

RECORD VOTER TURNOUT

PM Thanks Srinagar For Large Turnout



KO Web Desk

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to the people who voted in large numbers in Srinagar Parliamentary constituency stating that the abrogation of Article 370 has enabled the potential and aspirations of the people to find full expression. "Would especially like to applaud the people of Srinagar Parliamentary constituency for the encouraging turnout, significantly better than before. The abrogation of Article 370 has enabled the potential and aspirations of

the people to find full expression. Happening at the grassroots level, it is great for the people of J&K, in particular the youth," PM Modi wrote on X. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that the Narendra Modi government's decision to abrogate Article 370 is showing results in the poll percentage in Jammu and Kashmir and has enhanced people's trust in democracy. The home minister's remarks came a day after about 38 per cent polling was recorded in the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency where | **More on P6**

'Hindering Voting' In Srinagar Independent Candidate Among 2 Booked

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Police have registered an FIR against two persons, including an independent candidate, for allegedly creating hindrance in peaceful voting at a polling station during the Lok Sabha elections here, officials said on Tuesday. The FIR was lodged at the Saddar police station on Monday against independent candidate Jibran Dar and his woman supporter Sujata Bashir on the complaint of

Mehjoor Nagar polling booth's sector magistrate Sarfaraz Ahmad, the officials said. The Srinagar parliamentary constituency went to polls in the fourth phase on May 13, registering a voter turnout of nearly 38 per cent, which is the second highest poll percentage in many decades. In the FIR, the independent candidate was accused of creating disruption and public hindrance during the poll process. He was also accused of threatening

Political Winds Shift In North Kashmir Er Rashid's Candidacy Alters Baramulla's Electoral Landscape

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: As Abrar Rashid stepped into North Kashmir's Bandipora district for a roadshow on Monday, he found himself amidst a sea of supporters. Thousands of enthusiastic individuals, especially youth from diverse corners of the district, had gathered to hear Abrar's message and rally behind him.

Chanting slogans like Bandeporeek vote kas, Engineras beye kas (Bandipora will vote for, Engineer who else), Abrar addressed the massive gathering.



26-year-old Abrar would have never thought of leading political rallies at this age, but he has decided to campaign extensively on behalf of his father - jailed Engineer

I AM NOT A POLITICAL LEADER, I HAVE JUST COME TO YOU to remind you that my father has been behind bars for the last five years for speaking in favor of Kashmiris."

Rashid - who is contesting from the Baramulla parliamentary seat as an independent candidate. Baramulla will go to polls in the fifth phase of the

ongoing Lok Sabha elections on May 20.

"We have started the elections campaign from 7th May and I wasn't expecting such an overwhelming response," Abrar told Kashmir Observer. Forget the much-touted South Kashmir seat, the real action lies beyond north of Srinagar, in a highly heterogeneous belt of Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency. This is where the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah is testing his political luck by locking horns with an alleged B-Teams of BJP in Kashmir. Engineer | **More on P6**

Shopian Youth Walks Barefoot To Rally For Rashid

Syed Mohammad Burhan

In a remarkable display of dedication and support, Mudasir Thoker, a PhD scholar hailing from south Kashmir's Shopian, has embarked on a barefooted journey spanning approximately 114 kilometers from

his hometown to Er Rashid's residence in Langate. Thoker said that his mission is to campaign for Rashid in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. According to Thoker, the reason for his unwavering support to Rashid is because of his commitment to serving his people. Thoker said that | **More on P6**

'Fight For 6th Schedule' Key Poll Plank For Congress In Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Congress candidate in the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat Tsering Namgyal is contesting the election on a four-point agenda for the Union territory, the key among which is the fight for implementation of the 6th Schedule of the Constitution that guarantees land and jobs for the locals.

The four-point agenda also includes statehood demand, a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts. Stressing the INDIA bloc was committed to safeguarding the rights of the people of Ladakh, he said there is discontent among the populace following the failure of talks involving Home Minister Amit Shah and representatives of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance over the



demand for the 6th Schedule of the Constitution. "The dialogue stopped there and so did our hope... people are now worried and angry," Namgyal said in an interview with PTI. The political landscape of Ladakh has been roiled by nearly two months of protests led by activist Sonam Wangchuk, culminating

in a 21-day climate fast. Demonstrations, commencing on March 6 and concluding on May 10 to pave the way for parliamentary polls saw a turnout of around 50,000 people, representing a substantial portion of Ladakh's population. Ladakh's transition into a Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 | **More on P6**

Ruhullah Has Won Srinagar Seat, Claims Omar

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday claimed that his party candidate Aga Ruhullah has won the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat. Abdullah, who was campaigning in the Uri area of Baramulla district, also claimed that the INDIA bloc is becoming stronger with every phase of polling. "Aga Ruhullah has won Srinagar constituency as per the polling yesterday," Abdullah told reporters after an election meeting in Uri.

Ruhullah is pitted against PDP's Waheed Para. He said according to the reports emerging from across the country, the INDIA bloc is getting favourable response from the voters. "On June 4, the Government at the Centre will be changed," he said. The former chief minister said



he is not sure whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi's padyatra was in response to Rahul Gandhi's marches. "Perhaps it is because of the positive response received by INDIA bloc," he said. On the allegations that the ruling party is running its campaign on communal hatred, Abdullah said the prime minister should know that he is the leader of people of all communities. "When the PM | **More on P6**

WATER BODIES' POLLUTION IN DODA NGT Allows DC's Request To File Report In 8 Weeks

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a matter regarding pollution of water bodies in the Baderwah valley in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has allowed the deputy commissioner's (DC) request to file a time-bound action plan within eight weeks to remediate the situation. The NGT has also directed the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&KPCC) to file a fresh report disclosing the action taken for imposing fines on the entities responsible for causing the pollution.

The tribunal was hearing the matter regarding the issue of water pollution because of increasing pollutants and the absence of a proper sewage system. In its previous order, the green panel had directed the DC to file a "time-bound action plan" to remediate the situation and the J&KPCC to impose a fine on the "defaulting body". A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said none of the directions were followed and the DC sought further eight weeks to file the report. The bench also noted that in the documents submitted before it, the authorities had taken different stands. "The stand of the DC, Doda is that Neeru is a nallah, whereas the report of | **More on P6**

LG Says, 'Zero Tolerance Against Drugs'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Home Department. The LG directed the officials to ensure installation and operational efficiency of fire safety equipment in Government and public buildings. The meeting also deliberated on the operationalization of drug de-addiction centres and measures to tackle the drug menace. "We have adopted a policy of Zero Tolerance against drugs to make a drug-free J&K.



Police, Civil Administration and people should work together to eliminate this menace," the LG said. The LG discussed issues related to strengthening of Police | **More on P6**

'Work From Hills' Trend Hot Cities Drive Tourists To Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: Tourist flow to Kashmir is going to swell further as temperature rises above normal in many states of India. Amid scorching heat, the flow of tourists to hill destinations has increased as the trend of "work from hills" is picking up across India. As per reports, hotel chains see a surge in inquiries and bookings for accommodations in hill stations and remote locales, as many Indian professionals combine work with leisure while staying in hill stations. Given the upgradation of facilities by the hotels at hill



destinations across India, connectivity and modern amenities make them an ideal setting for remote work. According to India's leading

travel agencies, a growing number of customers are opting for remote work opportunities amid the tranquil settings of hill stations. | **More on P6**

SIA Conducts Raids In South Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The State Investigation Agency on Tuesday carried out raids at multiple locations in three South Kashmir districts in connection with the probe into the terror killing of a man from Bihar in Anantnag district, officials said here. The SIA sleuths conducted searches at 11 locations in Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian districts in the early hours, the officials said. "These searches were conducted by SIA in connection with ongoing investigation of case | **More on P6**

Startup Kashmir Empowers Women Entrepreneurs At Srinagar Meetup

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Startup Kashmir hosted a first-of-its-kind meetup for women entrepreneurs at Kong Posh restaurant in Srinagar, marking a significant milestone in the region's entrepreneurial landscape. The inaugural event drew a diverse spectrum of seasoned professionals, flourishing business owners, and emerging talents, all converging to celebrate the spirit of female entrepreneurship. Deeba Ali, representing Startup Kashmir, kicked off the event as the enthusiastic host. Renowned entrepreneur



Rifat Mushtaq, owner of Rifat Printing Press, served as a guest speaker, captivating the audience with her inspiring journey. Rifat's resilient journey resonated deeply as

she shared the challenges she faced, transitioning from matchbox and polythene production to achieving success in cardboard manufacturing. Shahid Mir, CEO of Greenovator

Incubation Foundation (GIF) supported by DST Govt of India, also graced the event. He shed light on the various schemes offered by GIF to support entrepreneurs. Seerat Zahra, | **More on P6**

HC Quashes 3 PSA Detention Orders

'Representation Against PSA Detention Not Mere Formality'

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The representation against PSA detention order is not a mere formality but is required to be carried out without any exception, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh said on Tuesday as it quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against three detainees. "The respondents

(authorities) were obliged to consider the representation with all sincerity and had the option to accept or reject the same after taking into consideration all aspects of the matter. The consideration by the respondents is not a mere formality but required to be carried out without any exception," a bench of Justice Puneet Gupta said while quashing detention order against one Inayat Rashid Bhat of Jumanpora, Sindhbal, Ganderbal passed by the district magistrate of the central Kashmir | **More on P6**

Novel Molecules Identified To Combat Cancer Relapse: Study

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have identified three molecules that offer a promising solution that can prevent cancer relapse during treatment, according to a new study.

In cancer treatment, DNA-damaging agents are commonly used to target cancer cells thereby killing them and causing cancer remission.

However, over time, the effectiveness of these agents can diminish as cancer cells develop mechanisms to repair the damaged DNA, leading to a process commonly called chemoresistance to drugs, leading to cancer recurrence and metastasis.

This poses a challenge to cancer therapy. The new study by researchers in two Department of Biotechnology, Government of India institutes, namely the Na-

tional Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) and the National Institute of Immunology (NII), have tackled this issue by investigating the repair mechanisms specific to cancer cells.

The study highlighted the roles of two proteins, RAD54 and BLM, in this process. RAD54 can loosen the genome aiding in gene activation, while BLM assists RAD54 in this function.

Dr Sagar Sengupta, Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), explained how their research addresses why cancer cells become resistant to chemotherapy at the genomic level.

"We focused on two proteins, RAD54 and BLM, which are involved in the process of the development of chemoresistance. RAD54 helps activate genes by remodelling chromatin, and BLM assists RAD54 in this role. The RAD54-BLM complex was found to activate a group of genes (called efflux pump genes) respon-



sible for removing anti-cancer drugs from cancer cells, a key factor in developing chemoresistance. The team also screened a large library of approved small molecules and discovered three drugs that disrupt RAD54-BLM interaction, reduc-

ing DNA repair in cancer cells and thereby making the cancer cells more sensitive to chemotherapy," he told PTI.

The study focused on colon cancer as a model system and involved physically screening a large library of approved

drugs or small molecules to identify these promising compounds. Tests on animal models, particularly mice, treated with these molecules alongside standard chemotherapy drugs for colon cancer, showed minimal to no tumor progression.

Hence these drugs have the potential to be taken forward as adjunct therapy for colon cancer when given in addition to the known chemotherapeutic drugs to patients.

Additionally, researchers would also like to determine whether the drugs can be utilized to treat chemoresistance in other types of cancers.

This collaborative effort, involving researchers mainly from India, France, and Singapore, was recently published in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Alongside NIBMG and NII, researchers from the Regional Centre of Biotechnology (RCB), and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) also participated in the project, which included a diverse team of scientists.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the owner of the property located at House No. 1 Peerzu, kothi Bagh Srinagar has undergone a legal name change. Consequently, the name on the electrical bill and water bill for the aforementioned property will be changed from Syed Habibullah Qadri to Syed Niyaz Ahmad Qadri effective immediately.

All concerned parties are requested to make note of this change and update their records accordingly. Any future correspondence or payments should be addressed to the new name. As the owner was expired on 14th Jan, 2022 and the new owner is the Elder son of Syed Habibullah Qadri

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
 Syed Niyaz Ahmad Qadri
 S/o Late Syed Habibullah Qadri

Phone No: 0194-2429014
www.islamiacollege.edu.in
 email id: principal@islamiacollege.edu.in

Islamia College of Science & Commerce
 NAAC Re-Accredited Grade 'A'
 UGC -Autonomous, Affiliated with University of Kashmir
 Hawal, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir -190002

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR PG PROGRAMMES 2024

Online applications are invited from eligible aspirants who have appeared in CUET (PG)-2024 in their respective domains notified by the College vide notification No. No.ICS/3790-3801/A-7/A-35 dated:13-01-2024 and wish to seek admission at Islamia College of Science and Commerce Srinagar for current academic session in the following Post Graduate Programmes:

This WhatsApp Feature Will Restrict Users From Taking Screenshots Of Profile Pictures

IANA

Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on a feature that will restrict users from taking screenshots of profile pictures on iOS.

As shown in the screenshot shared by WABetaInfo, a message will occur on the screen notifying users that taking screenshots of profile photos has been blocked to protect privacy on the app.

According to the report, this feature will offer an added layer of privacy protection by blocking users from capturing and sharing profile photos without the owner's consent.

While people may still capture the image with other devices or cameras, blocking the screenshot feature within the app will definitely reduce the unauthorised sharing of profile photos, the report said.

This WhatsApp feature will be useful in reducing the risk of profile photos being misused or distributed without permission by stopping users from taking screenshots.

A feature to block screenshots of profile pictures is under development and it will be available in a future update of the app, the report stated.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly testing a new feature that will offer users a dedicated "filter" to quickly get a list of their favourites from the chats tab on Android.

With this new chat filter, users will get to easily access and prioritise specific conversations with their favourite contacts and groups.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-04.06.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in.

| Tender Type | Tendering Section | Bidding System |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Open | Works | Single Bid System |
| Date of Uploading Tenders | Bid Starting Date | Bid Closing Date/Time |
| 13.05.2024 | 21.05.2024 | 04.06.2024/15:00 Hrs |

| S.No. | Tender No. | Details of Tender |
|-------|------------------------|---|
| 1. | 42-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR | Through Fittings Renewal (TFR) 37.652 Km on ASR-KEMK section under ADEN-II/ASR. |
| | | Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion |
| | | 65,36,738,20/- 1,30,700/- 60 Days 06 Months |

Similar nature of work :- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Balast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28".

Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No:- 42-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 14.05.2024 1451/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Candidates who have passed their qualifying examination under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) scheme are eligible/can apply for admission to PG programmes only in such subjects where he/she has earned/obtained at least 24 credits in core or generic elective courses at UG level.

Candidates having passed the qualifying examination with the required minimum percentage of marks in aggregate as indicated against each programme are eligible to apply for admission to the respective programme.

| S.No | Programme | Intake (Seats) | Test Paper Code (NTA) | Eligibility | Self Finance Seats |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Masters in Computer Applications | 30 | SCQP09 | Passed B.A./Bachelor Degree in Computer Science Engineering or Equivalent Degree/B.Sc./B.Com. B.A. with Mathematics at 10+2 level or at Graduation level. The candidates with non-Mathematical background shall be required to pass bridge course as per the norms with at least 50% marks (45% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category) in the qualifying examination. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme is 45% for open merit and 40% for reserved categories. | 10% seats reserved under Self Finance Category over and above the intake capacity of the courses |
| 2. | Master in Commerce | 30 | COQP08 | Three-year B.Com/B.Com.(Honours)/B.B.A/B.B.M/B.B.Sor B.A./B.Sc. with P.G Diploma in Accountancy/Cost Accountancy/ Cost & Management Accountancy. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme is 45% for open merit and 40% for reserved categories. | |
| 3. | Masters in English | 30 | LAQP01 | Three-year B.A programme with English Literature as one of the subjects/B.A.(Honours) in English /B.A. with 24 Core Credits in the Discipline of English Literature, either as Core or as Generic Elective subject, at U.G. Level under CBCS Scheme. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme is 45% for open merit and 40% for reserved categories. Note : 60% seats for candidates having passed B.A. English (Honours) and 40% for the candidates having passed their graduation with English Literature as one of the subjects at undergraduate level. | |
| 4. | Master in Botany | 10 | SCQP07 | Three-year B.Sc. Programme with Botany/ Three year B.A./B.Sc. Programme with scheme. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme with 24 credits in Botany as Generic Elective at UG Level CBCS Scheme. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme is 45% for open merit and 40% for reserved categories. | |
| 5. | Master in Chemistry | 19 | SCQP08 | Three-year B.Sc. Programme with Chemistry/ Three year B.A./B.Sc. Programme with scheme. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme with 24 credits in Chemistry as Generic Elective at UG Level CBCS Scheme. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme is 45% for open merit and 40% for reserved categories. | |
| 6. | Masters in Zoology | 16 | SCQP28 | Three-year B.Sc. Programme with Zoology as one of the subject/ Three year B.A/ B.Sc. Honours in Zoology/ Three year B.A./B.Sc. Programme with 24 credits in Botany as Generic Elective at UG Level CBCS Scheme. Minimum percentage of marks in aggregate eligible to apply for admission to this programme is 45% for open merit and 40% for reserved categories. | |

The selection of the candidates of all these PG programmes shall be made strictly as per the merit obtained by the applicants in CUET (PG) 2024 test conducted by the NTA.

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 IAPM Department,
 Zonal Office Budgam,
 Industrial Complex Zainakote
 Srinagar 190012, Kashmir.
 Tel: 0194-2497735, Ext.:218; amid.zoktmo@kbmail.com

E-AUCTION NOTICE

(For sale of mortgaged immovable property under proviso to sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable property mortgaged to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Ompora , the physical possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "No complaint" basis on 06.06.2024 for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Ompora. The description of property, reserve price and the earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Description of the mortgaged property (Put on sale) | Residential house along with land underneath & appurtenant thereto measuring 13 ½ marlas falling under Khasra No 1693 min, Khata No 1115 and Khewat no 776 situated at Ompora Tehsil and District Budgam standing in the name of borrower Mr.Aijaz Bashir Mandoo S/o Bashir Ahmad Mandoo R/o Wanbal Rawalpura Srinagar. |
| Reserve Price | Rs. 1,27,48,500 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lacs Forty Eight Thousand and Five Hundred Only) |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | Rs. 12,74,850/ |

The bid document/format containing full details of the mortgaged property and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net (Contact Persons: Mr.Ram Sharma (M) 9978591888, 9265562821 (O) 079 6813 6867.). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 05.06.2024 upto 4.00 PM. The e -auction will be held on 06.06.2024 from 11.30 AM-4.00 PM. The contact details of the bank official are: Mr. Sheikh Iftikhaar (Branch Head Ompora) Mobile No. 7006100947.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer, J&K Bank Ltd.

Dated: 14.05.2024
 Place: Budgam

Method of application:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Website Address | http://www.islamiacollege.edu.in |
| Opening date of Admission portal for Selection forms | 15-05-2024 |
| Closing date of Admission Portal for Selection forms. | 06-06-2024 |
| Reservation Policy | As per the reservation policy of the U of J&K (Affiliating University) |
| Mode of Fee payment | On-line |

Admission Procedure
 The seats for the programmes are fixed as per the intake capacity for the programmes. The selection mechanism qualifying an aspirant for seeking admission to the above programmes is as under:-

- Aspirants will have to visit the College Website <http://www.islamiacollege.edu.in>
- Submit on-line application form for selection to a programme.
- An applicant can choose to apply for more than one programme.
- The aspirants have to fill selection form online and have to upload recent passportsize photograph (Max 500 KB jpg format) with selection form.
- Applicants are advised to make correct entries in the on-line selection form, further no changes in any fields of selection forms will be allowed after submission of selection forms.
- Anon-refundable processing fee of Rs. 200/- (Two Hundred Only) for each Program, shall be charged.
- The applicants will have to deposit the requisite processing fee on-line through any of the online mode such as Credit Card, Debit Card etc. through College website only.
- Applicants have to upload the following documents (Max 500 KB) :-
 I. Final year marks transcript
 II. NTA (CUET) score card
 III. Category certificate (if any)
- After the closure date i.e. 05-06-2024 no selection forms shall be accepted.
- The Merit list for the Programmes shall be issued after the issuance of Final Roll Order.
- The merit list shall be prepared in the following manner:
 i. Merit of CUET (PG) 2024 conducted by NTA.
 ii. In case of clash of merit at CUET (PG) 2024 the student with higher Graduation marks will be placed higher in the merit list.
 iii. In case of clash of merit at CUET (PG) 2024 test and Graduation marks the student with higher marks at class 12th will be placed higher in the merit list.
- The admission formalities mechanism shall be communicated to the aspirant after the issuance of merit list.

FAIT:
 In case of any information found being false, incomplete, incorrect the selection of the applicant shall be cancelled/terminated without any time.

275-86/A-46/A-7
 11-05-2024

DIPK-NB-166/24 dated: 14-05-2024

Prof. Dr. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir
 Principal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Asmina am holding 2000 of shares of J&K Bank jointly with Aasiya Wani under Folio JKB031279 where our names has been inadvertently recorded as A. Asmina & Aasiya Wani both of which are incorrect, whereas whereas our actual names are & Aasiya Wani & Asmina . In this regard I am applying for correction of names under our Folio. If anybody has any objection may contact J&K Bank Corporate Headquarters within seven days from the publication of this notice. After which no objection shall be entertained.

fak

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my motor Cycle bearing Regd no: JK01AH1843 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Yasmeen
 D/W/O Ashiq Hussain Kanjil
 R/o Sheikh Mohalla, S.R. Gunj Srinagar

phw

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my motor Cycle bearing Regd no: JK01AD 5106 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ayaz Ahmad
 S/o Ghulam Mohammad Tarfarooosh
 R/o Saraf Kadal Srinagar Nowhatta Srinagar

phw

JKLF Among Several Separatist Outfits Banned

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday announced a ban on different separatist organizations including the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) led by jailed Muhammad Yasin Malik.

The announcement was made on Tuesday through a public address system fitted on police vehicles in Srinagar city.

Pertinently, the Ministry of Home Affairs

(MHA) banned the JKLF led by incarcerated leader Muhammad Yasin Malik for five more years in March this year, citing its involvement in subversive and anti-national activities.

Police announced that besides JKLF, Jammu Kashmir National Front, two factions of Jammu Kashmir Muslim League and Peoples League have been banned and their representatives have been directed to appear before a court in Delhi on 20 May (KNT)

Constituency Round-Up

NC Was First Preference For Voters In Eidgah

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Eidgah Constituency in Srinagar city didn't witness a huge voter turnout as was expected by political pundits.

Out of over 80,000 votes, 16,160 votes were polled in the Eidgah segment with over 80 booths.

Out of over 16,000 votes polled in the Eidgah segment, the National Conference, according to the sources, secured over 12,000 votes. If sources are to be believed, the candidate from Azad's DPAP stood ahead of candidates from the PDP and

Apni Party.

In the 2014 Assembly elections, 16,352 votes were polled in the Eidgah segment, and in the 2024 Parliament elections which were held yesterday, all but the number of votes were the same as were in 2014. Voter turnout didn't see any upsurge.

A political leader who contested Assembly elections from this constituency in 2014 said that NC secured over 12,000 votes due to the wrong policies of the BJP. "It was not a vote for local NC leader Mubarak Gul but an open display of hate against BJP," he said. (KNT)

Zafran Colony Residents Contribute For Road Repair

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The local youth of Achenambal-Zafran Colony, Srinagar Tuesday contributed money from their own pockets to repair the vital road stretch connecting Zafran Colony with Pampore as the authorities allegedly failed to do the same since past over two decades.

Frustrated by the administration's continuous neglect, the youth of Achenambal, Zafran Colony, decided to collect money from all the residents with youth of the area contributing large amount to arrange over-gauge metal, dust and other material to repair the road stretch that was causing huge inconvenience to the general public including women and school going children.

Mohammad Yousuf, a resident of Zafran Colony, said that they have been raising concerns about the poor condition of this road for two decades but their pleas always fell on the deaf ears.

"The authorities have consistently neglected this vital lifeline for the community, forcing us to endure hazardous conditions on a daily basis. With no signs of

relief from the government, we the residents, primarily youth, have now repaired this road on our own," he said.

Another resident, Tahir Ahmed, said that despite having such big names like R&B, nothing was done to repair the road here. "Elderly and youth visited the R&B offices ample times but to get hollow promises only. Today, youth decided to show peoples' power and contributed money from their own pockets to repair the road," he said.

A local youth involved in the repair efforts voiced the anger of the community, stating that it is a matter of safety for everyone, especially for pedestrians and commuters who use this road regularly to reach Pampore.

"We cannot continue to wait for the authorities to take action while accidents continue to occur due to the poor condition of the road. Today, residents have heaved a sigh of relief as we ourselves started to repair this road. Whatever is possible for us, we will do for the safety of women, elderly and school going children," he said—(KNO)

Mudgal Reviews Progress On Implementation Of Projects Under HADP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Mission Director Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) Yasha Mudgal Tuesday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to assess the progress on the implementation of some projects falling under HADP at Lalmandi Srinagar.

The meeting, according to a statement, was attended by the Director

Agriculture Kashmir, the Director Agriculture Jammu, members of project monitoring units and other senior officers of APD.

Speaking on the occasion, Yasha Mudgal underscored the significance of various projects under HADP. She characterized the HADP as a transformative mission aimed at fostering the Holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors throughout Jammu and Kashmir.



International Nurses Day

Secy Health Lauds Nurses For Relentless Services & Contributions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed who was Chief Guest on International Nurses Day Event organized by the Department of Hospital Administration SKIMS in his address acknowledged the critical role of Nurses in healthcare and said that they deserve all recognition and encouragement.

While speaking on the occasion he admired the nursing workforce at SKIMS for their dedication and selfless services during COVID-19.

He expressed his appreciation for their commitment and dedication towards patient care in testing times.

While lauding commitment of medical professionals he said to keep up with changing times is important and stressed that Nurses/paramedics should focus on their skill enhancement, upgrade their knowledge, improve their communication skills, have empathy

While speaking on the occasion, he admired the nursing workforce at SKIMS for their dedication and selfless services during COVID-19 and appreciated them for their commitment and dedication towards patient care in testing times.

and focus on ethical practices with work/ life balance which he said are very important to maintain professionalism and sustain integrity with a special focus on team work. He assured full support of the department to provide an enabling ecosystem to facilitate best patient care practices.

Dean Medical Faculty, SKIMS Prof. Shariq Masoodi, Additional Director SKIMS & Special Secretary to Govt. Dr. Firdous Giri and Medical Superintendent SKIMS Dr. Fa-

rooq Jan also spoke on the occasion and hailed Nursing Administration SKIMS for contribution towards patient care and said that they play pivotal roles in healing the patient.

Organizing Chairperson and in-charge Nursing Daljit Kour in her address highlighted the importance of this year's theme "Our Nurses. Our Future: The Economic Power of Care".

The event was organized by the Department of Nursing Administration, Sheri-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences celebrated "International Nurses Day" to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale" pioneer of modern nursing.

The function was attended by HOD's/ Heads of Sections, Principal Nursing College, Faculty SKIMS, Nursing Staff and Nursing Faculty, Administrative Heads and Students. On the conclusion of the function Appreciation Certificates were given to senior nursing staff.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO. 01 OF 2024

On-line Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to below mentioned programmes for the Academic Session 2024. The candidates are advised to peruse Admission Guidelines / Prospectus 2024 (available on the University website) & go through the Admission Procedure to check the eligibility criteria/ other details before filling and submitting their Online Application Forms:

| POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES | |
|--|---|
| M. Tech. Artificial Intelligence (AI) | M.A. International Relations (P&CS) |
| M. A Philosophy | M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication |
| M.Sc. Statistics | M.A. Islamic Studies |
| Master of Computer Applications (MCA) 2-Years | M. A Political Science |
| Master of Science in Information Technology (M.Sc. IT) | M.A. Arabic Language & Literature |
| M. Tech. Food Technology | M.A. English Language & Literature |
| M.Sc. Chemistry | M.A. Economics |
| M.Sc. Physics | |
| UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES | |
| B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering | B.Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering |
| B.Tech. Civil Engineering | B.Tech. Electrical Engineering |
| B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering | B. Arch. |
| THREE YEAR POLYTECHNIC PROGRAMMES | |
| Diploma in Civil Engineering | Diploma in Electrical Engineering |
| Diploma in Mechanical Engineering | |
| LATERAL-ENTRY PROGRAMMES | |
| B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering | B.Tech. Civil Engineering |
| B.Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering | B.Tech. Electrical Engineering |
| B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering | B.Tech. Food Technology |
| Diploma in Civil Engineering | Diploma in Electrical Engineering |
| Diploma in Mechanical Engineering | |

| IMPORTANT DATES: | |
|--|------------------------|
| Availability of Online Application Forms | 15-05-2024 (Wednesday) |
| Last Date for submission of Online Application Forms / Deposition of Application Fee | 05-06-2024 (Wednesday) |

NOTE:
The candidates who have not appeared in CUET-PG 2024/ GATE can also apply online for admission at IUST, however, first preference shall be given to CUET-PG 2024/ GATE candidates. The selection for the vacant/ remaining seats shall be made on the basis of University Entrance Test or percentage of marks in the qualifying examination which shall be decided later.
The candidates whose result of the Qualifying examination is yet to be declared can also apply and they shall be considered for admission provisionally on their own risk and responsibility of fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria.
The detailed admission notification No. 01 of 2024 has been uploaded on the university website www.iust.ac.in
For any further query/information, the candidates may contact the Admission Officials on Phone: 9858306455/ 9906400789 EPABX: 01933-247954/ 247955 EXT: 2086 Email ID: admissions@iust.ac.in
No: IUST/DAA-Acad/24/937
Dated: 10-05-2024 DIPK-NB-161/24 dated:14-05-2024 Assistant Registrar Academics

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- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

06 Zil-Qadah
1445

| PRAYERS | |
|---------|--------|
| FAJR | 3 : 54 |
| ZUHR | 12:27 |
| ASR | 5: 20 |
| Magrib | 7:28 |
| ISHA | 9: 02 |

This Day In History

- 756 Abd-al-Rahman I becomes emir of Cordova, Spain
- 1213 - King John of England names Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1492 - Cheese & Bread rebellion: German mercenaries kill 232 residents of Alkmaar, Netherlands
- 1514 - Jodocus Badius Ascensius publishes Christiern Pedersen's Latin version of Saxo's Gesta Danorum, the oldest known version
- 1525 - The battle of Frankenhausen: German peasant army surrounded, 5,000 slaughtered; ends the peasants' uprising
- 1572 - Louis van Nassau & huguenots occupy Valenciennes
- 1618 - German astronomer Johannes Kepler discovers the third of his three planetary laws his "harmonics law"
- 1648 - Treaty of Munster ratified by Spain & Netherlands
- 1701 - The War of the Spanish Succession begins
- 1718 - James Puckle, a London lawyer, patents world's 1st machine gun
- 1796 - France & Sardinia sign Peace treaty of Paris
- 1796 - First Coalition: Napoleon enters Milan in triumph with French troops
- 1862 - Battle of Drewry's Bluff (Fort Darling), Virginia
- 1864 - Battle of New Market, Virginia
- 1883 - Italy signs military treaty with Austria-Hungary & Germany

From KO Archives

Clamour For Jobs Intensifies; Govt Replies With Force, Jail

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR- Overwrought by long years of unemployment, the jobless educated youth of the valley now feel increasingly compelled to take to the streets to give vent to their frustrations.

Contractual Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers, teachers of ICS centers, and jobless engineers, doctors and dentists have been holding demonstrations for the past several weeks to remind the government of its promises, but the government uses force asking the police to bundle them into vehicles and cart them off to jail.

Contractual teachers, dentists and electricians, all jobless, held a protest demonstration in the press enclave on Wednesday. And when the police told them to end their agitation, they refused, determined as they were to air their grievances forcefully.

Eventually scores of teachers were taken to the police lock-up. A large contingent of jobless dentists, too, was arrested when it made an unsuccessful bid to present a memorandum to the chief minister.

The police said that all arrested agitators were later released. But even the arrests did not stem the flood of protests. Jobless electricians assembled next to decry the policy of recruiting on the basis of crash courses, and asked the chief minister to "come to his senses."

Every protest features angry and indignant slogans against the chief minister, but the government appears to be unmoved. Qualified electricians have been protesting against "crash course appointees" for the past year. Observers make various interpretations of the intensifying clamour for jobs.

Sources close to the government claim that the protests are a part of a conspiracy, while public circles feel that the administration promised by the chief minister, Gulam Nabi Azad, has not become a reality. They fed that to save their skins, ministers and bureaucrats are misleading the unemployed youth by making irresponsible statements.

On the one hand, the government harps on the "insufficiency of funds" tune, and on the other hand favoured candidates are being given jobs by creating suspect categories such as crash-courses, the public feels.

There is intense anger, among the public in general and the jobless youth in particular, about the callous and arbitrary approach of the government.

A citizen, who did not want to be named, said that he, had stopped believing in any claim or promise the government makes, and having seen the condition of the government, had advised his children to sell second-hand clothes on the pavements.

One of his sons is roaming around with an engineering diploma, while the other holding a master's degree in education, is earning the princely sum of Rs 1200 as teacher in a private school. (Kashmir Observer, 15 May, 2007)

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®]

Wednesday | 15-05-2024

Kejriwal Factor

The grant of interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by India's top court couldn't have come at a more crucial time. With the parliamentary election campaign ongoing, Kejriwal's release carries significant implications, not just for his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) but for the broader opposition alliance.

Kejriwal was arrested in March over corruption allegations related to a now-scraped alcohol sales policy. The timing of his arrest, just days after the announcement of election dates, raised eyebrows and led many to believe it was politically motivated. The AAP, along with several other opposition parties, saw this as an attempt to stifle dissent and create an uneven playing field in the electoral arena.

The court's decision to extend interim bail until June 1, just days before the election results, allows Kejriwal the opportunity to participate in campaigning. However, it also sends a strong message about the independence of the judiciary.

For the opposition alliance, Kejriwal's release is a significant boost. His party, AAP, has been a vocal critic of the ruling party's policies and has positioned itself as a viable political alternative in the party's strongholds such as New Delhi and Punjab. Kejriwal's absence from the campaign trail would have been a considerable setback for the opposition, especially at such a crucial juncture.

Moreover, Kejriwal's release highlights the need for a united opposition against the ruling party. The fact that the court granted bail despite strong opposition from India's financial crimes agency, the Enforcement Directorate, underlines the importance of a robust opposition in a democracy.

The timing of Kejriwal's release also cannot be overlooked. Coming in the middle of the election campaign, it has the potential to galvanize the opposition. Kejriwal's release also brings attention back to the issues of alleged corruption, high inflation and unemployment. His arrest and subsequent release have also reignited the debate about the role of investigative agencies and the need for accountability and transparency in governance.

As the country awaits the election results in the first week of June, Kejriwal's release is certain to liven up the election scene in which the ruling party led by prime minister Narendra Modi remains favourite to win. There are, however, signals that the election may be turning and the NDA might fall short of the absolute majority. At the same time, there are no indications that the opposition alliance is in a position to form the government. As of now, the situation is up in the air. And essentially, this is what makes for a true democratic contest. It is less about the winners and losers and more about the expression of the will of the people.

The Political Quagmire

Too Many Choices, Too Few Answers?



Ikkz Ikbal

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Politics, in its essence, is a complex, messy, and contradictory field where compromise and pragmatism frequently clash with ideals and principles. In this situation, it becomes extremely difficult to find a person who fits one's beliefs and values so perfectly

Politics has never been black and white, particularly in this part of the world. It has always been increasingly complex and challenging for both the candidates and voters. In this fast-paced world with the serious social media influence, the quest for clarity and authenticity in politics has become a Herculean task.

In politics, the phrase "lesser of two evils" frequently crops up, which means the voters always have to choose between the bad and the worse. The sentiment reflects a general disappointment with the political process and the kind of candidates that are on offer. While the phrase may sound cynical, it underscores a fundamental reality: Elections usually make people choose between the unpleasant options.

This notion of choice between bad and worse is not new in electoral politics. History has witnessed countless voters going through the trouble of making choices that look less like the picking of the best candidate and more like the reduction of possible damage. This problem can be caused by different reasons, like the candidates' honesty, competence and the relationship with the voters' values.

One of the main causes behind this phenomenon is the fact that the current political system is flawed. Politics, in its essence, is a complex, messy, and contradictory field where compromise and pragmatism frequently clash with ideals and principles. In this

situation, it becomes extremely difficult to find a person who fits one's beliefs and values so perfectly. This can make voters feel like they are left with no choice but to accept the options that are on the offer, which in turn can lead to a sense of resignation among those who are disappointed by the choices presented.

Moreover, the rise of polarization in politics has worsened the scenario. Political parties in deeply divided societies usually focus on ideological purity instead of broad appeal, which, in turn, leads to the candidates mostly catering to their base without considering the electorate as a whole. This potentially can lead to candidates who are considered as extreme or out of touch with the people outside their core support base, thus, further limiting the choices available.

The media, too, has a great influence on the way people perceive the candidates. Sensationalism, bias, and misinformation can be the cause of the distortion of our understanding of the things happening around. So, it becomes even harder to make positive decisions. As a result, the voters may be confused or discouraged by the idea of dealing with a political environment that is full of distortion and manipulation.

Nevertheless, even though there are these obstacles, elections are still a vital instrument of democratic governance. The choices may not be perfect, but by participating in the electoral process, citizens can have a say

in the direction of their society. Through debates, advocating for change, and holding elected officials accountable, voters can improve the quality of the politicians and the political system in general.

Moreover, it's essential to recognize that progress is often incremental and requires sustained effort over time. Although elections might not always be the best way to achieve the perfect result, they can still push the society to the right direction by making the government more accountable, transparent, and responsive.

Ultimately, the choice between the bad and the worse candidates reminds us of the importance of being alert and active as citizens. Through the process of staying informed, critically evaluating the politicians and their policies, and actively participating in the democratic process, voters can help to make sure that the elections are not only a choice between the lesser of the two evils, but an opportunity to advance the common good and build a better future for all.

Together, we can create a supportive community that uplifts and empowers each other to embrace healthier lifestyles and prioritize mental well-being. Join us in shaping a brighter future for the next generation.

Ikkz Ikbal has a PG in Biotechnology and is Administrator at MMI. He tweets @IkkzIkbal



Leveraging in Trading

Did You Know?

Irshad Mushtaq

In the world of trading, leveraging is a powerful tool that can catapult traders into the realm of significant gains or plunge them into the depths of devastating losses.

With just a fraction of their own capital, traders can amplify their trading capacity to potentially earn tenfold returns. However, this double-edged sword of leverage must be wielded with caution and expertise, as it has the power to magnify market movements and turn small fluctuations into substantial changes in investment value.

Imagine starting with Rs. 200,000 and using a 10x leverage to trade with Rs. 2,000,000. Suddenly, your trading potential skyrockets, offering a thrilling opportunity for substantial profits. But with great power comes great risk. A mere 10% market shift can wipe out your entire initial investment, emphasizing the inherent dangers of leveraging.

The allure of leveraging lies in its promise of accelerated wealth accumulation. However, this enticing prospect is accompanied by the looming shadow of excessive risk. Market volatility becomes a formidable foe, capable of dismantling leveraged positions with ruthless efficiency. This is where knowledge, experience, and strategic planning become indispensable allies in the battle against potential losses.

Effective risk management and disciplined trading practices are crucial in navigating the treacherous waters of leveraged trading. Traders must arm themselves with a deep understanding of the market, robust trading strategies, and unwavering discipline to resist the temptation of over-leverage. The ability to exercise restraint and adhere to informed trading practices distinguishes the seasoned traders from the amateurs.

In conclusion, leveraging can be a double-edged sword, offering tantalizing opportunities for exponential gains but also carrying profound risks. It demands a meticulous, calculated approach, grounded in education, experience, and discipline. The key to unlocking the full potential of leveraging lies in taming its inherent risks through prudent risk management and strategic decision-making. In the volatile world of trading, the wise trader navigates the waters of leverage with caution, precision, and unwavering discipline.

Irshad Mushtaq is the Founder of MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan Srinagar j&k! An investor, author Contact: Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com



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Meritocracy is the Way to Go

A recent big decision struck the sensitive nerves of thousands of unemployed youth and slumped them in deep dejection. The amendment in J&K Reservation Rules, 2005 by the Jammu and Kashmir government approved 10% additional reservations for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category and slashed the reservations of general or OM category to mere 40%. With this move, the total reservations of ST category has now gone up to 20%. This move has shattered the aspirations of numerous open merit students who burn their midnight oil to secure a government job or to get admission in higher educational institutes.

It is clear that about 60% of the seats are reserved for the candidates belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs, and EWSs etc which can be filled only by candidates from the same categories while 40% of the seats are available for general category.

In the merit seats not only general category but candidates from reserved categories can also compete. Isn't it sheer injustice with general category candidates?

The main aim of reservation is to elevate the under privileged sections of society. On the contrary, the administration is scourging a substantial section of the population in the name of reservation by curtailing their reservation to mere 40%. In Ashok Kumar Thakur vs. Union of India case Justice Ravindran has rightly said, "When more people aspire for backwardness rather than forwardness the country itself stagnates". The undeniable truth is that while seeing the success of others other communities are also demanding reservations. Nevertheless, many people in these communities are much advanced and are socially and economically sound. They are living a life of luxury. Therefore, bestowing reservation to the whole community

is inequitable and unethical.

This reservation system is a serious menace which is jeopardizing the mental health of open merit students. It promotes divisions in society leading to abhorrence and conflicts. Unreserved meritorious students are subjected to extreme injustice. It is evident that the administration is advocating caste over merit and talent. Hence, reservation system is a significant obstacle to meritocracy.

Hundreds of affluent families which include high ranking officials, well-off professionals and others have been reaping the benefits of reservations for decades. In contrast, students from the general category still struggle to secure a job or obtain admission in their desired professions.

The reservation system is a curse that thwarts the plans of OM students before they even think about flying. There are poor people in general category as well who

don't have access to basic needs of life however they are rolling in money in the eyes of administration.

Democracy can only flourish when every individual in society is given equal and fair treatment. Reservation system is not the way to stabilize the financial conditions of impoverished sections of society in lieu of that administration should look for alternative measures.

Reservation of any kind should be abolished. Additionally, in cases where reservations are necessary for certain sections of society then it needs to be based on the economic status of the people and not on the basis of their caste or religion. Instead of assassinating the hope of open merit students, the administration should make sure that they prioritise everyone's interests equitably.

Sayima Wani
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The Essence of Friendship in Islam

A Priceless Present from Allah

Imran Maqbool Wani

Genuine friendship is a gift from Allah, providing us with constant love and support as we go through life

Friends and companions are essential to human existence. A large portion of our lives is shaped by the relationships we have with other people. Since a real friend is someone who supports you through good times and bad, friendship is a priceless gift. They give consolation and support, which lessens loneliness and increases enjoyment of life. The importance of companionship is very strong in Islam. Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Muhammad are two examples of Allah's (SWT) personal companions. A good friend is someone who helps you choose the correct path and accepts your imperfections.

Since friends have the power to shape who you are, you must pick them wisely. Believers should use caution when choosing companions since they may greatly influence their ideas and behavior, according to Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

"On that Day, friends will be enemies of one another, except al-Muttaqoon, or those who have Taqwah," declares Allah. Qur'an 43:67

Except for friendships that have Allah in them, the passage says that any friendship with anybody other than Allah would turn into hostility. Hafidh Ibn Kathir recounts an incident from Ali Ibn Abu Talib (RA) in which two friends, who were companions for Allah's sake, made prayers for one another following the death of one of them. When they saw each other again, they both conveyed their affection for one another. However, once they died and were tormented in Hellfire, two unbelieving companions who had misled one another expressed their disdain for one another.

The significance of selecting companions carefully and their impact on an individual's life were underscored by the Prophet Muhammad (peace upon him). He said, "A person is likely to follow the faith of his



In Islam, compassion and forgiveness are highly regarded qualities, especially between friends. Sincere friends are compassionate and sympathetic toward one another, forgiving one another's errors and failings

friend, so be careful whom you befriend." This shows how much friends may influence our values, behavior, and morality. Because of this, it's essential that we spend our time with people who support our moral and spiritual development.

Ikhlas or genuine concern for the well-being of others, is the foundation of friendship in Islam. True friends should never

have any ulterior motives and constantly look out for one another's best interests. Strong friendships are built on the foundation of trustworthiness or Amanah. Muslims are urged to be reliable and trustworthy in their interpersonal interactions, maintaining their friend's confidence and confiding in them about significant issues. In addition, loyalty and support are nec-

essary for genuine friendships. In good times or bad, friends should be there for one another no matter what, providing aid, encouragement, and support when needed. In Islam, compassion and forgiveness are highly regarded qualities, especially between friends. Sincere friends are compassionate and sympathetic toward one another, forgiving one another's errors and

failings.

Fundamental principles that great friends keep in their connection are compassion and respect. Their backgrounds and opinions may differ, yet they nevertheless treat each other with kindness, decency, and respect. Friendship has a significant role in forming a person's personality and conduct. Since they support one another's piety, righteousness, and good deeds, true friends fortify their relationship and draw nearer to Allah. Wishing friends success and well-being is considered one of the highest expressions of friendship. Muslims are encouraged to offer prayers for the prosperity, well-being, and hap-

piness of their friends.

We should take inspiration from the amazing example of loyalty and devotion that exists between Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Abu Bakr (RA) in their friendship. The closest friend of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was Abu Bakr (RA). During the Prophet's persecution in Mecca, he consistently supported the Prophet, being a man of unshakeable faith. During the treacherous Hijrah to Medina, Abu Bakr (RA) accompanied the Prophet. Which turned out to be a watershed moment in Islamic history also served as a brilliant example of genuine friendship. The Prophet and the Muslim community acknowledged Abu Bakr's leadership abilities as their friendship grew stronger.

Mutual trust, support, and love for Allah's sake typified their friendship. The Prophet Abu Bakr (RA) was well respected and loved by the Prophet, who considered him to be a faithful friend who supported him through thick and thin. Because of their close relationship, Abu Bakr (RA) was referred to by the Prophet as "My Companion" and "My Friend". Genuine friendships are based on trust, loyalty, and dedication to Allah, and their friendship serves as an example of this. It demonstrates to us that genuine friendship is predicated on our love for Allah and His Messenger rather than material possessions.

"I am grateful for the two Companions who have been a constant support in my life. They have always been there for me, guiding me towards righteousness, and lifting me during tough times. Their friendship is a blessing from Allah, and it inspires me to value and cherish genuine friendships in my life. I pray that Allah blesses each one of us with true friends who help us strengthen our connection with Him. May they be a source of comfort and guidance for us through life's ups and downs, with kindness and wisdom."

The Writer is a Professional Social Worker, he is working in the developmental sector and can be reached at waniimran169@gmail.com.

The Biggest Lie We Tell People

Asha Iyer Kumar

Among the first lessons in pleasantries that we all learn as children is to answer the question, "How are you?", which we are taught to respond in all politeness with "I am fine, thank you." Perhaps, in the days of yore when courtesies were being coined, and when people were kinder and more humane towards each other than in this robotic age, the purpose of the question was to show genuine interest in the other person's well-being and express support if things were going south.

But of late, the question, "How are you?", has begun to sound more customary that is responded in a standard manner – either "I am good" or "all well". And then the conversation swiftly pivots to the business on hand. Most people move on as soon as the initial pleasantries is exchanged, with a few people daring to express a wee more – "could be better" or some even responding with a wry "surviving". And there is an answer that has always kept me guessing – "I am OK."

What does 'OK' in reality mean? Good? Not good? Or is it an ambiguous reply that one can interpret any which way, based on the context and the questioner's disposition? Posed with a question on our well-being, seldom do we give an honest reply. How many times have we heard someone say, "Life sucks", "Going through hell" or "not good"? At worst, people say, "going on". But then why do we shy away from telling people the



truth of our lives, if not at length at least the fact that not all is well? Why do we hasten to make people believe the lie of being well, alive and kicking? Because we all have been given to believe that whiners are not winners. We have all been conditioned to pretend to be at our best even when we are suffering because the world and people around us don't like sad stories.

In a world that doesn't think twice before inflicting harm on others but would like to

stay out of harm's way, the natural inclination is to court happiness, which in itself is a paradox. If we don't dispense happiness, how is it fair or possible to defy the law of the Universe to remain unscathed by our devious acts? What goes around comes around.

The rise and success of social media itself hinges on this need to seem happy to the world even when one's life is at stake. Our external demeanour is governed by how we will be perceived by

others, and for this, we never tell the truth. We never reveal the reality behind the mask of 'I am OK', carefully sugar-coating our travails with fake smiles and laughter. Our excessive need to be liked; to be appreciated; to make others happy often robs us of our freedom to cry or even sigh loudly. "Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone." And we fear being alone like we fear death.

The reason for our practised lie of telling people we are

fine might also stem from the fact that we don't want people close to us or those who genuinely care about us to get worked up in our thoughts. We conceal many unsavoury truths not with a wily intention, but because we are convinced that making family and friends privy to our troubles might cause them pain. Yet again, we don't want to cause undue stress and distress with our sob stories; we want people to be happy with us so that they may love us. Hence we

lie over and over again – "I am good". "I am fine."

But of late, I have strived to be a little more honest than I have been before. The idea of being judged as wimpy or sullen for telling the truth doesn't haunt me because it is what it is. By no stretch of imagination do I expect anyone to resolve my personal woes, but I am increasingly becoming aware of the adverse effects of feigning to be fine. I have divorced the notion that we must fake it till we make it.

I am becoming increasingly aware of the fact that pain and suffering is endemic to human existence and there is no reason why we must either glorify it or negate it. There is a simmer in every heart and an uneasy tremor in every body. The acceptance of reality is the first step towards alleviating the bitterness and pain that come along with material life and tenuous relationships. If I am unwell, I might as well spell it out so the other person may know. Not in the expectation that compassion will flow instantly, but it keeps me from turning my life into a travesty.

Saying it aloud will elicit varied responses. From story-topping to offering left-handed solutions, people will be very forthcoming in their views. They may be affected by my plight or be ridiculously impervious to my pain. They may probe further out of genuine concern or with the intention of feeding their gossipy nature. What they do with my answer is their look out. They can stew new stories or leave it by the wayside. They can offer me a shoulder or share in my happiness.

No matter what they choose to do, in my own defence I have only this much to say: Ask me "How are you?" and be prepared to hear it like it is. Of being ill, well or neither. The third option because sometimes it is hard to decipher how I am. Life is often a grey, obscure haze.

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

MD SC/ST/BC Corporation Awards Young Physiotherapist



Observer News Service

Jammu: Managing Director Schedule Casts, Schedule Tribes & Backward Classes Corporation Ranjeet Singh has appreciated the efforts of a young physiotherapist Dr Irfan Ahmad Lone for his relentless hard

work leading to the revival of Mohammad Iqbal Kataria, a senior officer in the department from paralysis. Hailing from the Sopore area of Kashmir Valley, Dr Lone is working as a physiotherapist in GMC Jammu. He was presented with a memento on behalf of the Corporation.

Artificial intelligence trends: Shaping the future of innovation

The world of artificial intelligence (AI) is experiencing a transformative period, with cutting-edge advancements reshaping the landscape of technology and industry. The integration of sophisticated algorithms, particularly in machine learning, has propelled AI into various sectors, including

finance, healthcare, and marketing, where precise insights and predictions are instrumental for success. AI's ability to analyze data and uncover patterns that may elude human observation is revolutionizing decision-making processes, offering real-time recommendations and enabling swift, informed choices.

KiIT International School Excels In CBSE Board Exams

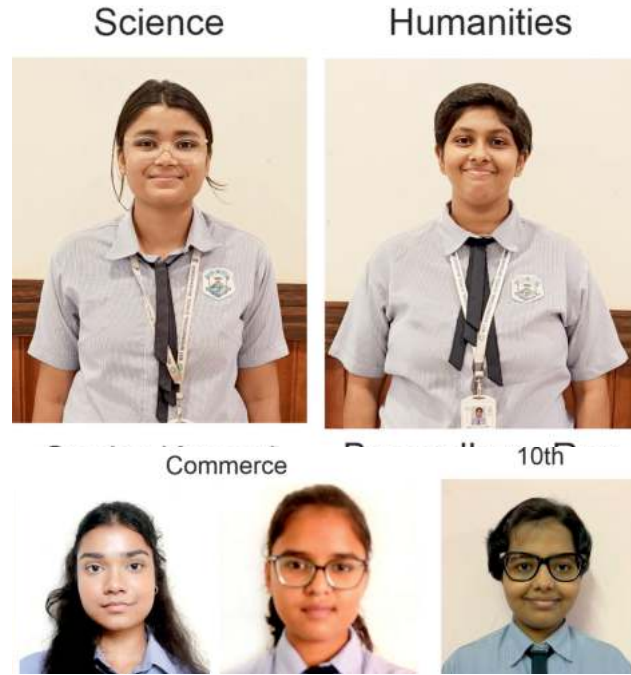
Observer News Service

Bhubaneswar: KiIT International School has set a high benchmark in academic excellence in both Class X and Class XII CBSE Board exams, the results of which were declared on Monday. The school reported a 100 percent first division in both classes, with a significant number of students achieving top scores.

In an impressive display of academic prowess, 45 percent of Class X and XII students scored above 90 percent. Furthermore, class X students showcased exceptional performance, with 25 percent scoring above 95 percent.

Aadyashaa Dash of Class X scored 98% to be the school topper, while in the 12th class, Sneha Kumari scored the highest 97% marks in Science; in Commerce Palak Samantray and Priyanka Das scored 97.4%, and in Humanities Basundhara Roy Scored 97.4% to be the School toppers.

The school also highlighted its commitment to inclusive education through the SEN Global initiative, which focuses on providing quality education to special children. All 11 students enrolled under this initiative passed with first-division marks, with the top scorer



achieving an admirable 87 percent. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KiIT & KiSS congratulated the students for their success and wished them all the best in their future endeavors. He also thanked Dr. Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KiIT International School, and Principal Dr. Sanjay Suar. "Students of KiIT-IS have

consistently excelled, and this year is no exception. These results are a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our faculty. We are particularly proud of our SEN Global initiative students who have overcome diverse challenges to perform brilliantly," he added.

GM Northern Railway Reviews Safety & Infrastructure Work

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs at Baroda House, NR headquarters in New Delhi today. Amongst many issues deliberations were on Safety on tracks, enhancement of speed, train operations, Business Development Units and Freight loading. He also reviews the progress of mobility enhancement and other developmental infrastructure works and Freight loading.

The General Manager reviewed the progress of enhancement of passenger amenities work and projects of Doubling & New lines and instructed the concerned officials to expedite the work. Safety is the prime focus over Railways. The GM emphasized on improving the maintenance standards of tracks, level crossings and construction of boundary walls along the track in high speed sections. He advised all divisions to take all necessary remedial actions to proper & efficient

working of signaling systems.

He also emphasized on focusing on electrical safety on tracks, trains and premises. Enhancing speed of trains is a priority over the zone. Works should be expedited to complete the projects on time. The GM also took stock of the tree cutting activity and removal of vegetation alongside the tracks. He advised the departments to regularly conduct training and refresher courses for the staff to keep them motivated and informed of the working of the system to minimize human error.

He further said that the monitoring system of progress of construction projects should also be a prime focus area as the development/improvement of railways are very much dependent on these projects. He told department heads to expedite and complete the work in stipulated time in particular construction projects.

Northern Railway is committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to its customers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PM Thanks

polling was held in the 4th phase of the general elections.

Srinagar recorded 14.43 per cent polling in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, 25.86 per cent in 2014, 25.55 per cent in 2009 and 18.57 per cent in 2004.

"The Modi government's decision to abrogate Article 370 is showing results in the poll percentage as well. It has enhanced people's trust in democracy and its roots have deepened in Jammu and Kashmir," he wrote on 'X'.

Shah said that through the rise in the poll percentage, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a befitting reply to those who opposed the abrogation of Article 370 provisions and are still advocating its restoration.

The Modi government abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, in 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Pertinently, Srinagar Lok Sabha seat recorded 38 percent voting on May 13, which according to JK CEO P K Pole is second highest since eruption of militancy in 1989.

Er Rashid's Candidacy

Rashid's entry into the electoral contest has introduced a new dynamic to the ongoing competition between NC's Omar Abdullah and Sajjad Lone, as he has the potential to influence and divide votes across various assembly segments.

As the Srinagar Lok Sabha elections concluded on Monday, all eyes are on North Kashmir now. With the significant response Rashid and his party, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), has garnered, analysts believe he could bring about a major surprise. Engineer's participation is seen as giving an edge to Omar Abdullah.

Political observers maintain that incarcerated former legislator Engineer Rashid will be the X-factor in the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, who will divide the votes in the region.

In the last parliamentary elections, Rashid garnered more than 1 lakh votes, losing to National Conference's Akbar Lone.

Rashid's son Abrar Rashid is actively campaigning in North Kashmir for his jailed father. On May 8, he led a massive road show from Baramulla to Uri as part of their campaign trail.

According to reports, he is reaching out to the people in Kupwara, Handwara, Lengate and other parts of the constituency.

"I am not a political leader, I have just come to you to remind you that my father has been behind bars for the last five years for speaking in favor of Kashmiris," Abrar told the gathering in Gulshan Chowk, Bandipora.

Abrar, a Masters student, told Kashmir Observer that despite his exam on May 21, he will continue campaigning for his father.

He said that so far no party has offered him any support.

Observers say that Rashid may get "sympathy votes" as he will be contesting the election from the Tihar Jail, where he has been lodged since 2019 following his arrest by NIA in an alleged terror funding case.

"Today's vote is for innocent Engineer Rashid and the vote can take him to the Indian parliament and also get him released," Abrar is often heard during the rallies.

Former legislator, Rashid has been a maverick leader, often landing in rows

of protests throughout the region.

"People hoped for a new beginning, but the dialogue did not go the way it should have. The government delayed it first, kept it hanging till the Model Code of Conduct came into place, and at the last moment, our leaders were called for talks," said Namgyal, the leader of opposition in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

Citing unmet expectations regarding job opportunities, land rights and environmental preservation he alleged that there was a lack of transparency in budgetary allocation and a failure to empower the hill councils effectively.

The Congress candidate accused the BJP of fooling the people of Ladakh. "People of Ladakh are aware... they will not believe the false promises. People will vote in favour of the four-point agenda," he said.

Namgyal remains optimistic about the prospects of the INDIA bloc and hints at a potential shift in national leadership dynamics.

Poling in Ladakh will be held on May 20. The showdown between Namgyal, BJP's Tashi Gyalsan, and Independent candidate Haji Hanifa Jan can shape the region's political trajectory significantly.

The BJP had won the Ladakh seat for the first time in 2014, with prominent Buddhist leader Thupstan Chhewang becoming an MP. Chhewang, however, resigned from the post and BJP in 2018, citing disagreements with the party's leadership. In 2019, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal of the BJP won the seat.

Nations to register the issue. The atrocities perpetrated by the Pakistan army cannot be tolerated. We stand with the people of PoJK, as they are our brothers and sisters. They are our citizens," Raina said.

Raina alleged that the Pakistan army has subjected "the people of various areas of PoK to atrocities and torture."

He expressed concern over reports "that the entire area of PoJK has been closed for the past five days and people belonging to the Pahari community have lost their lives in the firing by the Pakistani army."

"Our people in PoJK demanded ration but got bullets. This cannot be tolerated by us. We love our people there," he said.

Raina emphasised that the oppression by the Pakistani authorities will not last for long.

The Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which has been spearheading the protests, asked the demonstrators to resume their march, saying the Pakistani government did not fulfil all their demands.

The violent street protests in POK, which erupted around May 10, have left more than 90 people injured, Pakistani media reported.

On Sunday, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the release of Rs 23 billion for POK for power and wheat subsidies to placate the protesters.

The rate for 40 kg of flour was reduced to Rs 2,000 from Rs 3,100. The electricity tariff was also reduced to Rs 3, Rs 5 and Rs 6 per unit for up to 100, 300, and more than 300 units, respectively, the Dawn report said.

Speaking on the latest round of violence, a POK activist, Amjad Ayub Mirza, said the situation in Muzaffarabad was getting very serious. He also requested the Indian government to summon the Pakistani ambassador and seek an explanation.

of protests throughout the region.

"This morning, about 500,000 people descended upon Muzaffarabad and the suburbs to protest against high taxes... Suddenly, the protesters hit back and the Rangers retreated. It seemed as if the Rangers had disappeared from the scene, but then they came with a heavy contingency of rangers," ANI quoted Mirza as saying.

"The death toll might increase. The internet has totally shut down in the region. The Army commandos started to land in helicopters in the centre of Muzaffarabad and each helicopter was carrying about 20 to 25 commandos," he said.

As tensions grew during protests over the last few days, the regional government called in paramilitary forces and deployed extra police.

The JAAC claims some of its leadership was arrested pre-emptively by law enforcement officials, prompting them to call for a general strike on May 10. That was followed by a call for protests and a long march on May 11, which was to move towards Muzaffarabad.

Shopian Youth

Rashid's journey symbolizes not only personal conviction but also a broader call for change in Kashmir's political landscape.

"He has represented Kashmiris well in the legislative assembly, he will speak well for Kashmir with pride in the parliament as well," he said.

Thoker said he is optimistic that if elected, Rashid's presence in Parliament will provide a larger platform to amplify the voice of Kashmir with pride and dignity.

"It will take me two more days to reach the constituency of Rashid, once I reach there, I will start campaigning for him and wear my shoes," Thoker, who is visiting North Kashmir for the very first time, said.

Thoker minced no words in his critique of traditional Kashmiri politicians, urging them to adapt to the changing times. "It is high time that traditional Kashmiri politicians mend their ways; otherwise, new leaders will inevitably replace them," he asserted.

He cited former MLA Langate's unwavering support during the alleged lecturer scam in 2016 and said, "I am indebted to Engineer Rashid for his assistance during that time, and I am here to return his favor."

When asked about the difficulties he has had in walking barefooted he said that the scars on his feet are nothing in comparison to the wounds borne by the Kashmiri youth.

Pertinently, in the last few days, Er Rashid's campaign led by his son Abrar Rashid, has gained momentum with hundreds of youth attending his rallies across several North Kashmir's districts.

Ruhullah Has

goes abroad, he claims to represent the 140 crore Indians. Then how can you demean and insult 14 per cent Muslim population?" he asked.

Replying to a question, Abdullah said DPAP president Ghulam Nabi Azad campaigning for jailed leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid must be on the directions from the BJP.

"He must have got the approval from Delhi... He does not leave his bedroom without the permission from Delhi," he added.

LG Says, 'Zero

and allied organisations. He also discussed measures taken by the department for implementation of new Criminal laws, which will come into

effect from July 1, 2024. He also instructed the Department for proper training of police personnel on new criminal laws.

The LG emphasised on efficient prison management and also took stock of the progress of projects under PMDP.

The meeting was attended by Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; RR Swain, DGP J&K, Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG and other senior officials.

Hot Cities Drive

Among the hill destinations, Kashmir is one of the prime destinations, which is witnessing an increased flow of tourists this season.

"As the mercury soars to above-normal levels in various parts of India, including metropolitan hubs like Delhi, Mumbai, and Southern India, professionals are increasingly opting to relocate temporarily to cooler climates. This shift has seen Kashmir experience a remarkable uptick in visitors, drawn not only by its natural beauty but also by the promise of a conducive environment for remote work," said Mohammad Asif Bhat, a travel agent.

Travel agents claimed that they require a number of enquiries from professionals who look for guest houses and huts in hill stations.

"There is equally a good demand from professionals who seek huts and guest houses in isolated and unexplored hill destinations of Kashmir. They seem to be more concerned about internet connectivity," Umar Ahmad Khan, another travel agent said.

As per travel agents, tourists are increasingly turning towards lesser-known destinations of Kashmir to explore unseen Kashmir.

The shift towards offbeat destinations reflects a growing trend among travelers to seek out unique and authentic experiences, away from the typical tourist circuits.

As per the figures by Srinagar International Airport, more than 8000 passengers arrive at the airport on average daily. A huge proportion of the passengers include tourists.

Against an average of 70 flights during February, currently 94 flights are operating at the airport

SIA Conducts

FIR No 87/2024 of PS Bijbehara, pertaining to the killing of non local street vendor Raja Sah on 17 April 2024 at Jablipota, Bijbehara to ascertain larger criminal conspiracy behind this killing," they said.

During searches various articles, including mobile phones, electronic gadgets and documents, relevant to the ongoing investigation have been seized. The seized articles shall be forensically examined and analysed during investigation in the case, the officials added.

Startup Kashmir

Empowers

owner of Glitz and Glam, emphasized the importance of these gatherings for shared learning and growth. Highlighting the value of each woman's story, she encouraged open communication and collaboration.

Batool Aijaz, owner of Jazba Foods, echoed this sentiment, stressing the importance of a supportive network. She commended Startup Kashmir for providing a valuable platform for women to connect and collaborate. Seasoned entrepreneur Jahan Araa

offered invaluable advice for aspiring businesswomen, equipping them with practical guidance for their journeys.

Nava Shah, founder of Jamkle Jars, further emphasized the importance of honesty and dedication, while recognizing the power of these meetups in forging understanding and fostering empathy amongst entrepreneurs.

Adding her voice to the chorus of support, another successful entrepreneur, Saba Bhat underscored the evening's message of a strong, collaborative network for women in business.

The meetups served as a powerful testament to the resilience and ingenuity of women entrepreneurs in Kashmir, who continue to defy odds and carve a path of innovation and success.

Shahid Ansari, CEO of Startup Kashmir, concluded the event by expressing his gratitude to all the participants. He saluted their unwavering spirit in contributing to the entrepreneurial landscape of Kashmir, ultimately promoting startups and generating employment opportunities. The event concluded with laughter and a renewed sense of community, and all the participants departed feeling energized, united, and ready to conquer new heights.

HC Quashes 3

district last year. The court subsequently directed authorities to release Bhat from the custody provided if he is not required in any other case.

The court also quashed the detention order under PSA against Ajaz Ahmed Peer of Baramulla. The order had been passed by the district magistrate of north Kashmir district on 15 September 2022.

Meanwhile, a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti quashed detention order passed against Umar Nazir Rather, the 28-year-old resident of Tral against whom district Magistrate Pulwama had passed detention order under PSA last year.

According to dossier against Rather, he along with other persons had lured gullible students and their parents to avail the leak of question papers for an examination of B.Sc Nursing Course admission to be conducted by the Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BoPEE) in exchange for hefty money.

"...this Court holds that the preventive detention of the petitioner (Rather) was misconceived given the fact that the alleged acts of omission and commission on the part of the petitioner allegedly acting in complicity with the (other) persons resulting in his implication in FIR No. 53/2023 of the Police Station Tral in no manner can be construed to be prejudicial to the maintenance of public order," the court said and set aside the preventive detention order (No. 40/DMP/PSA/23) dated 26 June 2023 passed by the District Magistrate, Pulwama.

"The petitioner is directed to be restored to his personal liberty," the court said and ordered his release.

NGT Allows DC's

the J&KPC clearly states that Neeru is a river. Member secretary of the J&KPC has also stated that Neeru is a sacred river of that area known as Neel Ganga, a tributary of the Chenab river," the tribunal said.

In an order passed last week, it allowed the DC's request and directed the J&KPC member secretary "to file a fresh report and disclose the action taken for the imposition of environmental compensation (EC) on the defaulting body".

"Let these reports be filed at least one week before the next date of hearing (on August 21)," the tribunal said.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

With Srinagar Votes in EVMs, Focus Shifts to North Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Following the successful completion of the Srinagar parliamentary constituency elections on Monday, where votes are now securely locked in electronic voting machines (EVMs), the political spotlight has turned to the Baramulla constituency.

Baramulla is gearing up for its own critical and high-stakes election on May 20, drawing nationwide attention due to the intense competition among key political figures and parties.

Baramulla has become the epicenter of a fiercely contested electoral battle. Among the 22 candidates vying for the seat, notable figures include National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (PC) Chairman Sajad Gani Lone, People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Mir Mohammad Fayaz, and jailed leader Abdul Rashid Sheikh, also known as Er Rashid.

The NC and Indian National Congress (INC) alliance, which has historically dominated the Baramulla seat with victories in 14 out of the 15 Lok Sabha elections since 1957, is facing an unprecedented challenge this time.

The competition is particularly intense with the emergence of new political forces and strategic alliances backing Sajad Gani Lone.



In the 2019 elections, NC candidate Muhammad Akbar Lone won the seat, defeating his closest rival from the PC, Raja Aijaz Ali, by a substantial margin.

However, this election cycle promises to be different, with Lone facing robust opposition from newer and more coordinated political groups, making the outcome unpredictable.

A social worker in Baramulla commented on the dynamic electoral landscape, saying, "The Lok Sabha race in Baramulla is shaping up to be fiercely competitive, with each candidate having a significant support base and unique appeal to the electorate."

Historically, the NC has held

the Baramulla seat eight times, while the INC has secured it five times. The constituency saw its first Lok Sabha election win by an INC candidate, Sheikh Muhammad Akbar, in 1957. The INC's dominance continued with subsequent wins by Syed Ahmed Aga in 1967 and 1971, and Khawaja Mubarak Shah in 1980. The NC's Saifuddin Soz then showcased his influence with victories in 1983, 1984, and 1989. The PDP's Muzaffar Hussain Beigh broke this trend in 2014, only for the NC to reclaim it in 2019 with Muhammad Akbar Lone.

As the electoral battle lines are drawn, the security apparatus is also gearing up for the polls.

Following the successful conclusion of the Srinagar parliamentary elections, security forces are now focused on ensuring a peaceful and orderly polling process in Baramulla.

Under the Election Commission's directive, the Jammu and Kashmir police, along with other security forces, are implementing a comprehensive strategy to secure the election process.

A meticulous security blueprint includes fortifying polling booths, securing strong rooms, and safeguarding the collection and distribution centers of EVMs.

Enhanced surveillance and communication strategies are also in place to manage law and order effectively. Authorities are vigilant against potential misuse of social media and other disruptive activities, ensuring every aspect of the polling process is secured.

In addition to Baramulla, the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat is scheduled for elections on May 25, following a previous postponement. This highlights the extensive electoral process currently unfolding across the region.

As Baramulla prepares for its pivotal moment on May 20, the region, known for its complex political fabric, stands at the cusp of a significant electoral shift.

The upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Baramulla promise to be one of the most closely watched contests. (KNS)

Azad, Mehbooba Mufti Differ on Srinagar Poll Turnout

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Reacting to the voter turnout in the Monday polling at the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, while DPAP chief Ghulam Nabi Azad remarked that the figures are not high enough to know whether the people are happy or angry with the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said it is a message that the people have not accepted the Centre's decisions.

The Srinagar constituency in Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) witnessed 37.98 per cent voting on Monday in the first Lok Sabha election in the valley since the scrapping of Article 370 in 2019, with the Election Commission (EC) stating that it was the "highest turnout in decades".

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) president Azad Tuesday said, "I had hoped that Kash-

mir would witness 80 to 90 per cent turnout in view of what has been happening in the past seven to eight years. Article 370 was removed, statehood was snatched. So I thought the turnout will be high, like 90 to 95 per cent."

"The increase of a few per cent hardly matters as it happens in every constituency of India. That way, we can not know whether the people are angry or happy (with the abrogation of Article 370 and snatching of statehood). It is a new thing for me," Azad told reporters while campaigning for his party candidate in Kulgam district.

About the rise in poll percentage in the militancy-infested areas like Tral town of Pulwama, Azad said the increase of a few per cent in the turnout is normal after every election across India.

"There were some pockets affected by militancy. After 1994-95, the mili-

tancy started waning. Today the militancy is next to nothing. The areas affected by militancy also witnessed 30-40 per cent votes and the areas which were not affected, also had similar turnout," he added.

On the other hand, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mufti Tuesday said the "high" voter turnout in the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency polls is a message to the Centre that people have not accepted the abrogation of Article 370 and other decisions regarding Jammu and Kashmir that followed.

"Polling yesterday was good because the people wanted to send a message to Delhi that the decision taken in 2019 and afterwards with regard to our land and state subjects and jobs are not acceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mufti told reporters at Qazigund in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency.

BRO Breaks Through 2.79-km Sungal Tunnel



Agencies

RAJOURI: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Tuesday achieved a significant milestone by breaking through the 2.79-km Sungal tunnel along the Jammu-Poonch national highway.

BRO chief Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan expressed the hope of completing the strategically important project within the next couple of years.

Sungal, connecting Akhnoor and Poonch, is the second of the four tunnels on the strategic national highway 144-A, also known as the golden arc road, having achieved the milestone.

Earlier, the 700-metre Naushera tunnel achieved the breakthrough on January 28, while the tunnelling work inside 260 meter Kandi and 1.1 km Bhimber Gali is in progress.

"This is a great moment for all of us as the Jammu-Poonch link, advancing rapidly, is on track for completion in the next couple of years," Lt Gen Srinivasan told reporters at the breakthrough ceremony of the Sungal tunnel.

Without naming Pakistan, he said this road is strategically very important in view of the "nefarious activities" of the neighbouring country which is backing terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The border areas of Poonch, Rajouri and Akhnoor are vital defence locations and when you are providing better connectivity, it automatically helps in enhancing defence preparedness," Lt Gen Srinivasan said.

The BRO chief said both Naushera and Sungal tunnels will be completed by the end of this year.

Timely Insurance Settlements Relieve J&K Bank Customers

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: With a view to alleviate the financial distress of affected families, J&K Bank has facilitated the prompt settlement of MetLoan & Life Suraksha (MLLS) insurance claims for its deceased borrowers in various branches of the Bank's Doda Zone.

A total of 58 families received an amount of Rs 2.31 Crores in the form of cheques, marking a significant step towards easing their severe financial crises during these challenging times.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Doda) Fayaz Ahmad Bhat and Zonal Head (Credit Life - PNB MetLife) Irfan Ali Zargar displayed the symbolic cheque of Rs 2.31 Cr - an amount that was handed over to the nominees/legal heirs of the deceased customers - in presence of senior officials of bank and pnb MetLife.

Expressing gratitude, the beneficiaries commended both J&K Bank and PNB MetLife for their timely support in settling the insurance claims. They acknowledged the significance of loan insurance in safeguarding their families' financial stability, emphasizing the vital role played



by J&K Bank in advocating for such protective measures.

Highlighting the importance of loan insurance, Zonal Head (Doda) Fayaz Ahmad Bhat reiterated the Bank's commitment to providing comprehensive financial solutions that prioritize the welfare of its customers. He said, "As a trusted financial institution, J&K Bank remains steadfast in its mission to empower its customers and provide essential support during times of need. Through the swift settlement of these insurance claims, the Bank reaffirms its promise to serve its customers in a way that helps in strengthening their financial conditions."

While underscoring the collaborative efforts between the Bank and its insurance partners to ensure the well-being of customers and their families, Zonal Head (Credit Life - PNB MetLife) emphasized the inherent value of insurance products in mitigating the financial impact of unforeseen circumstances.

High Srinagar Turnout a Rebuff to Aug 2019 Decisions: Mehbooba

Agencies

ANANTNAG: People's Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said that voters turned out in large numbers in the Srinagar parliamentary constituency to express their opposition to the decisions made in August 2019.

Talking to reporters after addressing party workers in the Killam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, Mehbooba, as per the news agency, said people in J&K have been feeling suffocated and their high voter turnout was a way to break free from this suffocation.

"People came to vote to give a message that whatever decisions regarding jobs, land and resources were taken in August 2019 and after that, are unacceptable to them," she said.

The PDP chief said the good turnout in the Srinagar Parliamentary seat will be followed by similar participation in the Anantnag-Rajouri and north Kashmir seats.

"The situation in Srinagar and Anantnag is the same and people in the Anantnag seat will also come to vote for their candidate who will raise their voice in parliament," she said. Mufti alleged that authori-



ties were deliberately delaying the voting process wherever they found people in large numbers coming to vote in favour of the PDP.

She requested voters of other constituencies to stay in line till they won't cast votes. She said the Election Commission of India (ECI) must intervene in this matter.

In her address, Mehbooba questioned the efficacy of the National Conference saying, "When a tall leader like Farooq Abdullah who is a four-time chief minister and three-time Member Parliament failed to do anything for the people of J&K, then what will these NC leaders achieve if elected now."

"If their tallest leader failed to do anything then how their junior can do anything," the former CM added—(KNO)

ECI Must Act on NC Workers' Detention: Omar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Monday asked the Election Commission of India to take note of the complaint submitted by his party against the detention of its workers and activists ahead of the Srinagar Lok Sabha elections held on May 13.

As per the news agency, Correspondent, Omar while speaking to reporters in Baramulla said that his party had submitted written complaint to the ECI mentioning in detail the names of workers and activists detained by the police ahead of the polling in Srinagar and has even submitted the names of the police stations where the workers have been kept. "ECI cannot re-



main silent on our complaint. It has to act against those who are involved and it has to act without delay," Omar said.

Addressing people during the road shows, Omar lamented the pervasive sense of "unease gripping Kashmir", emphasizing the concerted efforts to "subjugate its populace both economically and politically". "We are facing a multitude of torments. Nothing is normal here. People are perturbed and petrified and there are elements who paint

the wrong picture of this place claiming that everything here is hunky-dory.

Nothing is normal here. In each and every aspect we have been pushed into the corner. We are number one in the entire country in unemployment, youth are getting involved in drugs. It is important to raise our voice and use the ballot. I just want one chance to represent you," Omar said in his address.

Responding to queries regarding the National Conference's prospects in the ongoing polls, Omar exuded confidence in his party's success across all three contested seats. Amidst speculation surrounding the impact of incarcerated candidate Er Rashid on the electoral dynamics in North Kashmir, OMAR refrained from commenting directly—(KNO)

Pakistani Intruder Arrested Near LoC

Agencies

JAMMU: A Pakistani intruder was arrested from a village near the Line of Control (LoC) here, officials said on Tuesday.

Separately, a massive search operation was launched near the International Border (IB) in Kathua district following suspicious movement of at least five persons, believed to be terrorists, the officials said.

They said a Pakistani intruder, who identified himself as Zahir Khan, a resident of Karachi, was arrested from Milan de Khui village near the LoC in Pallanwala area of Khour on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday.



They said a case under relevant sections of law was registered against the arrested person and further investigation is on. In Kathua district, the officials said a joint search operation was launched by police, army and BSF at village Juthana in Rajbagh area Tuesday morning after villagers informed the presence of five suspected terrorists who were looking for food.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain along with Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora reached Kathua to supervise the anti-terror operation.

Govt. Reviews Border Area Development Programme

KONews service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Aijaz Asad on Tuesday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the progress under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

The Secretary reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under the ambitious programme in the border districts of the J & K. The districts include Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara.

He had exhaustive interaction with each of the District Development Commissioners regarding the implementation status of the Scheme in their respective districts.

While reviewing the functioning of BADP, Secretary emphasised upon updation of physical/ financial progress on

BADP Online Management System in line with actual figures within the stipulated time.

The Secretary exhorted upon all stakeholders to work in tandem so that desired targets under Border Area Development Programme are achieved in time. He asked the District Development Commissioners to ensure full utilization of funds available with the districts, besides completion of all the ongoing works implemented by the district authorities under BADP. He said that all ongoing works have to be taken to the end point within the set timelines.

While reviewing the financial progress, the concerned DCs were asked to submit Utilization Certificates (UCs) against the funds utilized during 2023-24. They were also asked for submission of Red Accounts against the funds utilized during 2022-23 & 2023-24.

5 Drug Peddlers Arrested In Kulgam, Bla: Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday said to have arrested five drug peddlers in Kulgam & Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Kulgam, a police party of Police Station Qaimoh at a checkpoint established at Khudwani Bypass near NHW intercepted two suspicious persons carrying a nylon bag, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

During the search, three kgs of poppy straw concealed in the nylon bag & three grams of brown sugar like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Wagay son in law of Gull Mohd Dar & Mushtaq Ahmad Bagow son of Wali Mohd Bagow, both residents of Redwani Payeen.

Moreover, a police party of Police Post Mirbazar intercepted a vehicle (XUV-500) bearing registration no DL4CNB-7870 at a checkpoint established at Manigam crossing.

During the search, officers at the checkpoint were able to recover 220 grams of charas like substance and cash amount of Rs 15,000 (believed to be proceeds of narcotic crime) from the possession of Rayees Ahmad Turray son of Mohd Yusuf Turray resident of Khawa Mir Ali Chani Chowk Anantnag. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has been seized.



In Baramulla, a police party of Police Station Boniyar headed by SHO PS Boniyar intercepted two persons at a checkpoint established at Ganie Mohalla Trikanjan. They have been identified as Abdul Qayoom Ganie & Gh Hassan Ganie, sons of Gh Rasool, both residents of Trikanjan Boniyar. During search, 446 grams of Heroin like substance (worth Rs 2 crores approximately) was recovered from their possession.

The drug peddlers have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and initiated further investigations, police said.

Meanwhile, police urged community members to come forward with any information regarding drug peddling in their neighbourhood. "Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law. Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace," police said—(KNO)

Could Laxman Replace Rahul Dravid As India's Head Coach?

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: National Cricket Academy head and former India great VVS Laxman looks best placed to replace Rahul Dravid as the chief coach of the men's national team if the latter decides against reapplying for the high-profile job.

With BCCI secretary Jay Shah ruling out possibility of having different coaches for red and white ball formats, it will be a hunt for one candidate, who will have to live out of a suitcase for majority of the next three and half years.

Dravid, whose contract ends after the T20 World Cup, will be well within his rights to re-apply for the post.

However with BCCI seeking applications from interested parties by May 27, a day after

the IPL final, it is understood that the parent body is keen to hire a fresh face.

PTI looks at some of the big names who could be interested in applying for the post.

VVS Laxman: If he applies for the top post, Laxman will be a runaway favourite. The 49-year-old has been NCA's head for past three years and is overseeing the development of next batch of Indian cricketers through board's pathways system (India A and India U19). He has also had experience of coaching the senior team when Dravid was in leave.

Gautam Gambhir: Among those who have played top flight cricket in the last 10 years and saw formats evolve, Gambhir's tactical nous can-

not be ignored. Two IPL titles as captain with KKR, back-to-back play-offs with LSG in their first two years, Gambhir has always been praised for his man management skills. Under him, a rejuvenated KKR are back in play-offs but a proud man that he is, will Gambhir apply on his own if he isn't sent feelers by the BCCI top brass?

Justin Langer: Ashes and T20 World Cup winning Australian coach is a good tactician but also a strict disciplinarian. In a recent interview, Langer did say that he is not averse to giving it a thought but being an India coach could be both mentally and physically demanding. The same perks are always available in the IPL, working just for two months a year.



Alpine Club IUST Holds Trekking Program At Wastoorwan Hills



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Islamic University of Science and Technology, organised a one-day trekking program at Wastoorwan Hills, aiming to promote adventure, physical fitness and camaraderie among participants.

The trekking group was flagged off by Registrar Dr. Waseem Bari in presence of university officials, in-

cluding Finance Officer, who highlighted how such activities foster teamwork, leadership, resilience and self-reliance.

Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director of the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, emphasized the university's commitment to environmental education and the opportunities these programs provide for students and faculty to connect with nature, challenge themselves, and create lasting memories.

WHS Sports Hub Golf Cup 2024 Set To Make History

Agencies

SRINAGAR: WHS Sports Hub, a sports facility in Kashmir, is all set to come up with WHS Sports Hub Golf Cup 2024, marking a significant milestone in the region's sporting landscape.

Inspired by the famed Ryder Cup format, this tournament is the first-ever golf event in the region, adding a new dimension to the Indian golfing calendar.

Scheduled to take place at the Royal Spring Golf Course in Srinagar on May 25th and 26th.

A brainchild of Farid Singh and Viraj Singh, national-level sportsmen turned entrepreneurs, WHS Sports Hub aims to elevate sports culture in Kashmir through innovative initiatives.



From FIFA-approved football pitches to ICC-approved cricket nets and pickle ball courts, the facility offers state-of-the-art infrastructure to nurture talent and promote sports at all levels. (KNO)

Multiple Sports Events Held In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag across various zones organised multiple inter-school zonal level events to promote sportsmanship and an anti-drug message among students.

Zone Doru held a variety of competitions, including chess, carrom, badminton, painting, sports quiz, and rope skipping for U-17 boys at MS Chakpath.

The Zonal Physical Education Officer in Bijbehara initiated the Inter-School Zonal Level Football Tournament



at Sports Ground Arwani Bijbehara. The tournament featured six matches on the first day, with 128 students from various middle schools competing.

Zone Bidder hosted the inter-school Kabaddi tournament for U-17 girls at HSS

Develgam.

Zone Qazigund concluded its rope skipping and badminton competitions for AAG boys at BHS Qazigund.

Zone Shangus organized rope skipping and badminton competitions for U-14 and U-17 boys at HSS Shangus.

Rajasthan Royals Target Play-Off Spot As Parag Set For Emotional Homecoming

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: Riyan Parag, the hottest cricketing property to emerge from India's north-east, is expected to get a grand welcome from his home fans when Rajasthan Royals try to ensure a safe passage into the IPL play-offs against the ousted Punjab Kings in their penultimate league game on Wednesday.

Placed second in the 10-team table with 16 points, Royals need to ensure one win in their next two 'home' games in Guwahati. That will be enough to seal a last four berth.

For the past few years, Guwahati has been Royals' second home base and it was a strategic move by the franchise having invested a good six years in tapping Parag's potential.

Panned for being inconsistent on social media platforms, Parag's homecoming this year is special as his performance of



483 runs at a strike-rate of 153 despite not being an opener is simply outstanding.

A stable core and improvisation as per match situations have already made Parag an India contender for the next T20 series where he is expected to make his international debut.

As and when it happens, Parag will become the first cricketer hailing from the north-eastern part of the country to wear the senior team's iconic blue jersey.

Parag's emergence as the cricketing face from the region

makes this and the RR's next match against KKR more significant.

The support for the 22-year-old will be organic and that will also help Sanju Samson and his men against Punjab Kings, which unearthed two T20 gems in Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma but once again failed to fire as a team.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan's absence due to injury for the better part of the season made matters worse as his stand-in Sam Curran didn't exactly look the part.

Short TAKES

India's Potential Semifinal Venue In The T20 World Cup: Guyana

India will play the second semifinal of the T20 World Cup in Guyana on June 27 if the cricketing giants reach the last four stage of the competition.

As per ICC's playing conditions for the showpiece in the USA and Caribbean, reserve day is only kept for the final in Barbados on June 29.

India begin their campaign against Ireland in New York on June 5 before taking on arch-rivals Pakistan at the same venue on June 9.

Shakib In, Shanto To Lead As Bangladesh Name T20 WC Squad

Najmul Hossain Shanto has been named as the skipper as Bangladesh on Tuesday announced their 15-player squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024. The marquee event will begin on June 1 in the USA and the West Indies. Bangladesh exercised dominance over Zimbabwe and clinched the T20I series with a 4-1 win. After the conclusion of the series on Sunday, Bangladesh announced their squad.

The 15-player squad boasts experience with the presence of Shakib Al Hasan.

Kirsten To Join Pakistan Cricket Team In England As Head Coach

Gary Kirsten will start his two-year assignment as the coach of Pakistan's white-ball cricket team when he joins the squad in England on Sunday.

Pakistan will play four Twenty20s against England to prepare for the T20 World Cup next month in the Caribbean and the United States.

Pakistan has delayed naming its final 15-man squad for the T20 World Cup until the first T20 against England next Tuesday at Leeds.

Only Captains Permitted To Speak To Referees At Euro 2024

Captains will be the only ones allowed to speak to the referee and discuss a decision during matches at the upcoming European Championship in a bid to facilitate clearer communication. UEFA's managing director of refereeing Roberto Rosetti said. If any other player is found to approach the referee showing any sign of disrespect or dissent they will be shown a yellow card, Rosetti said.

The quadrennial tournament will be held in Germany from June 14-July 14.

Varane Set To Depart Man United After Contract Expiration



Former France centre-back Raphael Varane will leave Manchester United when his contract expires at the end of the season.

The 31-year-old Varane joined United in 2021 but has struggled to reproduce the form he showed in a trophy-laden, decade-long spell at Real Madrid before that.

Injuries have also played a part, restricting Varane to 93 appearances in his three seasons at United. "It's been an amazing few years to play for this special club and wear that shirt," Varane said on Tuesday.

Shastri, Ashwin Defend Support For Impact Player Rule



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The "Impact Player" rule might have come in for sharp criticism in the ongoing IPL, but former India coach Ravi Shastri and senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin have backed it, stating that it leads to more close finishes. The rule, implemented in the competition last season, has been a topic of debate this edition, with some experts and current

players saying that it will make all-rounders redundant.

"When any new rule comes in, there will be people who will try to justify why that's not right," Shastri said. "But with time, when you see the scores - 200 and 190 - and then, individuals grabbing that opportunity and making the most of it, people will start re-looking at how they think about it."

Shastri vouched for the rule,

saying that the game has to evolve with time.

"The Impact Player (rule) is good. You have to evolve with the times. It happens in other sports as well. It's got tighter finishes," he said on Ashwin's YouTube channel.

"I think it's a good rule. You saw the number of tight finishes we had in last year's IPL. So, it has made a big difference." BCCI Secretary Jay Shah had recently said

that the rule is not permanent.

"Impact Player is like a test case. We have implemented it slowly. The biggest advantage of it is that two Indian players are getting a chance (in each game), which is the most important," he told the media in Mumbai last week.

"We will consult with the players, franchises, broadcasters (and take a call). This is not permanent, (but) I am not saying that it will go.

"(We'll see) if it's making the game more competitive or not. Even then, if a player feels that this is not right, then we will talk to them. But no one has told us anything yet. So, it will be decided after the World Cup."

India skipper Rohit Sharma and Delhi Capitals' Axar Patel and Mukesh Kumar, also expressed their displeasure with the rule.

"I genuinely feel it is going to hold back the development of all-rounders because eventually cricket is played by 11 players, not 12," Rohit had said a couple of weeks back.

"So, I am not a big fan of the Impact Player rule because you are taking so much from the game just to make it a little more entertaining for the people around you."

European Spot Will Make Chelsea's Season: Pochettino



Agencies

LONDON: If Chelsea finish in a European qualifying spot it will not only make their season but would give the club hope of improving in the next campaign, manager Mauricio Pochettino said on Tuesday.

Chelsea need to win Wednesday's game at Brighton & Hove Albion to get closer to a top-six Premier League finish. The Blues are level with sixth-

placed Newcastle United on 57 points but trail on goal difference. Newcastle visit eighth-placed Manchester United, who have 54 points, in Wednesday's later kick off in the battle for European qualification.

Injuries and the inconsistent form of Chelsea's young team were blamed as the twice Champions League winners languished in mid-table but Pochettino's big-money squad have shown potential in recent weeks, quickly climb-

ing the standings. "The team is doing well, in the second part of the season - in the last 26 or 27 games," Pochettino told reporters. "If we can compete well in the last two games then there is a possibility to get into Europe, which would be amazing for us."

"If we are able to finish well and get into Europe, for sure we can start the next season with hope to be in a better position than we were in this season."