwise to boycott elections, according to her.

"We have witnessed small children being killed with bullets and pellets in the past, as well as months of agitation and curfews, but nothing has worked. Therefore, it is important that we turn up in large numbers to support the righteous candidate."

Mugli, another elderly woman, aged around 75 came alone to the polling booth at Rajbagh and casted her ballot for change, asserting that people want to get rid of rising inflation and unemployment.

"I am a chronic diabetic, but I did not miss to cast my vote. It's our democratic right and we should waste the opportunity having potential to change our lives," Mugli said after casting her vote at Burn Hall School polling booth.

Defying old age and physical challenges, a 115-year-old from Shallabugh and a man with a fractured leg cast their votes in the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency on Monday.

In Ganderbal, polling stations witnessed a reasonable turnout with enthusiastic voters lined up to exercise their franchise.

Many senior citizens from Sarbal, a remote village in the district, expressed joy at being able to cast their votes in their village for the first time. They said relocation of the polling station to Fisheries Hut Zirpora Kullan significantly improved accessibility for villagers to reach booths.

Dilawar Khan from Gutlibagh said that despite being bedridden with his leg cast made it a point to

"We came here to vote. We don't figure in the voting list. What do we do now? Nobody is here to listen to us and resolve the issue," he said.

Kuldeep Kumar and scores of electors from his colony too had to return without voting from a special polling station set up at the Agriculture office in Talab Tillo.

"We found here that over 20 people were barred from voting as their names were absent from the voter list. Despite having EPIC cards, they were denied voting. There should be a probe into it," he said.

As many as 52,100 Kashmiri migrants are registered as voters from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency and there are 24 candidates in the fray.

Of the total voters, 25,760 are male and 26,340 are female, Assistant Electoral Returning Officer (AERO), Migrants, Dr Riaz Ahmed said.

Of the 26 polling stations set up for the migrants, 21 are in Jammu, four in Delhi, and one in Udhampur.

"We have set up 21 polling stations in Jammu. In view of the increase in voters, we have set up some more auxiliary polling stations. For the Srinagar constituency, we have increased them to 23 polling stations." Ahmed said.

Polling is underway in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha election in Kashmir's Srinagar constituency on Monday, with nearly 17.48 lakh voters eligible to exercise their franchise to decide the fate of 24 candidates, officials said.

Voting began at 7 am at all 2,135 polling stations across the constituency, they said.

Srinagar is witnessing a multi-cornered contest with the National Conference fielding influential Shia leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and PDP its youth unit president Waheed Para, besides candidates from Apni Party, DPAP, and 20 others, including two women, in the fray.

### **People Reaffirmed**

to all to vote without fear and vote with responsibility and pride," he said.

### Never Issued

There is a need to work together to fight against social issues like drugs, corruption and other evils, Wani added. (KNO)

### **Review Petition**

the following issues as have been dealt with in judgment dated April 26, 2024: i) Feasibility of counting of all VVPAT paper slips in terms of time to be taken and additional manpower, ii) Vulnerability of SLU (symbol loading units) and iii) Percentage of VVPAT slips counted for tallying with EVM votes after Chandrababu Naidu...Judgment."

The plea dealt with the feasibility of counting of all VVPAT paper slips in terms of time to be taken and additional manpower and referred to the relevant portion of the judgement.

of tampern. with the agnostic firmware in the burnt memory of EVMs to tutor or favour results is "unfounded".

"Accordingly, the suspicion that the EVMs can be configured or manipulated for repeated or wrong recording of vote(s) to favour a particular candidate should be rejected," the bench had said

It had said the incorporation of the VVPAT, an independent vote verification system which enables electors to see whether their votes have been recorded correctly, fortifies the principle of vote verifiability, thereby enhancing the overall accountability of the electoral process.

The seven-phase Lok Sabha polls began on April 19 and will conclude with the announcement of results on June 4.New Delhi, May 13 (PTI) A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of its April 26 judgement by which it had rejected the demand for reverting to the old paper ballot system and the complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

The review petition was filed by Arun Kumar Agrawal, who had filed the PIL on the issue earlier, through lawyer Neha Rathi.

The review plea filed on May 10 said, "There are mistakes and errors apparent on the face of the impugned order..., and as such there are sufficient reasons which require review of the impugned order/judgment...

"The petitioner respectfully seeks review on the following issues as have been dealt with in judgment dated April 26, 2024: i) Feasibility of counting of all VVPAT paper slips in terms of time to be taken and additional manpower, ii) Vulnerability of SLU (symbol loading units) and iii) Percentage of VVPAT slips counted for tallying with EVM votes after Chandrababu Naidu...Judgment."

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than 2.12 lakh above 90 per cent, reports said. Girls have again outshone boys in the CBSE Class 12 board exams, results for which were declared on Monday with 87.98 per cent students passing the test. Last year, the total pass percentage was 87.33 per cent.

Officials said 91.52 per cent girls cleared the exam, 6.40 percentage points higher than boys' pass percentage

"A total of 24,068 students have scored above 95 per cent marks while 1,16,145 students have scored above 90 per cent," an official said.

This time, more than 16.21 lakh candidates appeared for the exam which was conducted at 7,126 centres. CBSE also revealed the subject-wise performance of the students. As per the information shared by the board, More than 11,000 Class 10 students scored a perfect 100 in Mathematics while Painting topped the subject with the highest number of full marks scorers in Class 12.

As per the board, a total of 11,253 students scored full marks in 'Mathematics standard', followed by Sanskrit and Artificial Intelligence in which 6,700 and 6,269 candidates scored a perfect 100, respectively.

Similarly, in the CBSE Class 12 board exam. the highest number of marks scorers was in Painting at 10,402, followed by Chemistry at 2,152 and Psychology at 2,134.

Girls maintained their trend of outperforming boys in board exams, with marginal increases in both pass percentage and the number of students scoring above 90 and 95 per cent compared to last year. The pass percentage for Class 10 rose by 0.48 percentage points to 93.60, while for Class 12, it increased by 0.65 percentage points to 87.98. CBSE officials credited the uptick in pass percentage to the inclusion of more competency-based questions in this year's exams. The board will offer psychological counselling to students of classes 10 and 12 along with their parents from Tuesday onwards (May 14). The counselling services will be provided 24/7 for a week.

What's next?

Students who are not happy with their marks can apply for verification of their marksheet or can obtain a photocopy of their answer book, and request re-evaluation. The verification window will open for five days from the fourth day (tentatively May 17) after the announcement of the results, as per the schedule shared by the board. Students unhappy with their scores can apply for verification of marks online on cbseresults.nic.in.

Students who have been declared unsuccessful in one or two subjects of their CBSE 2024 board exams can apply for the CBSE Board Supplementary Exam. However, the board has yet not specified the exact date and time of releasing registration forms for the supplementary exam. Students are advised to stay tuned to the official website for latest updates.

# STATE

## LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

## Upholding Democracy: Kangan To Shopian **Show Commitment To Voting**

### **KO NEWS SERVICE**

**SRINAGAR:** In the heart of the picturesque Kashmir Valley, the twin districts of Pulwama and Shopian showcased a glimmer of hope, as the residents of Pulwama and Shopian Assembly Segment displayed an unwavering commitment to democracy by turning out in large numbers to exercise their right to vote.

By participating in the electoral process, they hope to elect representatives who will address their concerns and work towards improving their quality of life.

At Polling Station, 55-Awantipora of Pulwama district, first time voter Umar Ayoub was very enthusiastic to caste his vote. "I came to vote with a reason to celebrate the spirit of democracy. My vote will be for the development and prog-ress in terms of basic needs", said passionate Umar while standing in a long and serpentine queue.

Similarly, in Polling station Sher Abad Tral, 92 years old Zaiba Begum came to vote to with the only hope of having better future for her grandchildren. "I am voting with an aim to see development in my area for the betterment of our fu-ture generations", said elderly Zaiba Begum.

Likewise, in Koil, Bunroo, Rajpura, Nikas areas of Pulwama district as well as Tuk-



of adversity, the flame of deroo. Bun Bazar and other areas of Shopian Assembly segment mocracy burns bright in the witnessed brisk polling as long and serpentine queues the path towards a brighter of voters, both male and fetomorrow. male, were seen from the early morning.

nessed in Kangan, ST Assembly The significance of this segment of Ganderbal district turnout extends beyond the which forms part Srinagar Parconfines of Pulwama and liamentary Constituency. The Shopian. As the sun sets over people of the area once again the snow-capped peaks of the reposed trust in democracy by Himalayas, casting a golden glow over the lush valleys beexercising their right to franchise in large numbers. low, the people of Pulwama

The people of this area and Shopian can take pride in despite living in the remotest part of the Constituency their actions. They have shown the world that even in the face showed way by coming out

Kashmir Valley, illuminating

Similar, scenes were wit-

in large numbers to vote. Not only elders but younger as well as first time voters even exercised their voting rights with full enthusiasm. Be it 20 years old Rahil or 19 years Arif at Nunner Polling Station or Iqra Sultan, 25 at Wussan all were equally jubilant in casting their votes as per their free

Similarly at the far-off Wangat Polling Station, Noor-un-Nisa, 18 and Ruksana, 20 had come for casting their votes with other members of their family in the wee hours of the Polling in their village.

In another Polling Station of this village housed in a Middle School, young friends Adil Qureshi, 25 and Ibrahim Qureshi, 23 had come together to take first leap in celebrating the spirit of democracy.

The locals of the area believe that by exercising their right to choose their representatives is only for their larger good of entire area as well as future generations. The locals, this time again participated in the festival of democracy with great enthusiasm and fervor despite having difficult terrains and other adversities.

## **Scores Of KPs Return Without Voting In Jammu**

### Agencies

Jagti:- Scores of displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu were unable to vote on Monday in the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections due to their names missing from the electoral rolls.

Even as KPs lined up across special polling stations in Jammu amid tight security, several of them had to return without casting their vote. "I came to the polling station with

three members of my family to cast our votes despite such heat. We carried our EPIC (Voter ID) cards too. But we found our names missing from the electoral roll. It is a denial of our right to vote," Veena, a resident of Jagti camp and a migrant from the erstwhile Habbakadal area of Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, said. She said what's the use of the

voter ID card if that is not enough. "They (EPIC) should be cancelled

by ECI. The government wants us to vote but at the same time has a process that denies us the right to exercise our franchise."

Avinash Raina and four of his family members, who hail from erstwhile Budgam area of Srinagar LS seat, also had to return without exercising their franchise.

"We came here to vote. We don't figure in the voting list. What do we do now? Nobody is here to listen to us and resolve the issue," he said. Kashmiri Pandit Kuldeep Kumar

and scores of electors from his colony too had to return without voting from a special polling station set up at the Agriculture office in Talab Tillo. "We found here that over 20 peo-

ple were barred from voting as their names were absent from the voter list. Despite having EPIC cards, they were denied voting. There should be a probe into it," he said. Surinder Koul, another victim, said "We have raised the issue with the poll authorities.... People are very angry."

A Congress leader and president of Jagti tenement committee Shadi Lal Pandita said, the government will be quick to accuse the KPs of not coming out to vote. "But see the ground reality. They have EPIC cards but they do not figure in the lists. It is grave injustice."

Assistant Electoral Returning Officer (AERO), Migrants, Dr Riaz Ahmed attributed the problem to old data used to prepare the lists.

"We are aware of this problem. We tried to resolve these issues. We have told polling staff to allow such electors to vote." he said.

As many as 52,100 Kashmiri migrants are registered as voters from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency; of these, 25,760 are male voters and 26.340 are female voters, he said.

A total of 26 polling stations have been set up for the migrants, out of which 21 are in Jammu, four in Delhi and one in Udhampur.

## 'Vote A Powerful Weapon'

### **Press Trust Of India**

PULWAMA: At the gates of polling centres in this south Kashmir district, infamous for militancy and stone-pelting, enthusiastic voters queued up on Monday to exercise their franchise with a sense of ease in the absence of a separatist-sponsored boycott call and fear of violence.

"We have had enough. We want change. Vote is our biggest weapon. It is a powerful weapons which will help us find solutions to our problems. Vote is our right," Shakeel Ahmad Para, a voter at a polling hooth here said

The enthusiasm to vote for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader "was visible as men and women --" young and old alike -- " came in droves to vote at their designated polling stations. Para is pitted against National Conference's influential Shia leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and Apni Party's Ashraf Mir.

There are a total of 24 candidates in the fray for the constituency, which was redrawn after the delimitation exercise was undertaken recently.

At the polling station in Govt Girls Model Higher Secondary School Naira, located in Para's neighbourhood voters lined up early in the morning, most foregoing breakfast, to cast their ballots.

## **Gujjar-Bakarwal Villagers Travel To Cast Votes For 'Optimal Change'**

## Agencies

SHOPIAN: For Noor Mohammad Poswal—a 60-year-old Schedule tribal voter in south Kashmir's Shopian district, 'casting a vote in parliamentary elections 2024 was more important' for which he didn't budge from the queue for more than five hours.

Poswal says that he and his three sons were eligible to cast their votes. "We travelled more than 12 Kilometers from Shalidar terrains to plains of Zraken village of Shopian district to cast our votes." Not only the Poswal familythe residents of Shalidar area told the news agency that the whole village encompasses Gujjar-Bakarwal community

and have travelled all the way to cast their vote.

Noor Mohammad Poswal said that he had to wait for more than five hours in a queue to cast his vote. "In this month, we usually start grazing our cattle, horses and sheep in the pastures. However, I believe that casting a vote for this election was more important than grazing my cattle.'

Another voter, Mohammad Shareef Tedwa of Shalidar terrains said that the villagers have never let the vote go to waste

the senior citizens of our tribe were forced to walk miles to cast their vote," Tedwa said.

He said, "In this area, there are two villages that include Shalidar and Zarakan. Whole Shalidar area is a Gujjar-Bakarwal region and falls under Schedule tribe category. The positive part of it is that the whole village comes to the plain in the Zarakan area to cast their vote."

Likewise, another resident of Shalidar area, Baba Gorsi said that the villagers cast

status within five

years, which every-

one failed to do in the last 40 years,'

he said. "You have

to decide whether

you choose a tourist

(Omar Abdullah) or

The PC chief said those seek-

whole of Kashmir. "Support

your brother (referring to him-

self), I swear it will herald a

new dawn for the youth here,'

he said-(KNO)

## Women Vote For Safety, **Gender Equality**

## Agencies

BUDGAM: Women in Budgam district turned out in large numbers on Monday to cast their votes, not just for local developmental issues, but also for the fundamental principles of women empowerment, safety, and gender equality.

Women voters expressed their enthusiasm for participating in the democratic process, with "I have voted for the first

from Chadoora constituency, stated the importance of voting for a better future. "This is our right and we are happy to cast our vote. We want a representative who can raise our voice in the parliament and do some good for us," she said.

Masrat, a young female voter

While acknowledging the progress made in women's welfare and empowerment, Masrat also stressed the need many highlighting the signifi- for more attention to be given cance of this day after a long wait. to areas such as education and gender equality "There is still much work to be done in these areas and we hope that this time, all necessary actions will be taken," she added. Insha, a first-time voter from Chararishareef, highlighted the significance of initiatives like Pink polling stations, emphasizing their role in symbolizing women's empowerment in the electoral process. "Such developments are crucial for our society, and change is possible only through the wise use of our votes," she said.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency is being held in the fourth round of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections.

This is the first major election in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The article was revoked in 2019, leading to the bifurcation of the state into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

At another polling station in Tahab, an elderly person who did not wish to be named, said he was voting for the first time in his life.

"This is for the first time I am voting. Previously, we stayed away from the exercise as we had no benefit. This time, we have our own candidate," he said referring to PDP's Srinagar candidate Waheed Para.

Abdul Razak, who was among the first few voters at the polling booth, said they want to send an honest voice to Parliament.

"We want to elect a young and an intelligent, honest person who understands the problems of the local people and will work for their betterment, especially, of the youth," he said.

Razak said it is for the first time that the voters here have got an opportunity to send a young voice to Parliament.

"We understand his (Waheed Para) ideology and vision. I appeal to the people to vote. If we do not vote today, it is our loss. We haven't been able to raise our voice for a long time. It's an opportunity to send someone as our voice to Parliament," he said.

## Home Voting In Kupwara Today

### **KO NEWS SERVICE**

KUPWARA: Frontier Kupwara district, which is part of 1- Baramulla Parliamentary constituency, is set to extend 'home-voting' facility for voters aged 85-years plus and PwD (specially abled /Divyanjans) on Tuesday, 14 May, 2024.

A total of 402 registered elderly and PwD electors of the district with over 40% locomotive disabilities from across all the six assembly segments of the district are exercising their right to vote from their homes through first of its kind 'home-voting' facility.

It is important to mention here that District Kupwara is going for polls on May 20 during the 5th phase of Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

Under 'home voting' facility, which is a pathbreaking initiative of ECI, poll parties along with necessary materials shall be dispatched to the houses of eligible voters where they shall collect

their doorsteps. District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan said that the facility of home voting has been availed by elderly citizens above 85 years of age and specially-abled persons (PwDs), with 40

the votes of eligible persons at

percent disability criteria. Home Voting process is commencing in Kupwara district tomorrow on May 14th from 8:00 AM and will continue upto May 16, 2024 covering all the six assembly segments of the district, these assembly segments include 1-Karnah, 2-Trehgam, 3-Kupwara, 4-Lolab, 5-Handwara and 6-Langate

In 1-Karnah assembly segment there are a total of (44) elderly and PwD registered voters, in 2-Trehgam (40), in 3-Kupwara (166), in 4-Lolab (40), in Handwara assembly segment there are 99 elderly and PwD voters and in Langate assembly segment there are (13) such voters.

but the concerned authorities 'never tried to ease their living standard in any ways.'

"Before the elections, we were told that the authorities will setup polling booths near the Shalidar village. But, unfortunately,

vote only for the betterment purposes. "So far we haven't seen many developments for the Shalidar villagers and the Gujjar-Bakarwal community but this time we are very optimistic for the change."–(KNO)

## **My Victory Not As Important As Omar Abdullah's Defeat: Lone**

Agencies ten and address your concerns."

SOPORE: People's Conference (PC) president Sajad Gani Lone on Monday said that while his own victory is not the primary focus, the defeat of the former chief minister and National Conference (NC) Omar Abdullah – his rival in the Baramulla parliamentary constituency – is important. Addressing the gathering here in Sopore, Lone, as per the news agency, said, "If you vote for National Conference, they won't

even allow you to enter their homes or address your issues. Give me a chance and I promise to always be there for you, to lis-



not as important as Omar Abdullah's defeat. His defeat symbolises the defeat of coming elections." oppression, helplessness, torture and killings. Trust me, it ing votes for NC are jeopardiswill mark a new dawn for Kashing the future of the youth in Sopore, Rafiabad, and the mir if he loses the election."

Lone said Sopore, once known as Chhota London, has lost its former glory. "I promise to revive its past splendour and reclaim its Chhota London

## **Omar Appeals: 'Give Me A Chance To** Serve, Represent You In Parliament'

### Agencies

BARAMULLA: Former chief minister and Baramulla parliamentary constituency candidate, Omar Abdullah on Monday asked people to give him an opportunity by voting on May 20, promising to serve and represent them in parliament.

Addressing people here, the National Conference Vice President, as per the news agency, said, "The current time is very crucial, filled with fear on every side. We are being rendered politically and economically weak. The memories of the decision on August 5, 2019, are still fresh in our minds.

Whether it's about land rights or employment, people are worried. It's important to have a representation who can articulate and address these concerns in the parliament.

Omar added, "Jammu and Kashmir stands as the top-ranking region for unemployment. Our youth are tragically falling prey to drug addiction. It's our collective right to voice our concerns in Delhi. For that, you must give me the opportunity to serve you." Responding to a query, Abdullah said it is ultimately the voters



leged arrest of workers, the former CM said, "Those arrested have been identified, including the police stations where they are held. The police cannot deny these facts, instead, they should explain to the Election Commission of India why these arrests occurred and why those individuals are being summoned."-(KNO)

time, hoping that my vote will contribute to the safety and prosperity of women," said Igra, a young resident of Khansahib area of Budgam.

She emphasized the importance of electing leaders who prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment.

"Women's votes are indispensable for fostering development and nation-building, serving as the bedrock of progress and inclusive governance,' she said.

## **Director YSS Reviews Under Construction Sports Projects in Kupwara**



### Agencies

KUPWARA: The Director Youth Services and Sports J&K Subash Chander Chibber undertook a comprehensive tour to far off District Kupwara to assess the progress of ongoing activities and evaluate the ground-level situation of various developmental projects being constructed by the Department of Youth Services and Sports I&K. He was accompanied by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kupwara Zahoor Ahmed Wani and other senior field officers and officials

of the Department of YS&S. During his visit, the Director engaged with various stakeholders, including local youth, officials of the Department of YSS and community representatives, to gain insights into the execu-

tion of ongoing projects and initiatives of the Department. The primary focus was to ensure the effective utilization of resources and infrastructure to promote youth engagement and sports development in the district.

He visited under construction playfeild at Anderhama in sports zone Drugmulla, Galizoo stadium Kupwara, Haqanabad Punzwa and kralpora to assess the progress and status of various ongoing development sports projects in the district.

While addressing the Press at Galizoo stadium Kupwara Director expressed satisfaction with the ongoing efforts of the field staff of the District in fostering a vibrant sports culture in Kupwara. He ensured that every step would be taken to nurture sports talents of the Kupwara youth in the best possible manner.



# SPORTS

## IPL 2024: Focus On KL Rahul As LSG **Face DC In Playoff Battle**

### **Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI: Focus will be on skipper KL Rahul as a struggling Lucknow Super Giants look to keep their slim IPL playoff chances alive when they face an equally desperate Delhi Capitals in a must-win game here on Tuesday.

There has been a lot of speculations about Rahul's future as LSG skipper after his "public reprimand" by team owner Sanjiv Goenka following their 10-wicket hammering by Sunrisers Hyderabad last Wednesday.

Speculations are rife that Rahul may step down as captain or perhaps he will do his duties for the remaining two games before leaving LSG. In either case, the India batter would look to answer with his bat and end things on a high.

Rahul hasn't been in the best



of form and it's not only cost him a place in India's T20 squad but also left LSG at the 7th spot with 12 points with RCB and SRH, who are also outside the top 4.

Five days is a lot of time to introspect and Rahul and Co. will look to come out all guns blazing when they face DC, who are also on 12 points and are coming into the match af-

Nicholas Pooran, who haven't got the freedom to unleash their big shots. Although Pooran and Ay-

the likes of Marcus Stoinis and

ush Badoni managed to rescue the team in the last match, the bowlers failed miserably against the formidable SRH pair of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, who racked up 167 in 9.4 overs, a T20I record by any team.

The loss of tearaway pacer Mayank Yadav to injury has left a big hole which Yash Thakur and Naveen-ul-Haq haven't been able to fill. Also Mohsin Khan picked up an injury and didn't play last match.

The spin duo of Krunal Pandya and Ravi Bishnoi too have been to do a lot of soul searching after being punished by SRH.

Match starts at 7.30 PM IST.

## **Zonal Level Tournament Organised In Anantnag**



**Observer News Service** 

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Qazigund and Zone Bidder organised a series of sporting events, including badminton and rope skipping, across four different venues.

Zone Bidder hosted an Inter-School Kabaddi Tournament for Under-17 Boys at HSS Develgam. The tournament commenced with the solemn Anti-Drug Pledge, urging players to embrace sports and distance themselves from substance abuse and social ills.

Faizan Maqbool Rather from HS Sagam emerged as the tourna-

ment's top performer. Zone Achabal organised a Table Tennis competition for Under-14 and Under-17 Boys at HSS Damhall and HSS Dialgam. Students were encouraged to immerse themselves in sports activities and steer clear of the drug menace. In all these tournaments, a total of 618 students took active part in various sports activities.

## **Gujarat Titans Eliminated From IPL** 2024 After Rain Mars KKR Match

### **Press Trust of India**

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans' hopes of qualifying for the Indian Premier League play-offs was dashed on Monday as rain washed out their must-win match against



## Kohli's Return As RCB Captain **Advocated By Harbhajan**

ter a loss against RCB on Sun-

Besides Rahul, Quinton De

Kock's poor form this season

has left LSG struggling in the

powerplay, putting pressure on

day night.

### **Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru should think about giving back the team's captaincy to Virat Kohli, who has an ideal combination of intent, commitment and aggression to take the side forward from the next season, reckons former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Kohli is the leading runscorer in the ongoing IPL with 661 runs from 13 innings at a strike rate of 155.16. Placed fifth in table with 12 points, RCB are still alive in the playoff race.

"If they don't qualify, they should look to get some Indian guy. Why not bring Virat Kohli back as captain. As Dhoni has a lot of impact in Chennai, Virat Kohli is a big leader, he knows the kind of cricket they need to play," Harbhajan said in the latest episode of the Star Sports' Press Room.

'Now they are playing with lot of aggression, lot of intent and that is what Virat Kohli brings. I would like to see Virat Kohli leading the side going forward."

**CONVERSATION SHOULD** HAVE BEEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



inside the dressing room. Whatever talks are going on, it is not good for the team's atmosphere.

'The timing was also not right," he said. In this context Harbhajan cited the example of Kolkata Knight Riders owner Shah Rukh Khan.

"KKR is a great unit, huge fan of Khan sahaab. Hats off to that guy, he just doesn't interfere at all when it comes to cricket. Their dressing room looks very secured. That's what a good mentor does, wherever he goes, ensure that everyone is on the same page and play as one unit. A happy team is a winning team," he said.

Harbhajan also felt change of captaincy didn't augur well for Mumbai Indians

**CHAHAL IS ONLY BOWLER** WHO IS BOWLING LIKE A

Harbhajan also heaped praise on leg spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's performance in the ongoing IPL.

"He (Chahal) is the only bowler who is bowling like a spinner. He is spinning the ball, he's got flight, he's got variation and using it very wisely. When I look at him bowling and other spinners, there is a vast difference. The former India off-spinner also highlighted the significance of Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Chennai Super Kings side.

"I still believe Dhoni has a lot of impact. The game at Wankhede he scored 20 odd runs and that was the difference in the end. What else do you need, his guidance, he delivers when it matters the most.

## **Short TAKES**

**UAE Captain M. Waseem Named ICC Player For April 2024** 



est Indies all-rounder Hayley Matthews and UAE captain Muhammad Waseem brushed off some stiff competition from two stars to be named the ICC Women's and Men's Player of the Month for April 2024 respectively.

Waseem shined with his incredible scoring feat during UAE's triumph in the ACC Premier Cup. The opening batter struck 269 runs in April at an average of 44.83, which included a splendid 56-ball ton in the final showdown against the hosts, Oman.

## **PBKS' Livingstone Withdraws From IPL 2024 Due To Knee Concerns**

Dunjab Kings' all-rounder Liam Livingstone on Monday returned to England from the ongoing IPL to undergo a knee recuperation ahead of the next month's T20 World Cup. The Kings are already eliminated from this IPL after managing just four wins from 12 matches and they are currently at the bottom of the table with eight points.

"IPL done for another year, had to get my knee sorted for the upcoming World Cup," Livingstone wrote.

## **Afghan Fan Misbehaves With** Pakistan Speedster Shaheen Afridi

An Afghanistan fan misbehaved with Pakistan's Astar pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi during the second T20I against Ireland in Dublin according to Geo News. According to Geo News, the incident took place when Shaheen was walking to the ground from the dressing room.

The 24-year-old pacer initially ignored the foul language used by the Afghan fan and went on to inform the security personnel after the fan did not stop. The security acted swiftly and removed the fan from the ground.

## **British Middleweight Lawal Dies After Collapsing On Pro Debut**

**P** ritish middleweight Sherif Lawal died after col-Dlapsing in the ring during his professional debut on Sunday, fight organisers said. The British Boxing Board of Control sent a note of condolences on Monday.

Media reports said Lawal, 29, was hit on the temple in the fourth of six scheduled rounds at London's Harrow Leisure Centre against Portuguese opponent Malam Varela.

"Unfortunately he collapsed and despite the best efforts of the paramedics, he was later pronounced dead," promoters said.

The talks should have been

## SPINNER

Kolkata Knight Riders here without a ball being bowled.

It meant KKR were assured of a top-two finish with 19 points from 13 games and a place in the Qualifier 1. GT, the last year's runners-up and 2022 champions, are out of the playoff race, garnering 11 points from 13 matches. The toss didn't happen at the scheduled time of 7 pm due to incessant lightning, which was followed by slight drizzle that became heavier as time passed by.

The cut-off time was 10:56 PM for a five-over contest but the offi-

cial decided to abandon the match, a first in this IPL, because of the consistently intensifying rain and wet outfield.

"It is a big achievement for us. The chat before the game (vs GT) was about not letting up, turning up with the right attitude. "GG (Gautam Gambhir) has been pretty solid with how he wants us to play as a team. He stressed on us to come here and still look for two points," said Kolkata's opener Phil Salt as the teams waited for the rain to subside.

The outburst of Lucknow Super Giants team owner Sajeev Goenka on skipper KL Rahul after the 10-wicket defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad has been the talking point of late, and Harbhajan feels the episode was not good for team environment.

There can be differences between captain and the management but the talks should be behind doors which is better for everyone.

"Cricket is a team game, we win together we lose together, not a single individual can win you a tournament. You have to do well collectively and that didn't happen. Of course, there were lot of issues with captaincy change, we heard people were not willing to accept Hardik Pandya as captain.

'These are all rumours but they didn't play like Mumbai Indians. They didn't play well collectively as a team," he said.

Former India batter Ambati Ravudu, meanwhile, wants Rajasthan Royals to open with Sanju Samson once Jos Buttler returns for national duty. "They should open with Sanju Samson, he has been terrific form. With Sanju at the top he can control the innings, can carry his bat for 20 overs, he said.

## **Striker Olivier Giroud To Leave** Milan At The End Of The Season

Striker Olivier Giroud announced on Monday that he will leave AC Milan at the end of the current campaign. The French international arrived at the San Siro in July 2021 from Chelsea and won the Serie A title in his first season for the club.

In a video shared on Milan's page on the social media platform X, MLS-linked Giroud confirmed his decision to leave the club but did not specify his next destination.

## Man City Are A Challenge But Spurs Want To Win, Says Postecoglou

### Agencies

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur are not concerned about the Premier League title race between Manchester City and Arsenal and see Tuesday's game against City as a challenge to measure themselves against the best, manager Ange Postecoglou said. Second-placed City are trying to pip Arsenal who are a point ahead having played an extra game, while Spurs are looking to close a four-point gap with fourth-placed Aston Villa in a bid to qualify for the Champions League.

"Any time you're going to play Man City, particularly at the end of a season when they always seem to be at their best, it's a hell of a challenge," Postecoglou told reporters on Monday. "We've got an opportunity to measure ourselves against the best. A team that has consistently strived for honours. We want to emulate them



one day and the best way to do that is to test yourself against them." one loss. So I'm not go-

said.

City have struggled at Spurs since they moved into their new stadium, losing five matches in the venue before getting their first win in January's FA Cup tie.

"My recent home record local rival Arsenal's title against them is one game, hopes.

'You think the majority ing to take any confidence of our fans are not going to from that," Postecoglou want us to win tomorrow night? I don't see it that The manager dismissed way. I think the majority of the idea that most Spurs our fans will create the atfans would want their club mosphere they always create at our games," he said. to lose in order to dent

## **Rooney '100%' Convinced Some Injured Man United Players Can Play**

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Former Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney is "100 per cent" convinced that some of the injured players are fit enough to play. Manchester United received a huge blow in their quest for a spot in European football next season after Arsenal emerged victorious with a 1-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday in the Premier

The Red Devils' season has been plagued by injuries as the majority of the key players missed the clash against the Gunners. Defenders Lisandro Martinez, Luke Shaw, Victor Lindelof, Harry Maguire, Willy Kambwala, and Raphael Varane were sidelined from the game due to injuries. Rooney questioned the players' availability due to injury and feels that some of them can play and told Sky Sports, "If they are, I don't think they're showing it very well. The performances, and

there are some good players in that squad, are way below par. As we look at the injuries they've picked up, some of those players can play, 100 per cent."

"When you have the European Championship coming up and an FA Cup

final, it's easy for players to stay out of it a little bit, get back for the final and make sure they're ready for the European Championship. I've seen it myself over the years. The players who are injured are not filling themselves in any credit at the

minute. The manager is going to take all the stick for that," Rooney added.

After the defeat, Manchester United are in the 8th spot with 54 points, three behind a spot for featuring in the Europa League next season.

League.