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#### Security **Beefed** Up In North Kashmir Agencies

Srinagar: In anticipation of the Lok Sabha polls, extra security measures have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla constituency to ensure incident-free elections, officials said on Friday.

Security officials said that stringent measures have been put in place across all districts of North Kashmir to facilitate peaceful polling.

While acknowledging the prevailing peaceful atmosphere in North Kashmir, officials emphasized the importance of precautionary security measures to enable voters to exercise their franchise freely and securely.

The constituency, spanning across Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, and select assembly segments of Budgam district, is set to go to polls in the fifth and final phase on May 20.

Additional forces have been deployed, and the administration is committed to ensuring a smooth and incident-free election process.

Crucial security review meetings were held in Kupwara and Sopore, chaired respectively by Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) and officers from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Discussions at these meetings centered on addressing security concerns and ensuring comprehensive readiness for the upcoming polls, emphasizing the collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing | More on P6

## **No Power In World Can Revive Article 370: PM**

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#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday tore into the Congress's election manifesto, dub-bing it a "Maoist" document, which he cautioned will put a break on the country's economic growth and lead it to bankruptcy if implemented.

zAddressing an election rally in Mumbai three days ahead of the fifth and last phase of Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra covering 13 seats, the BJP stalwart lashed out at the Congress over its election manifesto.

"The Congress is fighting a battle for its survival and can go to any extent (to save itself). Its Maoist manifesto is eyeing gold from temples and 'mangalsutra' (gold chains) of women. The



Maoist manifesto will put a break on economic growth and lead the country to bankruptcy," he told the gathering at the sprawling Shivaji Park Ground. The PM had earlier said

the Congress poll document had Muslim League imprint. The BJP's star campaigner alleged the grand old

party wants to bring back

construction of a grand THE CONGRESS IS FIGHTING A BATTLE for its survival and can go to any extent (to save itself). Its Maoist manifesto is eyeing gold from temples and 'mangalsutra' of women. The

Maoist manifesto will put a break on economic growth and lead the country to bankruptcy."

inheritance tax (a levy on

assets inherited from a de-

ceased person) which was

cent inheritance tax... the

party is planning an X-ray

of your property and hand-

ing it over to their vote-

bank which speaks of vote

The BJP stalwart said

jihad," he maintained.

"It also plans a 50 per

abolished in the 1980s.

Ram temple in Ayodhya and removal of Article 370, which provided special status to Ĵammu and Kashmir, were once considered impossible tasks in the country, but they have now be-

come a reality. "But they were made possible because of the power of your single vote," he told the large gathering. Modi asked the people of

Mumbai to remember terror strikes and serial bomb blasts that rocked the metropolis in the past and the change in the situation after 2014 when they go out to vote on May 20.

bomb He emphasised blasts and terror strikes are a now thing of the past in the financial capital.

"In the last ten years, they (Mumbaikars) have been feeling safe and secure," the PM said | More on P6

**'Congress** Will Bulldoze **Ram Temple'** 

Drime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday claimed that the Congress and the SP will run a bulldozer over the Ram temple if elected to power, and asked them to take lessons from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on where bulldozers should be used instead.

Addressing election rallies in Uttar Pradesh, Modi predicted that his government was set to return, scoring a hat-trick in the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress, according to him, had a mission to score just 50 seats to "save its honour".

The prime minister addressed public meetings in Barabanki, Fatehpur and Hamirpur. He accused the opposition INDIA bloc of planning to give their | More on P6

### **India Reacts To PoK Protests**

#### 'Consequence of Pakistan's Policy of Systemic Plunder'

New Delhi: India on Friday said the protests witnessed in several parts of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) are a "natural consequence" of Islamabad's continued policy of systemic plundering of resources from the region that remains under its "forcible and illegal" occupation. India also asserted that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and shall always remain integral parts of India".

Violent protests erupted in PoK over rising costs of food, fuel and essential utilities as Pakistan reels under a severe economic crisis.

"We have seen reports on protests in several areas of Pakistanoccupied Jammu and Kashmir," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

He was responding to a question on the protests in PoK.

"We believe that it is a natural consequence of Pakistan's continued policy of systemic plundering of resources from these territories which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation," Jaiswal said.

"Such exploitative policies deny the local people, rights over their own resources and the benefits thereof," he said.

"We reiterate that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and shall always remain integral parts | More on P6

### **2019 CRPF Convoy Attack SC Clears Path For Prosecution Of 6 Accused**

#### KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday paved the way for the prosecution of six alleged Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terror operatives accused of carrying out the failed car suicide bomb attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in

suicide bomber, owing alle-giance to Pakistan-based Jaish-

e-Mohammad (JeM). The top court said that the procedural lapse was a curable one, putting the authorities concerned at liberty to grant approval for the prosecution of the accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) by following the prescribed procedure. Reading out the operative part of the verdict, justice Sundresh said that it was open for the authorities to grant proper ap-proval, as mandated under the law. Additional solicitor general SV Raju represented the federal agency in the case. On March 30, 2019, suspected HM operatives tried to carry out an attack on a CRPF convoy in Banihal on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The suspect, Amin of South Kashmir, allegedly tried to ram explosives laden Santro car

## **Amit Shah Wraps Up 'Surprise' Kashmir Visit**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday wrapped up his brief visit to Kashmir Valley during which he interacted with several delegations, including those from the BJP and local Sikhs, officials said

Shah, who arrived here on



that the home minister's visit to Kashmir is not political. "I think the home minister is coming here to review the measures from the security point of view to increase the turnout and create an atmosphere of peace. There is no political activity but the BIP

Immediately after his arrival

in the city here on Thursday,

Shah interacted with several

delegations, including BJP lead-

ers of Jammu and Kashmir. A

Pahari delegation and a delega-

tion of local Sikhs also met Shah.

Shah would hold a review

meeting on the security situa-

tion in Jammu and | More on P6

Local BJP leaders had said

## 'Silent Village Of India' **Finally Gets Special School**



Banihal in March 2019.

A bench of justices MM Sundresh and SVN Bhatti on Friday set aside the April 2021 judgment of the J&K high court, which had affirmed a trial court order to exonerate the six accused of the terror charges on

account of a procedural lapse in initiating their prosecution, according to a report in the Hindustan Times

The unsuccessful attack on the CRPF convoy was likened to and closely followed the 14 February 2019 attack in Pulwama, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed by a

Thursday evening, left for New Delhi on Friday morning, they said. Though his visit in the midst of Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir led to speculation of his meetings with some Kashmir-based mainstream political leaders, there was no official word on the minister's engagements before he left the Valley.

While Baramulla goes to the polls on May 20, voting for the

#### Mehbooba, Omar **Smell Rat**

Anantnag-Rajouri constituency is scheduled for May 25 after it was deferred from its earlier schedule of May 7 due to bad weather.

Sunil Sharma, general secretary of the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit, said on Thursday

eoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has appealed to the Union Government and the Home Minister to refrain from

interfering in the ongoing electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the importance of allowing the elections to proceed

workers will meet him and discuss the party's organisa-Agencies tional matters," Sharma said.

Jammu: The silent village of India, Dhadkai, finally got a promise fulfilled when a special school was opened for them by a businessman turned social activist Mujtaba Fazili of Kashmir valley.

This school is dedicated to the deaf and mute children of Dhadkai village and has opened in two rooms in the existing Government High School.

Fazili has taken the responsibility of bearing the expenses of salary of the teacher and other things of the school so that these children can have formal

education like other children of the village.

Situated around 220 kms from Jammu, the Dhadkai village came into light when it was observed that many people are born with hearing and talking and it passes from generation to generation. The first case of deaf and mute, according to the locals, was found in 1901 and it spread from one generation to another. At present there are 82 deaf and mute people living in two Panchayats Dhadkai-A and Dhadkai-B whereas the number a few years back had risen to 98. | More on P6

#### **ACB Books 4 For** Land Transfer Scam In Rajouri

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Jammu: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday charged four people, including two revenue officials, under the Prevention of Corruption Act for the illegal transfer of a piece of land in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

A case was registered against Balwant Singh, former Tehsildar of Rajouri and Mohd Rafig, former Patwari of Rehtal, along with private beneficiaries Kanwal Singh and Masood Anwar, ACB officials said.

The case emerged from an ACB investigation following a written complaint alleging that in 2010, Balwant Singh conspired with Kanwal Singh to illegally declare him as the sole Tenant-at-will of a property, excluding other legal heirs and successors of the late landowner, Brij Lal, they said.

The verification process revealed that Singh and Rafiq unlawfully transferred land to the beneficiaries by making unauthorized | More on P6

#### **JKAP Suspends SM Influencer Mudasir Aziz**

#### Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) on Friday suspended social media influencer and its recent entrant Mudasir Aziz for "exhibiting behaviour inconsistent with the values and ethics upheld by the political party."

The JKAP in a suspension order said, "In light of recent events, it has come to the attention of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party that Mr. Mudassir Aziz has exhibited behaviour that is inconsistent with the values and ethics upheld by our organization. The Apni Party is committed to maintaining a standard of integrity, respect, and humanity, which Mr. Aziz's actions have contravened."

"Effective immediately, Mr. Mudassir Aziz is hereby suspended from all roles, responsibilities, and activities associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party," reads the order.

"Apni Party does not tolerate any inhumane or unethical behaviour and is | More on P6

### '6th Schedule For Ladakh' Will Continue Movement Till **Demands Are Met: Wangchuk**



Leh: In March this year, Leh, known for its breathtaking landscapes and monasteries, made headlines as climate activist Sonam Wangchuk led a 21-day fast in sub-zero temperatures seeking autonomy for Ladakh.

Thousands joined the Ramon Magsaysay Award winner whose life inspired actor Aamir Khan's character Rancho in Bollywood blockbuster "3 Idiots".

After ending his fast on March 26, Wangchuk began a sit-in which was called off on May 10 in view of the Lok Sabha elections.

Though the government did not accede to the protesters' demands for statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, Wangchuk says the movement is anything but over.

"On one hand, land is going to corporations and on



the other hand. China is capturing our land, thousands of square kilometres of land. People of the country need to understand our pain,"

Wangchuk told PTI. "The Sixth Schedule is required to protect the mountains, glaciers and ecology. Though it is required in the whole country, mountains are ultra-sensitive. The use

and throw philosophy of the present times, whether it is a plate or a river or a glacier... we don't want it for Ladakh or the nation," he said.

Wangchuk said that locals are concerned that in the absence of I More on P6

## Younger Generation at Risk **Hypertension On Rise Among** Children, Teens In Kashmir: Doctors

#### KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Around half of the people suffering from hypertension remain unaware of their condition and many hypertensive patients struggle to control their blood pressure, which leads to severe consequences, according to medical experts.

Doctors who spoke with Kashmir News Observer said there is a need to start hypertension education programmes in educational institutions as younger people including school-going chil-dren are affected by it.

Dr Muhammad Šalim Khan, Head of the Department of Community Medicine at GMC Srinagar said hypertension is the biggest pandemic of global concern among non-communicable diseases.

'Every third or fourth adult here has hypertension but unfortunately, almost half of them are unaware that they



have high blood pressure. This biggest silent killer doesn't show any symptoms during the course of illness except some vague signs attributed to other diseases.," he said.

"Unfortunately four out of five hypertensive patients are not keeping the blood pressure under control which leads to severe consequences like heart attack, brain stroke, kidney failure, etc," Dr Khan said, adding, "Even we have observed hypertension among

school-going children as our lifestyle and food habits have undergone drastic changes which include sedentary life, very less physical activities, high intake of salt, sugar and fat in regular meals and junk

abuse, stress."

foods, smoking and substance

Against the recommendation of a maximum of five grams of salt intake by a person per day, a Kashmiri takes around 10-15 grams of common salt daily,

the doctor said. | More on P6



## KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>®</sup> Srinagar | Saturday | 18-05-2024

## 'More Indians Are Travelling Than Ever Before, As 97 Mn Passengers Took Flight In Q1 2024'

#### Press Trust Of India

e it international or domestic, more Indians are travelling than ever before, claims a new report, as a whopping "97 million pas-sengers" travelled through Indian airports in the first three months of 2024 alone. "Travel Trends 2024: Breaking Boundaries", con-ducted by the Mastercard Economics Institute (MEI), provides comprehensive insights into the evolving landscape of the travel industry across 74 markets, including 13 in the Asia Pacific region (APAC).

"In 2024, fuelled by a growing middle class and expanded route capacity, more Indians are travelling internationally than ever before. In the first three months of 2024, 97 million passengers travelled through Indian airports. Just 10 years ago, the same figure would have taken a



trending destinations that

Indian travellers are visiting

this summer (June - August

2024), as measured by the

change in share of flight

Pacific region have an in-

tense desire and willingness

to travel and are becoming

"Consumers in the Asia

bookings in the report.

whole year to achieve," read the report. While domestic air pas-

senger traffic surged 21 per cent above 2019 levels, international travel rose by 4 per cent.

Indian travellers, according to the report, are increasingly exploring key markets, with a 53 per cent increase in visits to Japan, a 248 per cent growth to Vietnam, and a 59 per cent rise in visits to the United States, compared to 2019, despite a stronger US dollar. Also, Amsterdam, fol-

hospitality and F&B sectors, the bottom line is that costs matter," said David Mann, chief economist, Asia Pacific, Mastercard, in a statement.

The report also pointed out how consumers globally continue to prioritise experiences over material goods and the same is playing out in the travel sector where spending on experiences, especially nightlife, totals "12 per cent of tour-ism sales" -- the highest point in at least five years.

Additionally, a burgeoning fine dining scene in India has translated to marginal outperformance of the fine dining category for in-destination tourism dining, it reported.

"As of March 2024, spending on casual dining rose by 49.2 per cent, while fine dining saw a 55.2 per cent increase compared to the previous year," it added. Mastercard Economics

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increasingly savvy to ensure they get the best value and Institute, launched in 2020, unforgettable experiences analysis macroeconomic trends through the lens of from their trips. For tourism authorities, retailers, the the consumer.

#### Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir **Office Of The Executive Engineer**

## Mechanical And Hospitals Division Srinagar

--Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in·

Gist of e-tender NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2024-25/03/e-tendering

Dated:-17.05.2024 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders in two (O2) cover system, are invited on item rate basis from authorized dealers of OEMs or registered/reputed and experienced firms for the following work:

Description	Estimated Cost (In lakh of Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
Supply, Installation, Testing and Com- missioning of Inverter Type Hot & Cold (Reversible ACs) and Bed Head Panels along with alliedworks for new kidney transfer unit(KTU) facility at Govt Superspeciality Hospital Srinagar.	4.34	8700/-	200	10 Days
Position of AA			Accorded vide No 48-MCS MS letter no SSH/PS/202	of 2024, Dated:- 16-01-2024 and 3-24/3891 Dt 19.04.2024
Position of TS			Accorded vide No: M&HDS	/TS/01 Dated 04/24
Position of Funds			Available with intending E Srinagar)	Department (Principal, GMC

Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.O), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 1705.2024 (14.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 17.05.2024 (14.00 hrs).

Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 17.05.2024 (14.00 hrs) to 2. 22.05.05.2024(14:00hrs ) in two (02) covers.

Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 22.05.2024 at 16.00(hrs)

Sd/-**Executive Engineer**, M&HD, Srinagar

No: M&HDS/TS/ 832-36 Dated: 17.05.2024 DIPK-557/24

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JKF-181-2-0 JKF-181-2-0	IQBALA LIYAQAT	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	114 JKF-1321-2-0	SHAMIMA BANO	19-05-2024	SG-5119	198 JKF-1802-1-0	Mohd Ramzan		SG-5119	281 JKF-3307-3-0	HANEEFA	19-05-2024	
JKF-201-2-0	SALEEMA AKHTAR	19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	115 JKF-1321-2-0	AJAZ AHMAD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	199 JKF-1842-2-0	FATIMA		SG-5119	282 JKF-3307-3-0	SONA ULLAH	19-05-2024	5
JKF-201-2-0	ABDUL	19-05-2024	SG-5119	116 JKF-1328-3-0	AB MAJEED	19-05-2024	SG-5119	200 JKF-1842-2-0	SRAIJ U DIN		SG-5119	283 JKF-3307-3-0	MOHD	19-05-2024	5
JKF-204-2-0 JKF-204-2-0	NASEEMA BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	117 JKF-1328-3-0	SABI BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	201 JKF-1861-2-0	HALEEMA		SG-5119	284 JKF-3312-1-0	ALI	19-05-2024	-
JKF-204-2-0 JKF-207-2-0	Gh Qadir SHAHMALA	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	118 JKF-1328-3-0	MOHD SULTAN	19-05-2024	SG-5119	202 JKF-1861-2-0	GH RASOOL		SG-5119	285 JKF-3313-1-0	Anees	19-05-2024	5
JKF-207-2-0	GH AHMAD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	119 JKF-1340-2-0	SAYEEDA BANOO	19-05-2024	SG-5119	203 JKF-1864-2-0	HAFEEZA BEGUM		SG-5119	286 JKF-3472-2-0	MUGLI	19-05-2024	5
JKF-241-2-0	ROSHAN	19-05-2024	SG-5119	120 JKF-1340-2-0	GULAM YAHYA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	204 JKF-1864-2-0 205 JKF-1868-3-0	GH RASOOL FATIMA		SG-5119	287 JKF-3472-2-0	MOHD	19-05-2024	-
JKF-241-2-0 JKF-443-2-0	SIRAJ	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	121 JKF-1343-2-0	Nahida Shahir Ahmad	19-05-2024	SG-5119	205 JKF-1868-3-0	SHAMIMA		SG-5119 SG-5119	288 JKF-3479-2-0	MAHMOODA	19-05-2024	5
JKF-443-2-0	GH		SG-5119	122 JKF-1343-2-0	Shabir Ahmad	19-05-2024	SG-5119	207 JKF-1868-3-0	KHAZIR	19-05-2024		289 JKF-3479-2-0	AB	19-05-2024	5
JKF-444-2-0	SYEDA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	123 JKF-1353-2-0	MISRA BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119				and the second second	290 JKF-3571-2-0	KHATIJA	19-05-2024	S
JKF-444-2-0 JKF-445-2-0	FAROOQ	19-05-2024		124 JKF-1353-2-0	MOHD ABDULLA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	208 JKF-1870-3-0	bazira	19-05-2024		291 JKF-3571-2-0	GH	19-05-2024	s
JKF-445-2-0	RAFEEQA BEGUM MOHD SADIQ		SG-5119 SG-5119	125 JKF-1357-1-0	GH RASOOL	19-05-2024	SG-5119	209 JKF-1870-3-0	ameena	19-05-2024		*			
JKF-446-2-0	SAYEEDA BEGUM		SG-5119	126 JKF-1363-2-0	SALIMA BANOO	19-05-2024	SG-5119	210 JKF-1870-3-0 211 JKF-1873-2-0	mohd	19-05-2024	SG-5119	292 JKF-3587-2-0	Raja	19-05-2024	S
JKF-446-2-0	MOHD		SG-5119	127 JKF-1363-2-0	MOHD SULTAN	19-05-2024	SG-5119	212 JKF-1873-2-0	ZOONA MOHD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	293 JKF-3587-2-0	Abdul	19-05-2024	S
JKF-447-2-0 JKF-447-2-0	RAJA BEGUM MOHAMMED RAFIQ		SG-5119 SG-5119	128 JKF-1366-2-0	Hafiza Bano	19-05-2024	SG-5119	212 JKF-1873-2-0 213 JKF-1898-2-0		19-05-2024	SG-5119	294 JKF-3593-4-0	FAHMEEDA	19-05-2024	5
JKF-449-2-0	Zoona		SG-5119	129 JKF-1366-2-0	Mohd Sultan	19-05-2024	SG-5119	213 JKF-1898-2-0	nashada mohd	19-05-2024	SG-5119	295 JKF-3593-4-0	GHULAM	19-05-2024	5
JKF-449-2-0	Mohd	19-05-2024	SG-5119	130 JKF-1368-4-0	KHATOONA BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	215 JKF-1902-2-0	SHAMAHADA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	296 JKF-3593-4-0	SALEEMA	19-05-2024	5
JKF-451-2-0 JKF-451-2-0	ASHIA AB RASHID		SG-5119	131 JKF-1368-4-0	ABDUL HAMID	19-05-2024	SG-5119	216 JKF-1902-2-0	MANZOOR	19-05-2024	SG-5119	297 JKF-3593-4-0	BASHIR	19-05-2024	5
			SG-5119	132 JKF-1368-4-0	ZAREENA BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	217 JKF-1909-3-0	Shabeena			298 JKF-3736-2-0	ZAREEFA	19-05-2024	5
JKF-453-2-0 JKF-453-2-0	ZAREEFA SULIMAN	19-05-2024 19-05-2024		133 JKF-1368-4-0	NASIR AHMAD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	217 JKF-1909-3-0	Shahzada	19-05-2024	SG-5119	299 JKF-3736-2-0	GH	19-05-2024	-
JKF-460-2-0	NUSRAT	19-05-2024	SG-5119	134 JKF-1374-2-0	Saleema Begum	19-05-2024	SG-5119	219 JKF-1909-3-0			SG-5119	300 JKF-3785-2-0	SARA BEGUM	19-05-2024	5
JKF-460-2-0	AIJAZ	19-05-2024	SG-5119	135 JKF-1374-2-0	Ghulam Rasool	19-05-2024	SG-5119	219 JKF-1909-3-0 220 JKF-2149-2-0	Hussain SAEEDA BEGUM			301 JKF-3785-2-0	GH	19-05-2024	
JKF-495-1-0	HABIB ULLAH	19-05-2024		136 JKF-1375-1-0	HABIBULLAH	19-05-2024	SG-5119	220 JKF-2149-2-0 221 JKF-2149-2-0	MOHD	19-05-2024		302 JKF-3788-2-0	RUKHSANA	19-05-2024	
JKF-499-1-0 JKF-516-2-0	SAYED JAWAHER ZAHIDA BEGUM	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119	137 JKF-1377-1-0	AB MAJID	19-05-2024	SG-5119			19-05-2024		303 JKF-3788-2-0	AB	19-05-2024	
JKF-516-2-0	GH MOHI UD DIN	19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	138 JKF-1378-1-0	AB AZIZ	19-05-2024	SG-5119	222 JKF-2223-1-0 223 JKF-2393-1-0	METHOO MOHAMMAD	19-05-2024		304 JKF-3808-1-0	MOHAMMAD ASDULLAH	19-05-2024	
JKF-570-2-0	ASHA BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	139 JKF-1379-1-0	SHIRAZ AHMED	19-05-2024	SG-5119	223 JKF-2550-2-0	Rubina		SG-5119	305 JKF-3843-2-0	ZULAIKHA	19-05-2024	
JKF-570-2-0	MOHD SHABAN	19-05-2024	SG-5119	140 JKF-1381-1-0	AB KAREEM	19-05-2024		225 JKF-2550-2-0	Mushtag	19-05-2024		306 JKF-3843-2-0	BASHIR	19-05-2024	
JKF-572-2-0 JKF-572-2-0	HAFEEZA BEGUM GH MOHI U DIN	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	141 JKF-1382-1-0	ABDUL AHAD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	225 JKF-2585-5-0	Ab	19-05-2024 19-05-2024		307 JKF-3862-1-0	MOHD	19-05-2024	
KHJKF-617-1-0		19-05-2024	SG-5119	142 JKF-1383-1-0	GH RASOOL	19-05-2024	SG-5119	220 JKF-2585-5-0	Sakina	19-05-2024		308 JKF-3873-1-0	KHALID	19-05-2024	
KHJKF-627-1-0	SHAMEEM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	143 JKF-1386-1-0	MOHD YOUSUF	19-05-2024		227 JKF-2585-5-0	Mohd	19-05-2024		309 JKF-3881-2-0	RAJA	19-05-2024	
JKF-887-2-0	ZAREEFA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	144 JKF-1390-1-0	ZAMIR AHMAD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	229 JKF-2585-5-0	Mushraf	19-05-2024		310 JKF-3881-2-0	AB	19-05-2024	
JKF-887-2-0 JKF-890-2-0	QAMER SHAFIQA	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	145 JKF-1391-1-0	MOHD MUKHTAR	19-05-2024	SG-5119	230 JKF-2585-5-0	Abdul	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	SG-5119 SG-5119	311 JKF-3918-2-0	SHAHZADA	19-05-2024	
JKF-890-2-0	GH	19-05-2024	SG-5119	146 JKF-1432-2-0	RAFIQA BANOO	19-05-2024	SG-5119	231 JKF-2697-2-0	kusar	19-05-2024		312 JKF-3918-2-0	MOHMAD AKBAR	19-05-2024	
JKF-895-2-0	SAJA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	147 JKF-1432-2-0	MOHD YOUSUF	19-05-2024	SG-5119	237 JKF-2697-2-0	-sarwar din	19-05-2024		313 JKF-3920-4-0	MUKHTI	19-05-2024	
JKF-895-2-0 JKF-1068-2-0	MOHD Shaheen Akhter	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	148 JKF-1543-4-0	ZEAH UDIN	19-05-2024		232 JKF-2722-2-0	FATIMA		SG-5119 SG-5119	314 JKF-3920-4-0	GH	19-05-2024	
JKF-1068-2-0	Jawaid Iqball	19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	149 JKF-1543-4-0	MUGHLI BEGUM	19-05-2024		234 JKF-2722-2-0	MOHD		SG-5119	315 JKF-3920-4-0	SARWA	19-05-2024	
JKF-1070-1-0	BASHIR AHMAD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	150 JKF-1543-4-0	SHAMEEMA BEGUM	19-05-2024		235 JKF-2834-2-0	HAFEEZA		SG-5119	316 JKF-3920-4-0	AB	19-05-2024	
JKF-1074-1-0	WALI MOHAMAD	19-05-2024		151 JKF-1543-4-0	NASEER AHMAD	19-05-2024		236 JKF-2834-2-0	MANZOOR		SG-5119	317 JKF-3925-2-0	ASHA	19-05-2024	
JKF-1075-2-0 JKF-1075-2-0	SARA BEGUM WALI MOHD	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	152 JKF-1544-2-0	SHAMEEMA AKHTAR	19-05-2024		237 JKF-2837-4-0	NASEEMA		SG-5119	317 JKF-3925-2-0	Khazir	19-05-2024	
JKF-1078-2-0	TAJA BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	153 JKF-1544-2-0	AB RASHID	19-05-2024		238 JKF-2837-4-0	SHAH		SG-5119	318 JKF-3925-2-0 319 JKF-3955-2-0	HAJRA	19-05-2024	
JKF-1078-2-0	GH MOHI UD DIN	19-05-2024	SG-5119	154 JKF-1550-2-0	HAJIRA BEGUM	19-05-2024		239 JKF-2837-4-0	ATIQA		SG-5119	319 JKF-3955-2-0 320 JKF-3955-2-0			
JKF-1103-2-0	RAJA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	155 JKF-1550-2-0	GH MOHI UD DIN	19-05-2024	SG-5119	240 JKF-2837-4-0	SAREER		SG-5119		ghulam	19-05-2024	
JKF-1103-2-0 JKF-1104-2-0	MOHAMMAD KHADIJA	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	156 JKF-1554-2-0	KHATIJA BEGUM	19-05-2024		240 JKF-2838-1-0	GHULAM		SG-5119	321 JKF-3963-2-0	Raja	19-05-2024	
JKF-1104-2-0 JKF-1104-2-0	JAVID	19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	157 JKF-1554-2-0	MOHAMMED MAQBOOL	19-05-2024		241 JKF-2839-2-0	SAEEDA		SG-5119 SG-5119	322 JKF-3963-2-0	Delaver	19-05-2024	
JKF-1124-2-0	JANA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	158 JKF-1557-2-0	SARWA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	242 JKF-2839-2-0	GH		SG-5119 SG-5119				
JKF-1124-2-0	MOHD ASHRAF	19-05-2024		159 JKF-1557-2-0	MOHD AKBAR	19-05-2024		244 JKF-2846-1-0	Mohd		SG-5119				
JKF-1128-2-0 JKF-1128-2-0	ZAREEFA	19-05-2024 19-05-2024	SG-5119 SG-5119	160 JKF-1558-2-0	REHMA BEGAM	19-05-2024		245 JKF-2865-2-0	SARA		SG-5119				
	FARIDA	19-05-2024		161 JKF-1558-2-0	WALI MOHD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	246 JKF-2865-2-0	AB		SG-5119 SG-5119				
JKF-1129-2-0	AB	19-05-2024	SG-5119	162 JKF-1559-2-0	SHAHZADA BEGUM	19-05-2024		247 JKF-2867-2-0	RAFIQA		SG-5119 SG-5119				
	NACCELLA	19-05-2024	SG-5119	163 JKF-1559-2-0	TUFAIL NAZIR	19-05-2024	SG-5119		the state like in						
JKF-1135-2-0	NASEEMA FAYAZ	19-05-2024	SG-5119	164 JKF-1561-2-0	ZARIFA BEGUM	19-05-2024	SG-5119	248 JKF-2867-2-0	MOHD	19-05-2024	SG-5119	DIT/kM/4/	24		

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## KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Saturday | 18-05-2024 🜙

### **Mirwaiz Barred From Offering** Prayers At Jamia Masjid, Says **Mosque's Managing Body**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was allegedly barred from offering the congregational prayers at the Jamia Masjid here on Friday as he "continued to remain under house arrest", the managing body of the mosque said.

Anjuman Augaf Jamia Masjid alleged that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been placed under house arrest since May 3, and was again not allowed to go to the Jamia Masjid to deliver the Friday sermon and offer prayers for the third consecutive Friday.

The alleged restrictions on the movement of Mirwaiz Umar Faroog

come ahead of the death anniversaries of his father Mirwaiz Mohammad Faroog and separatist leader Abdul Gani Lone, the father of People's Conference chief Sajad Lone.

Farooq and Lone were killed by Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists in 1990 and 2002 for opposing a growing 'gun culture' in the Kashmir valley.

They were both considered advocates of finding a lasting solution through peaceful means. The government has been placing restrictions on the Hurriyat Conference chairman's movement on May 21 every year. The movement of people towards Eidgah where both are buried is also restricted.

### **Justice Tashi Interacts** With Children On Ill Effects **Of Substance Abuse**

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar and with the support of Delhi Public School (DPS), Srinagar today organized an impactful awareness program for students on the topic "Substance Abuse: Consequences, Prevention, and Challenges" at DPS, Athawajan, here. The event brought together esteemed dignitaries, experts, and passionate students.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Senior-most Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority was the Chief Guest on the occasion. On his arrival, Justice Tashi accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta. Member Secretary and Muzamil Havat Kabli, Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority was warmly received by Vijay Dhar, Shafaq Chairman and

Public School, Srinagar as well as Dr. Arshid Hussain. Professor, Psychiatry Department, GMC Srinagar, Dr. Majid Shafi, Psychiatrist, JLNM Hospital Srinagar and Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, faculty members, administrative staff of DPS Srinagar, advocates, law students, staff of J&K Legal Services Authority and DLSA Srinagar as well as Para Legal Volun-

teers (PLVs). In his opening address, Vijay Dhar extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest and expressed gratitude to Justice Tashi for short listing DPS Srinagar for interacting with the students on drug abuse. He further emphasized the significance of conducting such programs which go a long way in raising awareness and diverting the children towards positive soci-



towering Kohimaran hills in backdrop. KO Photo by ABid Bhat

## **Two-Fold' Hike In Power Tariff Triggers Protest In Down-Town**

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Locals on Friday staged protests in several areas of the old Srinagar against unprecedented hike in monthly power tariff.

The protesters assembled at Zaina Kadal Chowk after Friday congregational prayers and raised slogans against the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) for a two-fold increase in monthly electricity fees.

The areas which protested against the hike in electricity bills include Zainakadal, Dallal Mohalla, Chamdoori, Nawab Bazar, Syed Hameedpora and other adjacent sites.

The protest, which commenced from Zaina Kadal Chowk with

#### People living in these areas are ones barely making their both ends meet, with meager monthly income. The abrupt increase in power tariff is an injustice to us

shouting of slogans, was stopped at Nawab Bazar from where the protesters were not allowed by police to proceed.

"Most of the people residing in Zaina Kadal, Nawab Bazar and other adjoining areas are poor and cannot afford to pay extra fees. They have made a 100% hike in electrici-

ty fee as we received electricity bills double the amount for April 2024," one of the protesters said.

I was earlier paying Rs. 1040 per month, but now April month's bill has been issued at Rs. 2080, which they are asking me to pay despite no electricity for the most part of the day, another protester, Mukhtar Ahmad, said.

"People living in these areas are ones barely making their both ends meet, with meager monthly income. The abrupt increase in power tariff is an injustice to us,' they said.

Besides, they also warned to take a stern step if the hike in electricity fee is not rolled back and have decided to hold a meeting in this regard on the 19th of May.

## Fire Damages Masjid, Residential House In Shamaswari

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: A Masjid and a residential house were damaged in a fire incident that broke out at Shamaswari Khankah Moula area of the old city on Friday, officials said. An official said that a Masjid

along with a residential house were damaged in an early morning blaze at Shamaswari Khanqah Moula, Srinagar.

He said the attic portion, including roofing, ceiling, doors, windows, and the ceiling of the second floor of the Masjid along with the roofing, ceiling, doors were damaged in the incident

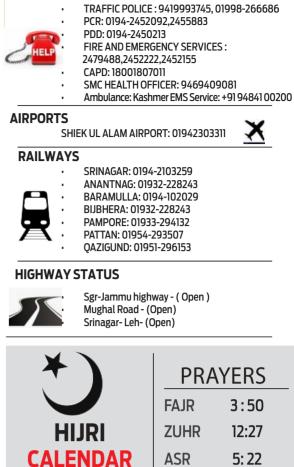
"Windows, and other items of the first floor of the wooden

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

structure, were severely damaged, whereas the doors and windows of the first floor of the Masjid were partially damaged in the

fire," he added. Moreover, the official added that the cause of the fire is being ascertained while no loss of life or any injury was reported in the incident—(KNO)

### Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan



ASR 7:30 Magrib 09 Zil-Qadah **ISHA** 9:05 1445

### This Day In History

- 1846- US troops attack Rio Grande occupying Matamoros
- 1860- Republican Party nominates Abraham Lincoln for president
- 1869- Surrender and dissolution of the Ezo Republic to Japan.
- 1896-US Supreme court affirms legitimacy of racial separation (Plessy v Ferguson)
- 1896- Khodynka Tragedy: A mass panic on Khodynka Field, Moscow, during the festivities of the coronation of Russian Tsar Nicholas II, results in the deaths of 1,389 people
- 1899-World Goodwill Day-26 nations meet in 1st Hague Peace Conference
- 1917- US Congress passes Selective Service Act, authorizing the federal government to raise a national army for the American entry into World War I through compulsory enlistment
- 1940- German troops conquer Brussels
- 1941- Italian army in Ethiopia under general Aosta surrenders to Britain
- 1943- Allied bombers attack Pantelleria, an Italian island 100 km southwest of Sicily
- 1944- Expulsion of more than 200,000 Tartars from Crimea by Soviet Union begins, they are accused of collaborating with the Germans
- 1948- Arab Legion captures fort on Mt Scopus during Arab-Israeli war.
- 1948-Saudi Arabia joins invasion of Israel

Afshan, Principal, Delhi

etal change.

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the name and style " M/S: Nroute Visas" situated at Abi Guzar, Lalchowk, Srinagar

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Ms: Iqra Nazir D/O Nazir Ahmad Darzi, R/o: Abi Guzar, Lalchowk, Srinagar, Kashmir & Rameez Ashraf Mir S/O Mohd Ashraf Mir R/O Vicharnag, Srinagar, Kashmir, intends to apply in the department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style " M/S: Nroute Visas" situated at Abi Guzar, Lalchowk, Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, i will submit State Subject/Domicile, Qualification certificate, PAN card, Experience certificate (Minimum 05 years), Character certificate(Police Department),Bank statement (Minimum balance 10000). Site plan. Affidavit. Rent deed duly attested by Sub-registrar, Printing material (Letter head/Visiting card), Photograph of the unit(Indoor and Outdoor), and two passport size photographs to the department of tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion agency/ Adventure tour Operator.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/Organisation etc.for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism registration (e-mail ID:ddtreg123@gmail.com) within the period of (07) days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of (07) days shall be entertained. mzko

NOTICE I Mohammad Amin Shah want to change my Name in my Elecricity **Connection bearing Consumer Id** 0204040007550 Installation No. From Mohammad Amin 4518 Najar To Mohammad Amin Shah In this Regard, if anybody is having any objection may file his/her objection in the Subdivision office Hawal within a weeks time after that no objection will be entertained.

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

#### **Bashir Ahmad Mattoo**

#### Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

#### **Public Notice**

The registar Births and deaths (FO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Afan Reyaz S/o Reyaz Ahmad Mir R/o Janwera Sopore Tehsil Dangerpora District Baramulla with vertified date of event (birth) as 25-04-2022 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

**Executive Magistrate 1st Class** Naib Tehsildar Pattan

In The Forum Of Authorized Officer J. V Forest Division Baramulla

fko

Extract order passed by Authorized Officer cum Divisional Forest Officer J.V. Forest Division Baramulla vide No. DFO/JV/A.0/2024-25/34-39 dated: 17-05-2024 in connection with below mentioned cases of Boniyar:-

inf

L								
	Sr.	Case No		Date of	Place of	Seizure Made	Form-25 No	Custodian
	No		Magistrate No &	Seizure	Seizure		& Dale	
L			Date					
	01	09/2023-24	DF0/JV/A0/130-37	15-06-2023	65/BNR	D/S 38Nos=52.18Cfts	66554 Dt	H W Factory
L			Dtd: 26/06/2023				17-06-2023	Baramulla
	02	12/2023-24	DF0/JV/A0/154-61	27-06-2023	38/BNR	D/S 67Nos=84.20Cfts	66556 Dt	H W Factory
L			dt: 13/07/2023				05-07-2023	Baramulla
	03	19/2023-24	DF0/JV/A0/291-97	15-10-2022	50/ BN R	D/S 02Nos=27.22Cfts	65145 Dt	H W Factory
L			dt 22/08/2023				15-10-2022	Baramulla
	04.	23/2021-24	DFO/JV/AO/332-39	13-09-2023	Nowshera	D/S l7Nos- l 9.53Cfts		H W Factory
L			dt 25/09/2023				13-09-2023	Baramulla
	05.	24/2023-24	DFO/JV/AO/ 340-47	21-08-2023	18/BNR	D/S14Nos=58.62cfts	66558 Dt	H W Factory
L			dtd 25/09/2023				21-08-2023	Baramulla
	06.	29/2023-24	DFO/IV/AO/ '84-91	09-07-2023	Nowshera	D/R04Nos=54.00Cfts		H W Factory
L			dtd 11/10/2023				30-09-2023	Baramulla
	07.	31/2023-24	DFO/IV/ A0/409-16.	11-10-2023	54/BNR	D/S 04Nos= 18.66cfts	66563 Dt	H W Factory
L			dtd 09/11/202.3				11-10 2023	Baramulla
	08.	34/2023-24	DFO/JV/A0/490-97	02-01-2024	54/BNR	D/S 08Nos=67.17cfts	66566 Dt:	H W Factory
			dtd: 13/01/2024				03 01 2024	Baramulla
	Total					D/R/S 154 Nos - 381.58 Cft		

Therefore I am of the opinion that Justice will be done by confiscating the seized timber under sub section 3 of Sec.52 of I.F. Act. The seized timber D/R/S 154 Nos = 381.58cft as per seizure memo's submitted by Range Officer Boniyar (presently lying in Half Wrought Factory Baramulla) is confiscated in favour of the Forest Department.

The copy of said order be sent to Worthy Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore. Besides, one copy be sent to Range Officer Boniyar for information. The copy of this order be published in two leading news papers having wide circulation in the U.T. the files be consigned to records after due completion.

DIPK-549/24 Dated: 17/05/2024.

Satyendra Maurya, IFS Authorized Officer J.V Forest Division, Baramulla 1951- UN moves HQ to NYC



## Bomai Village Rejoices as Pandits Return

#### **Observer News Service**

RINAGAR- The process of homecoming for the Pandits who left the valley over 17 years ago has begun; ripple of joy went through Bomai area of Sopore when 25 Pandit families who had fled in the early nineties, returned to their native village.

Their Muslim neighbours gave them a rapturous welcome, with the local MLA Abdul Rasheed Dar, closely involved with the celebrations.

Chuni Lal who spent the past 17 years living the life of a refugee in Jammu, said that he had thought the day would never come.

"I am looking forward to resuming my life in my native village," he said.

"By the grace of God, hearts pained for years will find solace now with the return of peace in the valley," Lal said.

Another migrant, Maharaj Krishen, said that he has been In the village for the past ten days, and it appeared as if everything had taken on a festive air. He was full of gratitude for his Muslim neighbours who, he said, displayed the same love they more than seventeen years ago.

Bhushan Lal said that when he arrived in his native Bomai, the people there greeted him with garlands.

The returning Pandits thanked MLA Abdul Rasheed and the sub-district magistrate for making it possible for them to meet their long-separated friends. "We feel as if new life is coursing through our veins," they said.

The MLA announced to release Rs 2 lakh from -his constituency development fund for the repair of the local temple.

Reports say that a festive air prevails in Bomai for the past four days, and the Muslim community is overjoyed at the return of their Pandit brethren.

The process of the migrants' return to Bomai is on for the past four days, and the families that have come back are being housed in the local Dak Bungalow for the time being.

(Kashmir Observer, 18 May, 2007)

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com



## J&K Macadamisation Manual Must Be Followed in Toto

Bitumen roads must be replaced by cement concrete roads

he harsh winters followed by rains in March and April damage our road surfaces every year and people always wait for the summer to come so that Govt agencies especially PWD R&B would macadamise their damaged road surfaces. The blacktopping or macadamisation of roads is a common practice in J&K. The bitumen reinforced blacktopping is done in every nook and corner of J&K as we are yet to replace this with cement concrete roads. The bitumen usually gets damaged in sub zero temperatures, plus the waterlogging on roads in J&K especially in congested towns and villages causes massive damage to blacktopped roads. For the last few years now, the Jal Jeevan Mission programme of the Govt has also caused large scale damages to our roads especially in rural areas as huge water supply pipelines were laid by damaging the bitumen layers. I know many areas in Srinagar, Pulwama and Budgam especially where macadamisation on roads was done in 2021 or 2022 and the same roads were destroyed by the contractors of Public Health Engineering -PHE, Jal Shakti Department to lay the water pipelines. Infact, I have written already about this multiple times but there is a lack of coordination between PWD R&B and PHE. It is also not clear whether the contractors of PHE Jal Shakti pay for the road cuts or not. If this is done, is that money spent on the ground or not? These details need to be made public by both PHE Jla Shakti and PWD for the benefit of people. As the blacktopping season has started in Kashmir, I thought of writing about this issue so that both the Govt as well as the citizens get to know about various aspects of macadamisation and how this can be made better.

Infact in the year 2021, as per media reports, J&K government exceeded targets of macadamisation. Against the set target of 1454.02 kms, the department has macadamized 1657.58 kms in the Valley by the end of October 2021. In 2022 and 2023 as well, the targets were achieved but the work quality is being questioned in many places especially in rural areas. There are two Govt agencies in rural areas which work on macadamisation of roads, PWD (R&B) Department and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna-PMGSY. These agencies are supposed to follow several guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways-MoRTH and J&K Govt as well.

#### J&K Macadamisation Manual

The J&K Administrative Council (AC) headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha in its decision dated January





Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

# The macadamisation work has been started

work has been started in Kashmir and this will be done on a large scale in the upcoming months especially

#### Categorization of Roads

To improve the quality of J&K's road network, the J&K Macadamisation Manual 2022 categorizes the roads across J&K into Inter-District Roads, Major Roads, District Roads, Rural Roads, Local roads, link roads etc.

The Macadamisation Manual further establishes a Quality Control (QC) and Quality Assurance (QA) protocol that is supposed to be strictly adhered to during laying of bitumen on the roads also known as block-topping or macadamisation. The manual says that in case of any breach in quality, the executing agency/ contractor is supposed to be made equally responsible for technical divergences or executing poor quality works.

All the works divisions in J&K have been mandated to review the performance of each and every blacktopping work post-winter/monsoon season. This enables them to assess the work as per specifications and map the same for further action under the Defect Liability Period (DLP) wherein the contractor has to carry on the repairs for 5 years post road construction.

The J&K Administrative Council in its meeting held in February 2022 noted that the J&K PWD Bridge Manual 2022 standardizes the engineering practices in bridge construction which is supposed to bring uniformity, transparency, and accountability in project execution. The Administrative Council impressed upon the PWD R&B to uniformly undertake project preparation, feasibility study, preliminary project preparation, detailed project preparation, project scheduling and monitoring of works, bridge inspection and maintenance etc. During the said meeting, the Lt Gov-ernor was informed that the PWD (R&B) Department was following the Standard Operating Procedures-SOP's for optimal maintenance of roads during snow clearance activities. The SoP lays down the short-term measures to be taken by the PWD in snow clearance operations which include snow clearance with conventional attachments to be provided to all R&B Divisions, Municipal Institutions under Directorate of Urban Local bodies J&K plus Srinagar Municipal Corporation-SMC.

For long-term intervention, the SoPs require the Department of Disaster Management to procure technically approved machinery as is being used in several developed countries for scientific clearance of snow causing minimal damage to the road surface.

#### Snow clearance protocol

The snow clearance protocol recommends commencement of clearance operations only after 100mm of snowfall by 50mm vehicle blades to avoid damage to the road surface, besides sprinkling of salt over frosted surfaces to improve surface friction. But in many places cranes and JCB's were being used by the PWD R&B contractors which violates the Govt guidelines as the same damages road surfaces as well. However, if the road damage after a snowfall is attributed to poor macadamisation work rather than snow clearance operation, the contract DLP clause will be enforced, and contracting agencies will be made responsible to rectify reported damages due to their negligence. The SoP further allows for the empanelment of private players with appropriate machines for snow clearance operations through incentives like a long-term contract for 10-15 years.

The rates for the snow clearance items re decided on the basis of analysis of

#### Scarifying road surface

It has now become a trend to blacktop roads without even scarifying the surface. This increases the height of the roads every year and isn't technically feasible as well. The boundary walls around residential houses located on main roads look short and shabby now as continuous bitumen layers have elevated most of the road surfaces.

Scarifying is breaking up hard or compacted materials to create enough space for material to settle down. Just placing Bitumen filling material on a damaged road surface to fill the ruts and potholes is a temporary fix. The bitumen material does not bind in the ruts and potholes. This only increases the height of the road and makes the surrounding landscape shabby. The proper way to reshape the damaged road is to scarify the surface to the depth of the depressions. This breaks up all the compacted surrounding surface materials. After scarifying the material, the Bitumen can settle down properly.

#### Cement concrete roads

Instead of Bitumen reinforced macadamised roads, the cement concrete roads have a long service life which can last between 35 to 40 years. On the other hand, roads made up of Bitumen last for around 10 years in areas with no snowfall, but in a place like Kashmir or Ladakh where the temperature drops down to sub-zero and there is heavy snowfall as well, these roads get damaged within 2 to 3 years only. During the service life, concrete roads do not require frequent repairs or patching work like macadamized roads. The vehicles that run over a concrete road, consume 15-20 per cent less fuel as compared to roads made of asphalt -bitumen. This is because of the fact that a concrete road does not get deflected under the wheels of loaded heavy vehicles. During the processing of bitumen, lots of toxic gases are emitted from these plants and subsequent less fuel consumption by the vehicle operating on a concrete road leads to little pollution as well.

#### Conclusion

The macadamisation work has been started in Kashmir and this will be done on a large scale in the upcoming months especially when the Model Code of Conduct -MCC ends. The J & K Macadamisation Manual should be the guiding principle for all the engineers, and work Supervisors of PWD (R&B), PMGSY and other Govt institutions. There should be proper coordination between PWD and PHE Departments and road cuts should he minimised. The incumbent Chief En gineer PWD (R&B) Central Kashmir Mr Sajad Naqeeb is very much proactive in addressing grievances of people and I would appeal to him and his counterparts in South and North Kashmir to ensure adherence to J&K Macadamisation Manual and also start making cement concrete roads in rural areas on pilot basis. On a pilot basis, cement concrete road stretches have been constructed in Srinagar city but we need to take up similar works in other districts as well.

9th 2022 adopted the J & K Macadamisation (Execution and Quality Control and DLP Enforcement) Manual. This is part of the engineering manual 2021. After the AC's meeting, the Principal Secretary Public Works department issued a Govt order No: 42 PW (R&B) 3.02.2022 wherein sanction was given for the adoption of the Macadamisation (Execution and Quality Control and DLP Enforcement) Manual. The Department of Public Works J&K Govt has compiled these manuals by incorporating the best practices in the field in accordance with the latest standards and endeavours to bring about uniformity in practices, promote transparency and ensure engineering perfection.

when the Model Code of Conduct -MCC ends. The J & K Macadamisation Manual should be the guiding principle for all the engineers, and work Supervisors of PWD (R&B), PMGSY and other Govt institutions

rates as per Ministry of Road Transport and Highways -MoRTH and Border Roads Organisation- BRO. Besides, the contracting agencies/ unemployed youth will also be incentivized under credit-linked schemes of the Industries & Commerce Department, Labour and Employment Department, and Tourism Department for procurement of suitable machinery under the technical supervision of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

The Administrative Council headed by LG Manoj Sinha had directed the Public Works Department to regularly update the manuals and guidelines and ensure optimal quality and cost efficiency.

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

't's well-known that spotting signs of cancer at an early stage significantly increases the possibilities of surviving the disease. In India, government projects, including the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke, recognise this necessity. These programmes have given special emphasis to checking for cervical, oral and breast cancers — they constitute a third of all cases of the disease in the country - before symptoms appear. Yet, successive National Family Health Surveys have revealed that a very small percentage of people in the vulnerable age group — those over 30 years of age - get screened for malignancy. Turning 1,50,000 health and wellness centres (HWCs) into nodal points for cancer detection under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) could have proved to be a game changer. The introduction of screening facilities at these primary healthcare centres could have reduced accessibility-related problems to a great extent. But a Niti Aayog report has flagged "huge gaps" in the performance of these HWCs. Less than 10 per cent of these centres had completed one round of screening C the Signs NITI Aayog's Alarm Bells on Cancer Detection

Indian Express

for non-communicable diseases, including cancer, says the report.

In recent years, India has done well in piloting low-tech approaches to cancer screening that can be delivered at scale by community-level workers. AB-PMJAY makes use of these technologies. Global experience shows that the trust enjoyed by grassrootslevel professionals is a big positive when it comes to screening people for diseases that may not show any symptoms. The government, therefore, did the right thing in roping in ASHA workers in its project. However, it does not seem to have invested adequately in the next steps. Given the low awareness of the disease, it was imperative that these frontline professionals were educated about cancer prevention protocols and trained to use the screening techniques. Much before the NITI Aayog's study, analyses conducted with smaller sample sizes had underlined that ASHA workers should be sensitised to risk factors, symptoms and, in fact, the need for screening itself. These studies also emphasised the need to improve the working conditions of these low-paid and overburdened workers. The AB-PMJAY also refers to such imperatives. The NITI Aayog's study underlines that the upgrades have not been undertaken in adequate measure.

The Union Ministry of Health has designated the Noida-based National Institute for Cancer Prevention and Research as a training hub. The institution's expertise must be summoned for screening malignancy. Experts agree that such instruction can be given online and professionals receiving such training can educate others. Reducing India's cancer burden will require efforts in several directions. The Centre must take the right lessons from the report of the Niti Aayog.

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## **Woes of Our Ancestors**

## Draagh Tchali, Daagh Tchali Na

#### **Mushtaq Hurra**

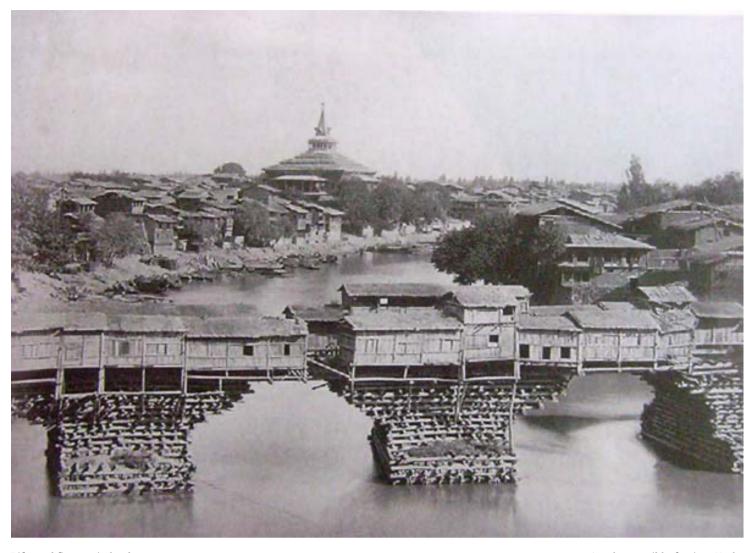
alamities. catastrophes, disasters and weather vagaries devastate and ravage cherished human establishments in a jiffy. Calamitous wrath of nature wrecks havoc on prosperously inhabited human settlements and razes them to rubble. Pages of history corroborate the fact that many civilizations have been crumbled and pulverised by episodes of natural blitzkrieg.

High magnitude earthquakes, violent storms, torrential deluges and intensely ferocious Tsunamis have been detrimental in the agony of human beings. Of late, the world witnessed some awful events of natural onslaught. Turkey was shattered during 2023 by cruel jolts when the earth shook vehemently to bury people under massive skyscrapers. Who can forget the years 2001 and 2004 when the Indian Ocean simmered fiercely to demolish its vastly mammoth coastal areas? There are hundreds of instances when the monster of nature tried to devour humans.

Our famed valley is no exception to it. The earthly paradise has undergone many floods, famines and earthquakes, which, consequently, reduced the population of the vale drastically. Known for its breathtakingly picturesque beauty and elegant aesthetics, the valley of velvety meadows has suffered brutal dents at the hands of nature.

Historians have recorded the episodes of natural outrage. Though Kashmir valley is prone to floods, and our ancestors have witnessed some terrible inundations, yet, loss of life has been relatively less. But quakes and famines have been viciously lethal to reduce the population of the valley by manifolds.

Earthquakes of 1864 and 1885 and their aftershocks gave sleepless nights to kashmiris for months together. Though the population of the valley was very thin then, still the shocks took a heavy toll of life. During the earthquake of 1885, Baramulla and Pattan areas were badly affected.



Rifts and fissures in land were reported in these two towns, and the emission of sulphur fumes coupled with inflammable gases were also found here.

Famines in our valley are believed to be the harshest manifestation of natural calamities. Native historians and chroniclers of the valley have recorded some 19 terrible famines. The gruesome details about these famines send shivers down the spine of readers. Most of the famines were either caused by untimely snowfalls or relentless rains. Walter Lawrence in his famous travelogue - "The valley of Kashmir " makes mention of two dreaded famines of 19th

nordinate human activities surely aggravate the plight of the planet and nature avenges equally. We need to be more careful and environmentally conscious to live in harmony with nature

century AD.

Famine of Sher Singh is believed to be appallingly awful because the famine had come like a holocaust on the natives of Kashmir. According to calculations and estimations, the cruel famine called Sher Singh reduced the population of Kashmir

valley from 8,00,000 (Eight Lakh) to mere 2,00,000 (Two Lakh). The famine was caused by the ill-timed snow of 1831. According to reliable historical sources, the unreasonable snow perished harvested and standing crops completely which left granaries and stores empty.

Another terrible famine, Kashmiris have combated during 19th century AD belongs to the year 1877-78 when unceasingly rains submerged paddy and other farms fully. Rain started in October 1877 and gates of the skies continued to shower vollies of water on the lands of the valley for almost four months. People failed to bring home their harvested and standing crops. The rains proved a bolt from the blue for the residents of the valley. Historians state that the population of Srinagar city dwindled badly from 1,27,400 to mere 60,000 Hunger killed people ruthlessly. The famines left indelible scars on the spines of our ancestors.

A famous Kashmiri adage narrating the pangs of the famines became famous probably after these famines. Draagh Tchali, Daagh Tchali Na (Famines will go but scars won't). The grievous famines forced our forefathers to eat unripe mulberries and other wildly grown fruits. Bark of elm trees and yew were ground into flour. Many would eat grasses and roots of swamps and forest trees.

The famine turned uglier during 1878. Wells and pits were choked with dead bodies. Nonburial of thousands of corpses created fear-psychosis and terror among Kashmiris. Even prowling dogs are said to have preyed on human carcasses. The horrors of the 1878 famine moistened our eyes even after hundreds of years. The plight of our forefathers went unabated during 1879 as well, though bumper fruit harvest proved a panacea for the peril of starvation, but the cholera of 1879 summer had worsened the situation. Ah! Our poor progenitors and ancestors.

Miseries and pains are stored in our palm lines. Apart from nature's fury and rage, Kashmir valley has undergone political strife and strain for centuries together. Kashmiris have witnessed tough times but our resolve, determination and indomitable attitude to resist boldly, has helped us to conquer adversities and predicaments. We have withstood many turbulent times and vicious cycles of violence and indignation. Year 2024 is somewhat full of climatic chaos. We haven't had sufficient sunshine during the first five months of the year. We have already escaped a major deluge, a couple of weeks ago when Vitasta and its tributaries had swollen angrily. Inordinate human activities surely aggravate the plight of the planet and nature avenges equally. We need to be more careful and environmentally conscious to live in harmony with nature.

Author is a Teacher and a Columnist. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com

## Newsrooms Are Experimenting With Generative AI, Warts And All

#### Nir Eisikovits

journalism industry he has been under immense economic pressure over the past two decades, so it makes sense that journalists have started experimenting with generative AI to boost their productivity.

An Associated Press survey published in April 2024 asked journalists about the use of generative artificial intelligence in their work. Nearly 70% of those who responded said they had used these tools to generate text, whether it was composing article drafts, crafting headlines or writing social media posts.

A May 2024 global survey conducted by the public relations firm Cision found the slice to be somewhat smaller - 47% of journalists said they'd used generative AI tools like ChatGPT or Bard in their work.

But does the adoption of the technology pose any moral questions? After all, this is a business where professional ethics and public trust are especially important – so much so that there are fields of study devoted to it.

Over the past few years, my colleagues and I at UMass Boston's Applied Ethics Center have been researching the ethics of AI.

I think that if journalists are not careful about its deployment, the use of generative AI could undermine the integrity of their work.

#### How much time is really saved?

Let's start with an obvious concern: AI tools are still unreliable.

Using them to research background for a story will often result in confident-sounding nonsense. During a 2023 demo, Google's chatbot, Bard,

famously spit out the wrong answer to a question about new discoveries from the James Webb Space Telescope. It's easy to imagine a journalist using the technology for background, only to end up with false information.

Therefore, journalists who use these tools for research will need to fact-check the outputs. The time spent doing that may offset any purported gains in productivity.

But to me, the more interesting questions have to do with using the technology to generate content. A reporter may have a good sense of what they want to compose, so they will ask an AI model to produce a first draft.

This may be efficient, but it also turns reporters from writers into editors, thus fundamentally altering the nature of what they do.

Plus, there's something to be said for struggling to write a first draft from scratch and figuring out, along the way, whether the original idea that inspired it has merit. That's what I am doing right now as I write this piece. And I'm sad to report that I discarded quite a few of the original arguments I wanted to make, because as I tried to articulate them, I realized that they didn't work.

In journalism, as in art, generative AI emphasizes - indeed fetishizes - the moment in which an idea is conceived. It focuses on the original creative thought and relegates the tedious process of turning that thought into a finished product - whether it's through outlining, writing or drawing to a machine.

But the process of writand sentences. ing out a story is inseparable from the ideas that give rise Al's undermining of a special to it. Ideas change and take

In journalism, as in art, generative Al emphasizes - indeed fetishizes - the moment in which an

shape as they are written out.

They are not preexisting enti-

ties patiently floating around,

perfectly formed, simply wait-

ing to be translated into words

relationship

To be fair, only a portion of the journalists in both surveys were using generative AI to compose drafts of articles. Instead, they were using these tools to accomplish other tasks, such as writing newsletters, translating text, coming up with headlines or crafting

social media posts.

Once journalists see that the AI is quite talented at writing and it is getting better and better at it – how many of them will resist the temptation?

The fundamental question here is whether journalism involves anything more than simply conveying information to the public.

Does journalism also entail a kind of relationship between writers and their readers? I think it does.

When a reader regularly follows the analysis of someone writing about the Middle East

or about Silicon Valley, it is because they trust that writer, because they like that writer's voice, because they have come to appreciate that writer's thought process.

Now if journalism involves that kind of relationship, does the use of AI undermine it? Would I want to read journalism created by what amounts to an anonymized aggregation of the internet any more than I would want to read a novel created by an AI or listen to music composed by one?

Or, stated differently, if I read a piece of journalism or a novel or listened to a musical piece, which I thought was created by a human being, only to find out that it was largely generated by an AI, wouldn't my appreciation or trust of the piece change?

If the practice of journalism is based on having this kind of relationship with the public. the increased use of AI may well undermine the integrity of the practice, particularly at a time when the industry is already dealing with trust issues.

Being a journalist is a noble calling that, at its best, helps sustain democratic institutions. I assume that this nobility still matters to journalists. But most readers probably would not trust AI to uphold the social role that journalism plays.

AI does not care that "democracy dies in darkness"; it does not care about speaking truth to power.

Yes, those are cliches. But they are also widely held precepts that sustain the trade. Journalists neglect them at their peril.

By arrangements with The Conversation



## NEWS

## KASHMIR OBSERVER® SRINAGAR | SATURDAY | 18.05.2024

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### **Security Beefed Up**

coordination and preparedness to maintain law and order during the electoral process. Authorities have strategically deployed additional forces in key areas to safeguard the democratic process, with election officials assuring that all necessary preparations are in place to facilitate smooth polling.

As the polling day approaches, the focus remains on ensuring a fair, free, and peaceful election, with authorities leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to achieve this goal.

Recently in a gesture of cooperation and support, the Jammu and Kashmir police extended a warm welcome to the CAPF personnel arriving in various areas for election duties.(KNS)

#### **No Power In**

at the rally organised to seek votes for Shiv Sena-BJP candidates in the metropolis.

Targeting the Uddhav Thackeray-led party, Modi maintained the "fake" Shiv Sena had betrayed the mandate of the people and worked against the interest of Mumbai and Maharashtra.

"The nakli Shiv Sena has betrayed Balasaheb Thackeray by standing with those who abuse Ram mandir and also (Hindutva icon Veer) Savarkar," he said.

"I will give Mumbai its due right. Days are not far off when Mumbai will get India's first bullet train," he declared.

The PM noted the financial capital has emerged as a hub of start-ups. "Today, there are 8,000 start-ups in Mumbai. India is the second largest mobile manufacturing hub," he pointed out.

"Mumbai is the economic powerhouse of the country and the stock market headquartered in the metropolis is now the fourth largest in the world, but the INDI alliance is hatching conspiracies to break the trust." he charged.

The PM said Mumbai was a dream city and was going to play a huge role in achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047.

'I have come to you with a dream of Viksit Bharat (developed India). Mumbai knows the importance of speed. Countries which gained independence along with us have overtaken us in terms of development. Where did we lag? It was the previous governments which did not trust its people. If you see the Red Fort address of earlier PMs, they called Indians lazy. Such attitude cannot take the country forward," he noted.

When the Congress lost power at the Centre in 2014, India's economy was at the 11th position, but it has now jumped to the 5th spot, Modi opined.

"If the Congress was dissolved as per Gandhiji's wishes, India would have been five decades ahead of what it is today. We lost five decades because of the Congress. When we got independence, India was the 6th largest economy and when the Congress left power in 2014. it was 11th." he said.

"Indians fought for 500 years to build a magnificent temple for Ram Lalla in Ayodhya. Frustrated people and those in despair also said removal of Article 370 was impossible, but it was scrapped. No power in the world can bring back Article 370," he asserted.

Talking about women's welfare, the PM pointed out that the practice of instant triple talaq has been banned and women have got 33 per cent reservation in assemblies and Parliament.

Modi said earlier 'garibi batao' (eradicate

Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. In Barabanki, he said the bloc was in the fray to create instability. "As elections progress, these 'INDI alliance' people have started collapsing like a pack of cards.'

He hit out at the Congress and the Samajwadi Party on the issue of the Ayodhya temple.

"A senior SP leader had said on the day of Ram Navami that the Ram temple is useless. At the same time, the Congress is preparing to overturn the Supreme Court's decision on the Ram temple," he alleged.

"If the SP and the Congress come to power, they will send Ram Lalla back to the tent and buildoze the temple," he claimed while asking them to take "tuition" from Adityanath on where bulldozers should be used.

The Adityanath government has been accused of using bulldozers to illegally raze property of alleged criminals, and the opposition has claimed that the victims are mostly Muslims.

He maintained that "nothing is bigger than the vote bank" for the opposition allies.

"The SP and the Congress have surrendered to appeasement. And when Modi tells their truth to the country, they say Modi is creating a Hindu-Muslim divide. The vote bank these people run after has also started understanding the truth now," he said.

'Our mothers and sisters are happy with the law on triple talag and are continuously blessing the BJP," he said.

He slammed the opposition over "attempts" to bring Muslims into the quota.

"When the Constitution was made, the Constituent Assembly decided that there would be no reservation on the basis of religion," he said.

But the Congress did this in Karnataka, he added. "There they made all Muslims OBC overnight. They looted a huge portion of the reservation given to the OBC.

In Hamirpur, the prime minister repeated his allegation that the opposition planned to give away people's wealth to members of the Muslim community.

"Today, I have come to caution you against the SP and the Congress. They will take your vote, but after coming to power, they will distribute these gifts to those who do 'vote jihad' for them," he said, picking on a term used by an INDIA bloc leader.

He also slammed the opposition over the now scrapped Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and mocked it over past advice by Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar on relations with Pakistan.

"They say that Pakistan has a nuclear bomb, but those making these threats do not know that it does not even have the money to maintain it," the prime minister said.

'They say it has missiles. The defence corridor we are building in Bundelkhand is not for making firecrackers but for making missiles," he added. He said the Congress planned to restore Article 370.

Modi said a new chapter will begin in Bundelkhand's history when the Rs 40,000 crore Ken-Betwa river link project is completed.

"Today, Uttar Pradesh is at the top among the states with the maximum number of expressways. It is on top in terms of the number of airports. UP is at the top with metros in seven cities. Not only this, Uttar Pradesh is also at the top in welfare schemes for the poor that I run." he said.

The prime minister said the BJP government has provided 15 lakh houses to t cities and 35 lakh houses in villages.

a plot to kill the security personnel and also

waging a war against the country. However, in March 2020, a special court in J&K discharged Amin of the UAPA as well as other penal charges noting that the district magistrate concerned could not have filed a complaint in the case without an authorisation from the government to do so. By its judgment in April 2021, the J&K high court affirmed this order, upholding Amin's exoneration.

In February 2021, the NIA filed a supplementary charge sheet against Naveed Mushtaq Shah, a former J&K police constable who later joined HM.

According to a NIA statement on the day, the investigation established that accused Shah was actively involved in the planning and execution of the attack on the CRPF convoy, along with other terrorists Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo, Rayees Ahmed Khan and Dr Saifullah Mir who were subsequently killed in encounters with security forces. Naikoo, one of Kashmir's most wanted terrorists and the commander of HM, was killed during an encounter in Pulwama in May 2020.

#### **Amit Shah Wraps**

Kashmir as the Lok Sabha elections will be followed by the annual Amarnath Yatra, which is scheduled to start on June 29 and conclude on August 19. However, there was no official word on it.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir might witness assembly elections after the yatra as the Supreme Court has given a deadline of September 30 to the Centre for holding these polls.

#### Mehbooba, Omar

freely and fairly here, as they do in other parts of the country. She called on the Union Government and the Home Minister to ensure that the elections in Jammu and Kashmir are conducted with the same fairness and integrity as in other regions of India. She stressed the need to avoid pre-poll rigging and to cease intimidating the electorate and officers involved in the election process. "Today, the situation is that the proxy parties of the BJP, which are coercing people, threatening people, and spend-ing huge sums of money, are misinforming the Union Home Minister.

She alleged that Amit Shah during his visit called a meeting of Pahari officers who were directed that if they do not support the Peoples Conference in Baramulla and the Apni Party in the Anantnag-Rajouri seat, the outcome will be troublesome.

"I want to request those officers who come from the Pahari belt that you are courageous people. Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing trying circumstances. For God's sake, do not mount the torments for the already troubled people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mehbooba said.

"Please remain steadfast, remain neutral, and we are here for you and will not allow anyone to hound you or intimidate you. I also appeal to the Union government, including the Home Minister, please do not meddle in the elections of Jammu and Kashmir."

"The way elections are held in the rest of the country, please allow them to happen that way here as well. Do not engage in pre-poll rigging; stop frightening the officers," Mehbooba said. Reflecting on past electoral issues, Mehbooba recalled the 1987 elections, where rigging undermined public trust in the democratic process.

She warned that any repeat of such manipu-

the ballot, not the bullet. However, if the government repeats 1987 here again, when a political group misguided the union government and polls were rigged, the situation is going to prove calamitous.

It was due to that rigging that thousands of our people died, children were orphaned, and women were widowed." (KNS)

Earlier National Conference leader Omar Abdullah alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Kashmir was to help the BJP's "proxy candidates" in the Lok Sabha elections.

Abdullah told reporters, "I don't know whom the home minister met and I don't want to know. But I definitely know that the home minister came here just to help in the elections.'

The National Conference vice-president is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from the Baramulla constituency.

He told reporters in the Gurez sector near the Line of Control in north Kashmir's Bandipora district that while the BJP has not fielded its own candidates, "its 'B', 'C' and 'D' teams -- be it the bucket, apple, cricket bat or ink-pot -- have been working on its directions".

Abdullah was referring to the election symbols of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), People's Conference, April Party and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) respectively.

The former chief minister of the erst-while Jammu and Kashmir state alleged that these parties have come together to attack the National Conference at the directions of the Centre.

"Recently, (DPAP chief) Ghulam Nabi Azad announced support for (jailed former MLA) Engineer Rashid. As far as I know Azad, he would not have taken such a decision without the permission of the prime minister or the home minister. So, it is a possibility that all these parties have come together only to target the National Conference.'

Rashid filed his nomination from Tihar jail to contest from Baramulla, which goes to the polls on May 20.

The BJP has not fielded its candidates for the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir but unofficially extended support to some of the new political parties formed after the abrogation of Article 370.

Asked about the situation in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), Abdullah said the National Conference has always advocated for improving relations between India and Pakistan.

"Me and my party have always said that the two nations will have to improve relations. They will have to create an atmosphere to improve relations and, for that, the responsibility lies with the leadership of both countries," he said.

"There is a new government in Pakistan and we will have a new government here after June 4 -- the people will decide who the prime minister will be. But we hope that both the countries will create such an atmosphere that we are able to establish a relationship of friendship," Abdullah added.

Referring to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's remarks that India could change its friends but not its neighbours, Abdullah said Pakistan was, is and will remain India's neighbour.

"So, it is better to find a way to improve

relations," he said.

**JKAP Suspends** 

district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Ladakh wanted to be a state or Union territory, which could not happen due to Article 370 as the Union government could not do that. So people thought Ladakh would have its own existence now and it was welcomed," he said.

At the same time, there was concern regarding preservation of the environment and sensitive ecology of Ladakh, Wangchuk said.

"The government came forward and assured us that they will protect us under the Sixth Schedule," he said.

The BJP had also promised safeguards under the Sixth Schedule in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and the 2020 Hill Development Council polls, he said.

"First they went cold on the issue, then they went back on their word, so we had to ... (launch) an agitation," he said.

After almost 10 meetings, the government said "we can't give anything", he claimed.

The activist cited the example of a 10 GW solar power project planned for the Pang region of Changthang that will be spread over an area of 20,000 acres.

The land earmarked for the project is pasture land where locals graze their Pashmina goats which produce the most expensive wool in the world, he said.

"Hundreds of square kilometres of pastures - I am talking about an area as big as Delhi -- is being given to Solar Energy Corporation of India without discussing with the people,' he claimed.

Suggesting that the Union government is probably under "pressure" from corporate lobbies, he said, "We felt we also need to build pressure so that there is a balance. If a deal has been struck, only a change of government can change things."

"Whether the government changes or the government changes its thoughts, we will continue with our movement so that the deal is cancelled." he said.

A 'Pashmina March' that was announced during the recent protests was later called off. Wangchuk said the march was called off as their point was proved by the restrictions im-

posed by the administration against the march and they did not want any clashes with police. "They imposed so many restrictions, im-

posed Section 144 (of the Code of Criminal Procedure) and threatened to cut off the internet, so we felt what we wanted to prove was done while we were sitting here. The government does not want us to show the truth to the nation," he said.

Wangchuk hopes that a new government would fulfil Ladakhis' demands.

"If a Congress government comes, we have a lot of hope. If the BJP does not change its stand, we will hope that those who are in favour of protecting Ladakh come to power," he said. If needed, Wangchuk is ready to keep

fighting. "Ladakh is the crown of India. We do not

want to protest again... But if there is a need, we will sit on protest again," he added.

Ladakh goes to polls in the fifth round of seven-phase Lok Sabha elections on May 20. Hypertension On

"Younger people including school-going kids and adolescents are putting a huge burden on hypertension as they become more liable to various diseases earlier in life than seen a few decades back," Dr Salim said. "We need to start hypertension education programs in schools, colleges and offices and suggest behavioural changes in lifestyle and food habits." He recommended regular physical activity, reduced salt, sugar, and fat intake, avoidance of smoking and alcohol, and adherence to medication regimens for managing hypertension and other related conditions. Dr Mir Mushtaq, spokesperson for the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), echoed the importance of adopting an active lifestyle, maintaining a healthy weight, regular exercise, and monitoring blood pressure for hypertensive people. There should be regular medical follow-ups and adherence to prescribed medications to prevent complications associated with hypertension, Dr Mushtaq said. Notably, high blood pressure, a silent killer, threatens India's public health. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that onethird of deaths in India are attributable to noncommunicable diseases, with cardiovascular diseases leading the way. Hypertension is the most important cause of these conditions, affecting an estimated 220 million Indians. There are many risk factors for hypertension, one of which is high dietary salt intake in the Indian population. (KNO)

poverty) was merely a slogan, but for his government action on the ground matters.

"Modi brought 25 crore people out of poverty (in 10 years). What seemed impossible was done with the power of your vote," maintained the PM.

Without naming NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar, Modi said, "I challenge the NCP leader to ask (Congress MP) Rahul Gandhi to say he will not abuse Savarkar again. The INDI alliance has betrayed the country by giving a clean chit to terrorist Ajmal Kasab and guestioning surgical strikes. It wants to snatch SC/ ST/OBC quota and give it those who speak of vote Jihad."

Thirteen Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, including 6 in Mumbai, will vote on May 20. **'Silent Village** 

The population of these two panchayats is around 2000 souls.

Since the village came into the limelight, many organizations, including government as well as non-government, announced several packages for the special population with some promises fulfilled like doing genetics tests, and many remained confined to lip service only.

Now, finally the wait of the population to provide formal education to their children has ended and a school has been opened for them where a trained teacher of sign language will be imparting education to them.

Mujtaba Fazili said, "During my stay in Qatar and England, I had made a commitment to myself to open the school for these special children in this silent village of India. It was not possible without the support of deputy commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and Major Dankit of 4 Rashtriya Rifles who have provided every kind of help to open this school."

The school will be run in two rooms of the government high school in the first place and in the future a separate building will be built for the school. In absence of special school for these children, those who wanted to take education had to travel to Jammu where a special school for deaf and mute students is being run by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

"We are expected to get support from a Hyderabad based organization and UNICEF, and I am working on it. I am meeting the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha tomorrow where officers of Indian Army will also be present," Fazili added. (KNO)

#### 'Congress Will

"vote bank" – meaning Muslims -- a big chunk of reservation in government jobs and education meant for Scheduled Castes,

He claimed that people had defeated INDIA bloc in the first four election phases alone, and the alliance workers had lost heart.

"No one wants to work hard in the remaining election. The workers of INDI Alliance were already disappointed, now they have stopped leaving their homes," he claimed. PTI

#### India Reacts

of India," he added.

Two days ago, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserted that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir was, is and will always be part of India

"I have no doubt in my own mind that someone living in PoK is comparing their situation with someone actually living in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that how is it that people today are actually progressing there," he said.

Earlier this month, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India will never give up its claim of PoK but it won't have to capture it with force because its people, on their own, would want to be part of India after seeing the development in Kashmir.

"I think India will not have to do anything. The way the ground situation has changed in Jammu and Kashmir, the way the region is witnessing economic progress and the way peace has returned there, I think demands will emerge from people of PoK that they should merge with India," he said.

"We will not have to use force to take PoK as people would say that we must be merged with India. Such demands are now coming," he said.

The defence minister asserted that "PoK was, is, and will remain ours". PTI

#### SC Clears Path

into the CRPF convoy at Banihal on the pattern of February 14 Pulwama attack.

The CRPF personnel on board had a lucky escape as the plan for a Pulwama-like attack failed. The only damage to the bus was the broken rear-glass windows. The car caught fire as the cylinders exploded. Amin escaped into a hamlet from the spot, only to be nabbed a day later. Subsequently, five other accused -Umar Shafi, Aqib Shafi Shah, Wasim Ahmed Dar, Hilal Ahmad Mantoo and Shahid Ahmad Wani - were also nabbed.

After Pulwama, the Union home ministry transferred investigations into this copycat ambush on CRPF convoy to the National investigation Agency (NIA). The NIA filed its charge sheet in the case in September 2019, naming Amin and five others as accused of hatching lation could have disastrous consequences similar to the violence and turmoil that followed the 1987 elections.

She criticized the BJP's proxy parties for using coercion, threats, and financial incentives to influence the election outcomes, particularly highlighting reports of the Union Home Minister's meetings with Pahari officers to sway support in favor of certain parties.

During a series of roadshows in north Kashmir, the PDP President highlighted the substantial support the PDP is currently receiving. She said that the BJP-led administration is fearful of this support, and that the PDP continues to hold a significant place in the hearts of the people despite attempts to weaken the party by poaching over 40 senior leaders.

Mehbooba said that the active participation of people in the elections is a strong message to New Delhi, opposing the August 2019 decision that revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. She pointed out the high levels of unemployment, exorbitant power tariffs, and overcrowded jails filled with Kashmiri youth as indicators of the prevailing misgovernance.

She asserted that voting is the most powerful tool available to the disenfranchised people of Jammu and Kashmir to challenge this misrule. She added further: "Jamaat-e-Islami con-tested polls in 1987, including Syed Ali Geelani, but the rigging of that year changed the equations, and people's trust in the electoral process was shaken.

But today, the people are coming out in droves as they know that in a democratic process, the great platform to express dissent is

dedicated to ensuring that all members adhere to the highest standards of conduct. We believe that this action is necessary to preserve the integrity and reputation of our organization," it added.

#### Will Continue

safeguards, their lands will be taken over by corporates and outsiders who may not respect the environment in the ecologically sensitive Himalayan region.

"These glaciers are the source of water. This is Dev Bhoomi, you cannot pollute it," he added.

The Sixth Schedule contains provisions related to the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram through autonomous district councils (ADCs).

The ADCs are granted autonomy on legislative, judicial and administrative matters and can make laws regarding land, forest, water and agriculture, etc.

The climate activist said the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule will ensure that corporates have to ask the people before doing anything with the mountains and rampant development will be stopped.

Asked how he feels after his fast, Wangchuk said, "Better than before. Fasting never hurts."

After the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Wangchuk was among those who had welcomed Ladakh getting the status of a Union territory.

However, his view has changed now.

"We supported the abrogation of Article 370 because Ladakh was reduced to being a

#### **ACB Books 4 For**

entries in official records, they added.

The ACB said that these actions, driven by criminal conspiracy and abuse of official positions, provided undue benefits to the beneficiaries for personal financial gain.

A case was registered against the accused under the Prevention of Corruption Act, they said.



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

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## STATE

## Tale Of Two Sons And Incarcerated Father

## How Inexperienced Siblings Shake Up Baramulla LS Seat

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid slogans echoing through the hamlets of north Kashmir, with roads lined by orchards and paddy fields, two young sons of jailed AIP candidate Engineer Rashid sit atop a modest vehicle.

Dressed in white t-shirts and trousers, microphones in hand, they wave to the enthusiastic crowd, responding to every greeting. This is the vibrant scene of the ongoing election campaign in Baramulla constituency. There are no barricades, no whistle blowing vehicles, and no concertina wires. This organic campaign is a rare sight in Kashmir's electoral landscape, not witnessed in decades.

As per the news agency, Abrar Rasheed, 24, and Asrar Rasheed, 20, have taken to the streets to garner support for their father, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail. Whether the enthusiastic crowds at their rallies translate into votes will be revealed on June 4. As of now, the contest in Baramulla appears to be a three-way race, with Omar Abdullah of the National Conference (NC) and Sajjad Lone of the People's Conference (PC) also fighting for the seat.

Abrar and Asrar, leveraging their youth to connect



with young voters, are actively holding rallies and road shows, seeking sympathy for their incarcerated father. Their campaign, although lacking in traditional political issues, aims to highlight the struggles and injustices faced by Engineer Rashid. Their efforts have raised concerns among their competitors, NC and PC.

gam, Abrar is highlighting the role of youth in societal change,

While campaigning in Bud-

stating, "Only youth can bring change in the society, and the association of youth with us is a good sign. Our father is in jail, and many of you have someone in jail too. Our father can understand the pain of all of you." Omar Abdullah has held multiple rallies in the area, focusing his speeches against rival Sajjad

Lone and the BJP. Meanwhile, Sajjad Gani Lone has criticized Omar Abdullah as an outsider and a tourist, attempting to undermine his local credibility.

Despite facing resource constraints, Abrar and Asrar have received support from numerous volunteers. "People are providing us with whatever is needed for publicity," Abrar said. The Baramulla constituency

has historically seen strong voter turnout, with recent elections indicating a restoration of faith in democracy. This trend is expected to continue, with district election officials predicting a high voter turnout following the record participation in the Srinagar seat.

The Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, now encompassing 18 assembly constituencies after delimitation, includes parts of Kupwara, Baramulla, and Bandipora districts, with Budgam and Beerwah areas recently added. Security remains a significant concern due to the proximity to the Line of Control. Comprehensive security measures have been implemented in coordination with security agencies, adhering to the Election Commission of India's guidelines, official sources told KNO.

Historically a stronghold of the NC, which has won the seat ten times since 1957, Baramulla has also seen victories by the Congress party four times and the PDP once. The current voter base, comprising 11.5 lakh voters, is diverse, with significant populations of Gujjar Bakarwal, Pahari, and Shia communities. In the 2019 general elections, NC candidate Mohammad Akbar Lone secured 133,426 votes, defeating People's Conference

#### Rashid's Campaigner Detained By Police: Mehbooba Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Democracy is being "ripped apart" in Kashmir, People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti alleged on Friday.

In a post on X, Mehbooba said, "Shoukat Pandit – Engineer Rashid's main campaigner has been picked up by @JmuKmrPolice & detained at Chugal police station. This has been done on the behest of those who want to prevent him from campaigning & thus help their proxy candidate instead. Democracy is being ripped apart in Kashmir.'

However, there was no word from the police on the allegations of Mehbooba — a former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Former MLA from north Kashmir's Langate assembly segment, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid, who is in jail on terror funding charges is contesting the parliamentary polls from Baramulla seat in the north.

People's Conference president Sajad Lone and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah are also trying their luck from the seat.

candidate Raja Ejaz Ali, who received 103,193 votes. Independent candidate Engineer Rashid garnered 102,168 votes, and PDP candidate Abdul Qayyum Wani obtained 53,530 votes.

Meanwhile, after Contesting from Srinagar, prominent Shia leader and senior NC function-ary Aga Ruhaullah Mehdi is actively campaigning for Omar Abdullah in Baramulla Parliamentary constituency. The votes from the Shia community in Budgam are likely to get influenced by the cleric's plea similar to that of Srinagar

wherein pockets with majority of the Shia population have, enmasse, as per the reports voted in NC's favour with Ruhaullah as party's face. The party is expecting a similar situation from the Shia belt of Baramulla.

On the other hand, the People Conference that enjoys support from Kupwara and Handwara areas has been actively campaigning for Budgam and Beerwah areas for the past more than three months. The party is expecting a huge voter turn-out from these pockets on May 20-(KNO)

## **BJP Neglected Far-Flung Areas Including Gurez: Omar**

#### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah on Friday asked people to vote wisely and send a clear and categorical message to ruling BJP on its blunders and injustices committed with people of J&K.

He made these comments while addressing a series of public gatherings in Gurez and Tulail. The meetings were organised by senior leader and In-Charge Constituency Gurez Nazir

Ahmad Khan Gurezi Among others party Treasurer Shammi Oberoi, Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq accompanied the Vice President on the visit, a statement issued to the news Questioning Why A, B and C teams are silent on BJP's poison against Muslims, Omar said, "J&K

#### ing prayers. We are being taunted repeatedly and our emotions are being played with and all this is being done by BJP for its nefarious political interests. Those who are fighting elections on the symbols of apple, bat-ball and bucket have to answer why they are not raising

their voice against BJP? Are these people not seeing how BJP is oppressing minorities particularly Muslims? Are they not able to listen to the speeches of BJP leaders including the Prime Minister, in which the Hindus are being threatened that the Muslims will take away the ornaments of the Hindu women?

Why are they avoiding speaking against the BJP?" Omar further said the BJP's core ideology is that there should be no development in areas where Muslims are in the majority. "BJP cannot bear the upliftment and development of Muslims. BJP should explain why the tunnel to Gurez, where the road remains closed for three to four months - had not been made despite the party's tall claims of tourism promotion and development in the

## **Medical Infrastructure Upgraded Across J&K: Advisor Bhatnagar**

#### **KO NEWS SERVICE**

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Apurva Chandra and Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, on friday addressed the second National Conference of National Health Mission (NHM).

The conference was organised by MoHFW in collaboration with National Health Mission, J&K, to deliberate on critical healthcare initiatives and strategies of several States and UTs. The conference was attended by the Mission Director of NHMs of several States and UTs, eminent healthcare professionals, policymakers and stakeholders from across the nation.

In his inaugural address, the Union Secretary highlighted that strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and promoting comprehensive healthcare delivery system is vital for overall development of the country. He stressed on the importance of collaboration between the government, healthcare institutions and civil society organizations to achieve the shared goal of upgrading the medical infrastructure across India. He highlighted that medical



infrastructure has been upgraded across Jammu and Kashmir and it is remarkable to witness that some Public Health Centres are working 24\*7 in the UT.

wThe Advisor expressed commitment towards translating the deliberations and discussions of this conference into tangible actions that would positively impact the health and well-being of citizens.

Additional Secretary and Mission Director, NHM, Aradhana Patnaik, in her address, remarked

ference will provide a platform for insightful discussions, knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices among participants from diverse backgrounds. expressed optimism that the outcomes and deliberations of this conference will be fruitful in achieving the shared goal of a healthier and more resilient nation.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, said that the health department of Jammu and Kashmir is performing remarkably with active hand holding of HoFW department. He said that this conference is a significant platform for J&K to learn from neighbouring States and UTs in terms of various initiatives re-

lated to healthcare services. During the conference, sevral technical sessions

## **Experts Urge Public Awareness To Prevent Spinal Injuries**

#### Agencies SRINAGAR: On the eve of the

National Spinal Cord Injury

Awareness Day, medical experts

have called on the importance

of valuing life and avoiding un-

necessary risks to prevent de-

Prof (Dr) Mufti Mahmood

espe-

He urged people to take pre-

cautions to safeguard their fu-

ture and that of their families,

saying that there is only one life

speak-

Ahmed, Associate Director of

bilitating spinal injuries.

Urology at Paras Health

ing with the news

agency, said there is

a need for creating

cially among youth,

about the profound

juries on quality of life.

impact of spinal cord in-

Srinagar,

awareness,

of spinal injuries, saying that they can result in irreversible loss of function, disabilities and even loss of life.

"Common causes are road traffic accidents and falls from heights," he said.

However, there are preventable incidents like falls from walnut trees in the region, Dr Kawoosa said. "This has led to

countless disabilities in the community and loss of precious lives in the past. This unfortunate practice of walnut harvest must be replaced by some alternative methods," he added.

Dr Altaf said spinal cord injuries, often stemming from traumatic events like car accidents or falls, can have profound and lasting effects on mobility, sensation, and overall bodily functions. These injuries not only affect individuals but also impact their families, caregivers, and communities, he said. Doctors underscored the importance of raising public awareness and promoting research and innovation to address the challenges associated with spinal cord injuries.



is currently going through a critical period. While people are being evicted from their lands, our religion is being attacked daily. In some places, it is about uniform civil code, in some places a worshiper is being kicked while offer-Vallev.' that NHM is advancing healthcare accessibility and quality across the country, particularly in remote and underserved regions. She emphasized the need for innovative approaches, enhanced community engagement and robust partnerships to address the evolving healthcare challenges. She highlighted that this con-

held during which the participants and speakers engaged in insightful discussions on a wide range of topics, like Indian Public Health Standards, making comprehensive healthcare a reality, child health, infectious disease management, healthcare financing and digital health initiatives.

and it should be valued

Regarding treatment options, Dr Mahmood said that advancements in medical techniques have led to multidisciplinary approaches with reasonably acceptable outcomes. Renowned orthopedician Dr Altaf Kawoosa, Head of Unit at Bone and Joint Hospital Srinagar, highlighted the gravity

## 123 Consumer Cases settled in **Special Lok Adalat**

#### **KO NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority and with the approval of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as under the guidance of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, a Special Lok Adalat was organized throughout the UT of J&K today, with special emphasis on amicable settlement of consumer cases pending disposal in different consumer forums within the UT of I&K.

As per the data received from District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kupwara, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Udhampur, a total of 227 cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 123 cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of Rs.29,38,081/- giving a huge relief to the litigants. District Ganderbal once again emerged as front runner with amicable resolution of 104 cases out of the total 123 cases settled in today's Adalats.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority,Amit Kumar Gupta, while appreciating the efforts of DLSA Ganderbal informed about the benefits of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority. He further informed that the next special lok Adalat shall be held on Saturday, June 08, 2024 focusing on the settlement of Traffic Challans and Electricity Bills. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok

#### J&K Resident Commission Holds Workshop On **Emotional Wellness, First Aid For Employees**

Special Lok Adalat.

#### **KO NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI:** The Jammu and Kashmir Resident Commission, New Delhi, under its "Hello I&K" initiative today organized a pro-active emotional wellness workshop, in collaboration with Sleepwell foundation. Commissioner Secretary

Hospitality and Protocol, Dr. Rashmi Singh, who is also the Principal Resident Commissioner chaired the sessions of the workshop. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode

and attended by the officers and officials of J&K Resident Commission, New Delhi besides its sub offices in Chandigarh, Amritsar, Mumbai and IK government employees from Hospitality & Protocol department in Jammu and Srinagar. Dr. Singh stressed on the importance of forging constructive connect between various segments of society especially the youth as part of the recently launched Hello J&K initiative of Resident Commission. She focused on the purpose of this

workshop for helping all employees and team members in H&P Department for navigating any kind of pressure or challenges in work environment through better connect with the self and achieving a balance of mind, body and soul, This, she said, would resolve internal conflict besides equipping them better in facing the challenges of external environment. She appreciated the speakers for highlighting the crucial role of emotional first-aid and mind management in our daily lives.

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## SPORTS

# IPL 2024: RCB, CSK Clash For Final Playoff Berth Amid Rain Threat

#### **Press Trust of India**

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) fairytale resurgent run will be up against the might of five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and the weather gods when the two sides clash in an epic do-ordie match to decide the fourth and final team for the Indian Premier League (IPL) play-offs, here on Saturday.

Thursday's washout in Hyderabad meant that Sunrisers Hyderabad joined Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals as the three confirmed teams for the playoffs and the race is now for only one spot with two teams in fray–CSK and RCB.

Boasting of a better Net Run-Rate (NRR) and more points, defending champions CSK (13 points, NRR 0.528) start favourites at a venue where they have lost to the home side only once in eight matches. RCB has 12 points



and a net run-rate of 0.387.

However, what has heightened the drama surrounding the game is the forecast of rain. A washout will take CSK through to the playoffs, while

RCB will need to win by at least 18 runs or chase the target with

about 11 balls to spare. The odds are therefore stacked against the home side, which is the most in-form

unit in the tournament's final stretch.

They've staged a spectacular comeback, securing five straight wins after enduring a six-match losing streak

three fifties in last five innings as he is poised to ignite the field with yet another stellar show. They will hope that skipper Faf du Plessis is back among

Orange Cap holder Kohli has been in phenomenal form with

runs, having capped single digit scores in his last two outings. For CSK, Ruturaj Gaikwad has

been the team's top run-scorer this season and is expected to give them a fine start.

Fellow opener Rachin Ravindra is also back among runs and he along with Daryl Mitchell will be expected to lift the top order.

They will hope that Shivam Dube gets back into his rhythm. He has failed to score in his last four outings.

The inspiring presence of Mahendra Singh Dhoni will continue to be a factor for the side but it remains to be seen how big a role he is able to play given some nagging injury concerns. Match starts: 7.30 pm.

## **Students Shine In Bijbehara Zonal Level Football Matches**

**Observer News Service** 

ANANTNAG: The Zonal Physical Education Officer of Bijbehara resumed the Inter School Zonal Level Football Tournament on Friday at BHSS Ground Bijbehara.

In a day brimming with excitement, a total of three matches were played among six teams in the Under-14 boys category, with nearly 96 students from various Middle and High Schools of Zone Bijbehara participating with great enthusiasm.

In the matches played, the Educator School Bijbehara triumphed over Oxford School Bijbehara, while MS Laribal secured a victory against GMS

**Observer News Service** 

GANDERBAL: As part of inter-



Kanelwon and SAPS Suhanpora defeated Islamia High School Bijbehara.

The standout performers of the day were Taizeem Ahmad, Huzaif Ahmad, Himad Ahmad, Momin Mushtaq and Asif Nisar, each showcasing their talent by scoring pivotal goals for their respective teams.

## **JKSC, Senior Players To Promote Hockey Among Toddlers**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council on Friday announced an initiative to train toddlers in hockey.

The training program will be held alongside senior players of the sport and is scheduled to commence from Sunday, May 19, and shall continue every Sunday from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.

Recognizing the need for modern facilities, the J&K Sports Council has set up three new astro turf hockey fields: one in Pulwama and two in Srinagar. These facilities provide a conducive environment for young players to



extreme weather conditions, J&K Sports council has successfully organized tournaments across different age categories in various districts.

will help to strengthen the foundation of the Hockey, Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports council, expressed opand this program will also be timism about the future of replicated in other districts of hockey in the the region. She J&K, she added.





### **Short TAKES**

**BCCI Approaches Gambhir To Replace Dravid : Report** 



The Board of Control for Cricket in India approached former cricketer Gautam Gambhir to replace Rahul Dravid as India's head coach, according to a report from ESPNcricinfo.

The report said Gambhir is BCCI's top pick to become India's next head coach as Dravid's tenure comes to an end after the T20 World Cup 2024. ES-PNcricinfo also learned that BCCI will talk to Gambhir after the end of the Indian Premier League 2024.

#### **PSL Set To Rival IPL In Thrilling April-May Showdown**

The Pakistan Cricket Board is looking to take advantage of the window set aside for the Indian Premier League (IPL) each year to hold the Pakistan Super League in the same time-frame as very little international cricketing activity takes place during that period.

PCB said on Friday that it had held a meeting with PSL franchises where the advantages of holding the PSL in 2025 and 2026 in the April-May window were discussed in detail.

#### Formula 1: Ferrari's Leclerc Fastest In First Practice At Imola

harles Leclerc set the pace in his upgraded Ferrari in first practice for the Italian Formula One team's home Emilia Romagna Grand Prix at Imola on Friday. The Monegasque, whose home race follows next week, lapped the Enzo e Dino Ferrari circuit in a

best time of one minute and 16.990 seconds. George Russell lapped second fastest for Mercedes, 0.104 seconds behind and also on soft tyres, with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz third.

#### **Dutchman Slot Confirms He Is Taking Liverpool Job Next Season**

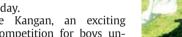
eyenoord coach Arne Slot confirmed on Friday that he would take the Liverpool job next season after Juergen Klopp leaves the Premier League club at the end of the campaign.

"I can confirm that I will become the trainer there next year," Slot told a news conference, according to ESPN. Fevenoord confirmed Slot's departure, posting a video on X saying: "The Arne Slot era is coming to an end. Let's enjoy the last moments."

#### **FIFA Orders Legal Review Of Palestinian Call To Suspend Israel**

school zonal level sports competitions. the Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal successfully organised a diverse range of sports activities across the dis-

trict on Friday. In Zone Kangan, an exciting Kabaddi competition for boys un



**Inter-School Competitions** 

**Continue Across Ganderbal** 



der-14 years of age was held at GHS Preng Kangan ground. The event saw participation from 147 enthusiastic students. Later trophies were distributed to the meritorious teams.

Simultaneously, Zone Tullamulla hosted the final match of the interschool Zonal level Handball competition for boys under 14 years at Tehsilbagh Ground Khrabihama. The final match between PHSS Watlar and MS Banpora ended in a thrilling victory for PHSS Watlar.



teams were appreciated and felicitated. Similarly, Zone Ganderbal organized two inter-school zonal level sports competitions in Football and Handball for girls under 14 years at GCOPE Gadoora Ganderbal. The event witnessed the participation of 310 student players.

Zone Hariganiwan also contributed by organizing intramural sports activities, including Cricket at HS Hayan and Kabaddi and Kho-Kho at MS Yachihama



#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council on Friday announced first cricket tournament for government employees of J&K in Kashmir. This will be the first phase of the tournament. The first game will be

played between J&K Sports

XI and DG Budget XI on Saturday, May 18, at TRC Ground. The match begins at 8:30 AM. J&K Sports Council's Departmental Cricket Tournament provides a golden opportunity to the employees to showcase their talent & passion and be recognized in the field of sports.

#HarDinkhel, #HarekkeliyeKhel will be emphasized and the facilities and opportunities provided by the government for the youth shall be disseminated. The importance of sports and relieving professionals of stress, related to their job profiles will be emphasized.

of nurturing young talent and

creating a strong foundation

Toddler Hockey workshop

for the sport.

Coccer's world body FIFA ordered an urgent Iegal evaluation on Friday of a proposal by the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) to suspend Israel over the war in Gaza, promising to address it at an extraordinary meeting of its council in July.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino took the decision at an annual Congress in Bangkok, where the PFA president made an emotional plea to delegates to hold a vote to suspend Israel from all club and national competitions, accusing it of multiple breaches of FIFA statutes.

## **Thomas Tuchel Still Leaving After Talks** With Bayern Munich Fall Through



#### **Associated Press**

**MUNICH:** Thomas Tuchel says he is still leaving Bayern Munich after talks on extending his stay at the club fell through.

Bayern said in February that Tuchel would leave at the end of the season but the coach said Friday that he held talks with the club on a "180-degree turn" that would have seen him stay after all.

"We found no agreement on further cooperation so the agreement from February remains in force," he said.

In the three months since

Bayern said Tuchel was leaving, it has tried and failed to sign a se-

ries of high-profile replacements. Xabi Alonso is staying with Bayer Leverkusen after beating Bayern to the Bundesliga title, Tuchel's predecessor Julian Nagelsmann signed an extension with the German national team, and Ralf Rangnick re-

mains with Austria. Bayern is without a trophy this season for the first time since 2012 after losing the Bundesliga title to Bayer Leverkusen, but Tuchel's team was praised for reaching the Champions League

semifinals before a narrow loss to Real Madrid.

There was also a petition from some Bayern fans calling on the club to keep Tuchel. Strong European performances prompted the club to reach out to him in an attempt to persuade him to stay, the coach said.

Bayern's two-point advantage over third-place Stuttgart and superior goal difference mean that a draw with Hoffenheim – which is seventh and chasing European qualification – should be enough to guarantee second position.

## Messi Napkin That Sealed Barcelona Move Sells For \$9,65,000 At Auction

#### **Associated Press**

LONDON: The famous napkin that linked a young Lionel Messi to Barcelona sold for 762,400 pounds (USD 965,000) on Friday, British auction house Bonhams said.

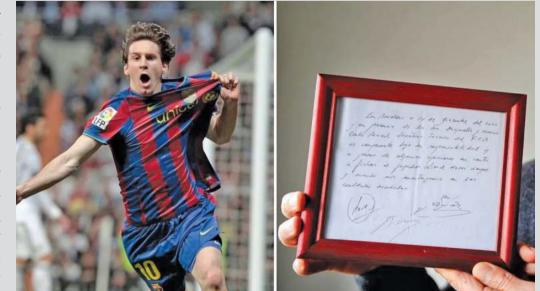
An agreement in principle to sign the-then-13-year-old Messi was written on the napkin almost 25 years ago at a Barcelona tennis club. A more formal and detailed contract with the club followed soon after.

An undisclosed percentage of the sale price pays administrative fees for the online auction, in what's called the buyer's premium.

Bonhams said the auction was on behalf of Horacio Gaggioli, an agent from Messi's home country of Argentina who was part of the deal.

The contract language, written in blue ink, was intended to reassure the teenager's father, Jorge Messi, that the deal would go through.

Jorge Messi had threatened to take his son back to Argentina because negotiations with Bar-



celona had stalled.

The napkin, containing the date December 14, 2000, bears the signatures of Gaggioli, another agent, Josep Maria Minguella and Barcelona's thensporting director, Carles Rexach, who met at a tennis club. Rexach had asked a waiter

for paper and was given a blank napkin.

The starting price was 300,000 pounds (USD 379,000). Messi spent nearly two decades with Barcelona after arriving from Argentina at 13 to play in its youth squads. He made his first-team debut in 2004 and played 17 seasons with the main squad. He helped the club win every major trophy including the Champions League four times and the Spanish league 10 times.

Messi left Barcelona for Paris Saint-Germain in the summer of 2021. He has since joined Inter Miami.