

'Saddened & Shocked'

World Mourns Loss Of Iranian President



Agencies

Tehran: Leaders and officials from several countries began to offer their condolences to Iran following the announcement of the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and other officials in a helicopter crash northwest of the country. In a message on Monday, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei announced five days of national mourning. Ayatollah said he received the bitter news of the martyrdom of the popular, competent and hardworking

president and his companions with great sorrow.

The Leader noted that the tragic incident happened when Raisi and his team were making an attempt to serve the Iranian people.

The entire period of responsibility of this noble and devoted man, both during the short term of the presidency and before that, was completely spent in non-stop efforts to serve the people, the country and Islam, he emphasized.

"Dear Raisi did not know fatigue," Ayatollah Khamenei said, adding that the Iranian | [More on P6](#)

6 AS A TRUE FRIEND OF RUSSIA, HE MADE AN INVALUABLE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT of good-neighborly relations between our countries, and made great efforts to take them to the level of a strategic partnership."



Kashmir Mourns President Raisi's Death

Syed Mohammad Burhan

The death of the Iranian president Sayid Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister Amir Abdollahian has generated a wave of sympathy worldwide. In Kashmir a large number of people took to streets to express condolences with the Iranian nation. Many people in central and north Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

India Announces State Mourning

A one-day state mourning will be observed across India on Tuesday as a mark of respect for Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash, the Union Home Ministry | [More on P6](#)



Who's Iran's Interim President

Following the tragic death of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and his entourage in a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran, the first vice president

has taken charge as the interim president. Iranian Constitution states that the first vice president takes over temporarily in the event of the death | [More on P6](#)



Baramulla Records All Time Highest Voter Turnout Of 59%

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, which was once militancy-infested, recorded its highest-ever voter turnout on Monday at 59 per cent on a violence-free polling day, the Union territory's Chief Electoral Officer P K Pole said here.

He also said that the Sopore assembly segment of the parliamentary constituency witnessed a healthy turnout of 44.36 per cent after recording single-digit polling percentages in the past couple of decades.

"The Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency witnessed a record voter turnout since parliamentary polls were first held here in 1967," Pole told reporters at the end of polling.

The previous highest voter turnout in the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency was witnessed in 1984 at 58.90 per cent.

This year, it was 59 per cent, Pole said. The constituency has 17,37,865 registered voters and there are 22 candidates in the fray.

The official said that the figures were likely to undergo an upward revision as there were voters still waiting for their turn at some polling stations after the stipulated 6 pm deadline.

Besides the highest voter turnout, Pole said the constituency created another record by having a zero-violence polling day.

"The people have proved that they have faith in democracy and they can achieve sustainable development only through voting in the polls," he added.

Pole said there were attempts by terrorists a couple of days back to vitiate the atmosphere by carrying out attacks but those incidents did not have any impact on the voter turnout.

An official of the election department said polling went on smoothly across



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Out Of Boycott-call Shadow

Press Trust Of India

Soibugh: Voters thronged polling stations in large numbers in Soibugh as voting got underway in north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency on Monday, expressing satisfaction over the improved security situation and the fading "fear" of separatist-sponsored boycott calls of the past three decades.

The voters see the first major electoral exercise in the Union Territory post the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 as an opportunity to give vent to their feelings on the developments in the region over



the past almost five-year period.

Soibugh, the hometown of Syed Sallahuddin, the Pakistan-based supreme of proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, lies in the Budgam district of

central Kashmir and is part of the Baramulla constituency, where National Conference leader Omar Abdullah is among the 22 candidates in the fray.

"The situation has improved and fear faded and that is a good omen for democracy. The people mostly did not vote in the past due to the threat to their lives but, this time, brisk voting is taking place without interference from any quarters," Abdul Ahad Bhat, a local villager, said after casting his vote.

He was referring to the decline in terror activities over the past couple of years and the absence of any boycott | [More on P6](#)

Voters Seek Release Of Jailed Youth

Majid Nabi

In Langate area of frontier district Kupwara, many voters said they voted to help to release those who are languishing in jails for years. "This is my first vote of my life and I have dedicated it to those who are languishing in Jails for many years. I believe that vote has a power to elect our preferred representative who will help the locals to get released their beloved ones from the jails," | [More on P6](#)

Change, Employment Draws First-time Voters

Change and better employment were the key issues which drew many first time voters and youth to vote in Baramulla constituency. Several voters expressed frustration over lack of job opportunities saying that they voted for the first time to change the scenario and secure jobs. "Despite having multiple degrees, many of us are still sitting at home without work," they said. "Our vote is for a

future where our education leads to meaningful careers. We want our leader to address the employment crises at an earlier", Ezzan Fayaz, a resident of Sopore said. Similarly, Suhail Bashir (name changed) said that he voted for change. "We had always been involved in boycotts and separatism, but that has led us nowhere. It's now time for change and progress. We have suffered a lot, with hardly | [More on P6](#)

High Turnout Reflects Faith in Democracy: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the people and all the stakeholders on the high voter turnout in Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency.

In a tweet, the LG said: "High voter turnout, over 58% in Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, is very encouraging and shows the people's determination and unwavering faith in democracy. I congratulate and thank the people of Baramulla for joining the Maha Kumbh of our democracy in large numbers." "I appreciate the hard work of all the stakeholders to



ensure free, fair, accessible, inclusive & peaceful conduct of voting. Happy to see young voters expressing and celebrating their unshakable faith in democratic values. Hope this positive trend will continue in the next phase," he added. | [More on P6](#)

32% Of KP Voters Exercise Franchise

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Thirty-two per cent of Kashmiri migrant voters exercised their franchise in the Baramulla parliamentary constituency where voting was held in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha election on Monday. Officials said there was a marked increase in polling by migrants this time as compared to 2019 and 2014.

Vote For Dedicated Township In Valley

The migrant Kashmiri Pandits turned out in large numbers to vote in the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency despite the heat wave, expressing strong support for the creation of dedicated townships for their return and rehabilitation, as well as the | [More on P6](#)

"Thirty-two per cent polling was registered by Kashmiri migrants for the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency," Relief Commissioner Arvind Karwani told PTI. He said of the 20,333 eligible voters in the community, around 6,500 cast their votes. Polling began at 7 am on 2,103 stations across the constituency, Karwani said, adding that | [More on P6](#)

FIR Lodged Against Imran Ansari

Agencies

Baramulla: A police officer was injured after allegedly being assaulted by a political leader and his supporters at a polling station in Pattan town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Eyewitnesses said that Jammu Kashmir Peoples Conference leader Imran Reza Ansari along with his supporters barged into a polling station and tried to create disturbance. When SHO Pattan Mr Khalid Fayaz tried to intervene, Ansari and some of his supporters allegedly assaulted the police officer. Witnesses added that blood oozed out from the nose of the police officer and he suffered a fracture.

SHO Pattan, Khalid Fayaz said that he was present at a polling station at KP Payeen Hanjiveera. "Everything was normal but Imran Ansari and his supporters who appeared at the polling station tried to create disturbance. They tried to break the doors and window of the polling station and when we tried to intervene, he (Imran Ansari) and his supporters assaulted me," he said, adding that after the attack, Ansari and his supporters fled away from the spot.

Block Medical Officer Pattan Dr Toha Khan confirmed that two persons including a police officer were brought to Trauma Hospital | [More on P6](#)

Wrong Evaluation Of Paper HC Asks KU To Pay Rs 1 Lakh To Student

MAHMAD

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed Kashmir University to pay Rs 1 Lakh to a student as damages for "illegality and arbitrariness" in evaluating his English paper of B.A. 5th Semester Examination for the Session 2017- 18.

As per the student's plea, after declaration of the results, he was shown to have failed in General English Paper having secured 27 marks as against

38 pass marks. Thereafter he obtained xerox copy of his answer sheet from University and found that one of the questions of the answer sheet had not been evaluated.

The student thereafter applied for re-evaluation and was subsequently shown to have secured 40 marks. However, the University scaled down the 40 marks to 34 marks on the basis of a rule and in the

process changed the student's result for the paper from pass to fail yet again.

In response to the plea, the University admitted that the student secured 40 marks upon re-evaluation but would contend marks were slashed down to 34 marks on application of "Statute 10 of the University pertaining to the re-evaluation of answer scripts." "A bare perusal of the

....Statute would manifestly tend to show that same did not in any manner apply to the case of the petitioner(student) having regard to the issue pertaining to the paper in question, be it the unamended or amended statute, in that, the respondents (university) admittedly have applied the Statute to the case of the petitioner arbitrarily and illegally and in the process have acted unreasonably and unfairly having resulted into substantial and grave | [More on P6](#)



Srinagar Reports 535 Drug Cases, 894 Arrests Since 2019

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over the past five years, Srinagar has seen a significant rise in drug-related cases, with a total of 535 drug cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, leading to the arrest of 894 people.

The District Police Headquarters Srinagar disclosed these figures in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query filed by M.M. Shuja, a copy of which lies with the news agency—KNO.

The year-wise report of cases is as follows:

2019 saw the registration of 81 drug-related cases, resulting in the arrest of 126 individuals.

The police seized 201 grams of brown sugar, 15.835 kilograms of charas, and 4,455 bottles of psychotropic syrups.

In 2020, the number of registered cases increased to 92, with 159 arrests. Seizures included 20.4 grams of brown sugar, 19.614 kilograms of charas, and 8,526 bottles of psychotropic syrups.

In 2021, a total of 74 cases were registered, and 120 individuals were arrested. The seizures included 91.4 grams of brown sugar, 13.161 kilograms of charas, and 357 bottles of psychotropic syrups.

2022 marked a significant rise in cases with 169 registered incidents and 287 arrests. The confiscated drugs included 97.3 grams of brown sugar, 14.159



kilograms of charas, and 5,774 bottles of psychotropic syrups. In 2023, the trend continued with 107 cases and 186 arrests. The police seized 108.5 grams of

brown sugar, 11.816 kilograms of charas, and 1,361 bottles of psychotropic syrups. Up to January 2024, 12 cases have already been registered,

leading to the apprehension of 16 individuals. Seizures for this period included 16 bottles of psychotropic syrups and 510 grams of charas.

The increasing figures underscore the persistent challenge that drug trafficking poses to the region. Despite the substantial seizures and arrests, the issue remains a significant concern for local authorities and communities alike.

People have expressed a mix of relief and concern over the police efforts. Many have appreciated the rigorous actions taken by the Jammu & Kashmir Police and called for sustained and enhanced measures to curb the drug menace in the region.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
12 Zil-Qadah
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 48
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5: 23
Magrib	7:32
ISHA	9: 08

Mirwaiz Grieved Over Iranian President's Demise

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The chief cleric of Kashmir Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has expressed grief and sorrow over the helicopter crash that resulted in the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, his Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian and other officials onboard.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq described the accidental death of President Ebrahim Raisi as an irreparable

loss for the Muslim world, particularly for the nation of Iran.

In a condolence message on his behalf to the people of Kashmir, Mirwaiz assured the government of Iran and its citizens that they share their grief and sorrow during these trying times.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for the forgiveness of the deceased and for patience, courage and perseverance for the Iranian people.

Commissioner SMC Reviews Infrastructure Projects Of Civic Body

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, MAY 20: The Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed today conducted a review of infrastructure projects with a focus on enhancing public services and facilities.

The review centered on the project advancements of the De-watering Station in Shalteng, the Corporate Hall within the SMC Central Office, and the ongoing remodeling efforts at the central office premises of SMC.

During the meeting, the Commissioner stressed upon the vital role of these projects to elevate infrastructure and the services offered by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. The construction of the De-watering Station at Shalteng is a crucial step

towards tackling storm water drainage issues in the area and to minimize the risk of accumulation during the rainy season.

Moreover, the development of the Corporate Hall within the SMC Central Office is anticipated to provide a dedicated space for the Corporation's of the Municipal Corporation.

The remodeling of the central office premises aims to establish a more modern and functional workspace for SMC staff, enhancing their ability to efficiently serve the residents of Srinagar.

While expressing contentment with the progress achieved so far on these projects, the Commissioner directed for timely completion of these projects in order to ensure the prompt service delivery mechanism to the citizens of Srinagar City.

Strawberry Harvest Picks In Srinagar's Hazratbal Amid Low Yield

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar's Gasoo area in Hazratbal is abuzz with activity as the strawberry harvesting season kicked off, marking a period of vibrant agricultural activity and economic optimism for local farmers.

The lush green fields adorned with ripe, red strawberries offer a delightful sight, attracting not just locals but also visitors eager to partake in the seasonal bounty.

Farmers in the Gasoo area are not particularly optimistic this year, citing bad weather conditions that have not led to a high-quality yield.

Ali Mohammad, a seasoned strawberry farmer, shared his experiences with the adversities faced saying, "This season has been quite difficult, as the weather was not on our side, and many of our crops were affected."

"But we are doing our best with what we have. The strawberries may not be as large or plentiful, but they are still of good quality," he said.

Jibran, a local from the area, said they understand the challenges farmers have faced this year due to climate change.

Presently, the strawberry season, though marred by unfavorable weather, continues to be a vital period for the local economy.



The lush green fields adorned with ripe, red strawberries offer a delightful sight, attracting not just locals but also visitors eager to partake in the seasonal bounty.

The harvest still provides crucial employment opportunities, and the farmers' perseverance is a source of inspiration for many.

Arsalan, another farmer from the area, said strawberry farming is an important part of their economy.

He said though the yield is low this year, they are hopeful that with community support, they can still see through the season. "It's been tough, but we are resilient," he added.

Subject- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S CHILLCHASE TOUR AND TRAVELS Situated at Chandilora Tangmarg

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Shahid Ashraf Rather Parentage: Mohammad Ashraf Rather Residence: Ogmuna Kawarhama Tehsil : Kawarhama District: Baramulla Kashmir intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S CHILLCHASE TOUR AND TRAVELS Situated at Chandilora Tangmarg Kashmir under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

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

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

bmg

Subject- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Snow Tripe situated at Dhoibwan

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Hilal Ahmad Shah Parantage: Shahzad Shah Residence Heing Rajpora Tehsil Kawarhama Dist Baramulla Kashmir intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Snow Tripe situated at Dhoibwan Kashmir under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

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

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

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my PNB Metlife Insuranc policy bearing No: 23358603 as Jamsheed Ahmad Baghat S/o Ghulam Rasool Baghat while my correct name is Malik Jamsheed Ahmad S/o Ghulam Rasool Malik which needs to be corrected . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PNB Met Life Insurance Co. Ltd within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Malik Jamsheed Ahmad S/o Ghulam Rasool Malik fko R/o Baghat Mohalla Palhallan

SALE SALE SALE

For Sale: Concrete Batching Plant (Star Batcher)

- Capacity: 30 cubic meters per hour
- Make: Universal
- Condition: Excellent, ready for immediate use

For more information and pricing, **Please Contact:** +91 9796100331, +91 9419801022

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your construction capabilities with a reliable batching plant!

Media Line

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار زمین سرنگر

عنوان: درخواست از جانب محمد شعبان بٹ ولد محمد عبداللہ بٹ ساکنہ 90 فٹ روڈ آزادکالونی صورہ بہشت اجرائی لیگل ہیئر سٹیفیکیشن

اشتراک برآمد آگاہی

معاملہ عنوان، الصدر میں درخواست سائل سے کہ اس کی زچہ سیمہ ساکنہ 90 فٹ روڈ آزادکالونی صورہ مورخہ 03-02-2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اس کے حق میں لیگل ہیئر سٹیفیکیشن اجراء فرمائی جائے۔ بروے رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ متوتی کئمہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

نام	عمر	رشتہ	پیشہ
محمد شعبان بٹ	74 سال	خاندن	عمر سیدہ
ریاض احمد بٹ	45 سال	پسر	سیلز مین
منظور احمد بٹ	43 سال	پسر	سیلز مین
راشدہ پروین	48 سال	دختر	گھریو کام
سہاسیباں	36 سال	دختر	گھریو کام

قبل اسکے کہ درخواست سائل بر مذید کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو کئیٹیکیشن حذا اجراء کرنے میں کوئی مذرا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دفتر مذرا میں پیش کریں۔ مبعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی مذرا یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار media line

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 21-05-2024

An Inclusive Parliament

The dwindling presence of Muslim candidates in Indian elections, alongside a broader trend of political parties fielding fewer candidates overall, is a matter of grave concern for the community which is India's largest minority group. This decline not only reflects a systemic failure to uphold the principles of inclusivity but also raises fundamental questions about the fair representation of diverse communities in parliament.

Historically, political parties in India have played a critical role in shaping the composition of legislative bodies. However, recent trends suggest a strategic shift towards fielding fewer Muslim candidates. While this may be viewed as a tactical response to changing electoral dynamics, it comes at the expense of diversity and representation.

The declining number of Muslim candidates fielded by major political parties is particularly alarming. Muslims constitute a significant demographic group in India, yet their representation in parliament fails to mirror their proportion of the population. The underrepresentation not only marginalizes the Muslim community but also undermines the democracy.

The repercussions of this trend extend beyond symbolic representation. Inclusive decision-making processes are vital for addressing the diverse needs and concerns of all citizens. When certain communities are underrepresented, their perspectives are sidelined, leading to policies that may not adequately address their interests. Therefore, the decline in Muslim representation has profound implications for policymaking and governance in India.

Addressing the root causes of this issue requires solutions. Firstly, political parties must prioritize diversity and inclusivity in their candidate selection processes. Actively seeking out and supporting Muslim candidates is essential for ensuring their fair participation in the political arena. Parties should also adopt transparent and inclusive selection of candidates to counteract biases and systemic barriers to entry.

Civil society also has a role to play in advocating for greater diversity in politics. By raising awareness about the importance of inclusive representation and holding political parties accountable for their candidate selection processes, civil society can contribute to meaningful change.

The decline of Muslim representation in Indian politics is a symptom of broader politics of the country which has become increasingly hostile and adversarial to the community. Addressing this issue requires concerted efforts from political parties, civil society, and policymakers to ensure that all communities have a voice in the democratic process. Upholding the principles of inclusivity is not just a moral imperative but essential for the functioning of a vibrant and representative democracy.

Traditional and New-fangled Politics

Essentially, the ongoing election in Kashmir is a contest between the traditional mainstream political narrative and the new-fangled politics of the past five years



Photo by Faisal Bashir

RIYAZ WANI

“
Although it is not the Assembly election, the ongoing parliament polls are the first major electoral exercise in which the old and the new political order are face to face

Like the rest of India, the parliament election in Kashmir has not generated a wave in favour of any political party. At the same time, like the BJP at the centre, the National Conference is the favourite party in the Valley to win the majority of seats. But this initial perception has been dented by the intensifying electoral competition as the campaign progresses. The NC now barely holds on to its initial edge in the campaign. For example, in South and Central Kashmir, the PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and Waheed Parra respectively have drawn massive crowds. North Kashmir, on the other hand, has taken an interesting turn: Just as media attention was focussed on the battle royale in the constituency between former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and People's Conference chief Sajjad Lone, a wild card entry of the jailed Engineer Rashid has dramatically shifted the dynamics of the electoral race. His 23-year-old son, Abrar Rashid, has been running a high-energy campaign on his behalf and attracting large crowds, even in areas that have not traditionally been supportive of his father. All bets are off now.

Though the new political outfits like Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) are also in the fray, they haven't made much of a mark so far, more so the latter. And this is telling. Essentially, the ongoing election in Kashmir is a contest between the traditional mainstream political narrative and the new-fangled politics of the past five years.

The old order is represented by the National Conference and the PDP as well as the Congress party, which is a national party though. The BJP's rise in the former state

is a post 2015 phenomenon when for the first time it won 25 of 37 seats from Jammu division in the then Assembly elections. The BJP subsequently formed a coalition government with the PDP which secured 28 seats.

The new order is represented by the Apni Party led by the businessman-turned politician Altaf Bukhari, the DPAP headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad and the People's Conference (PC) of Sajad Lone. Although the PC is an old party, its new avatar owes itself to the political restructuring of the Valley following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

Although it is not the Assembly election, the ongoing parliament polls are the first major electoral exercise in which the old and the new political order are face to face. And at the heart of this contest are the two constituencies of Anantnag in South Kashmir where the PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti is the candidate and the North Kashmir's Kupwara constituency from where the NC has fielded Omar Abdullah. While Mehbooba's main opponent is the NC's Mian Altaf, that of Omar is the PC leader Sajad Lone. And, of course, Rashid's entry has changed the game in Kupwara.

The outcome in these two constituencies will in a limited way be a bellwether for the future Assembly elections. More so in the Kupwara parliamentary constituency where an unlikely win for Lone - or for that matter for Rashid - in a free and fair election would not only be seen as a massive upset but would give a major leg up to either party, otherwise seen as close to the BJP.

Though the NC looks apparently strong and Mehbooba remains politically very much relevant, the parties have a work on hand to retain their central-

ity. This has become critical after the alliances they were a part of have now decisively come undone. The once-united opposition in the region under the umbrella of INDIA finds itself fractured and scrambling to maintain relevance. This fragmentation, coupled with the BJP's strategic maneuvering, presents a formidable advantage for the saffron party.

Besides, the unraveling of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), reflects the deep-seated divisions within the opposition ranks. Originally formed with the lofty goal of advocating for the restoration of Article 370, the PAGD has devolved into little more than a memory, with its constituent parties failing to even convene, let alone pursue their shared objectives. The NC and the PDP, both integral members of the PAGD, have begun charting independent courses driven by their own political calculations - more so, the NC which was the first to announce candidates for the three parliamentary seats in the Valley.

However, in the evolving political discourse in the Valley, either the PAGD or the INDIA Alliance is of little relevance. What is important is the clash of two narratives - traditional and the new one. The outcome will examine, among other factors, whether the alternative narrative has resonated in Kashmir. Or to put it differently, whether it poses any challenge to established political narratives. As of now, it doesn't seem to be exactly the case.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer*



Popular Choices in Investing

Did You Know?

Two popular choices for investing in the stock market are mutual funds and shares

When it comes to investing money in the Indian stock market, there are a plethora of options available to individuals. Two popular choices for investors are mutual funds and shares. Both of these investment options have their own set of advantages and disadvantages, making it essential for investors to carefully evaluate their financial goals and risk tolerance before making a decision.

Mutual funds are an investment vehicle where funds are pooled together from multiple investors to invest in a diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds, or other securities. Mutual funds are managed by professional fund managers who make investment decisions on behalf of the investors. One of the key advantages of investing in mutual funds is diversification, as investors gain exposure to a wide range of securities, reducing the risk of loss due to the poor performance of a single stock.

On the other hand, investing in shares involves buying individual company stocks. When buying shares, investors have the opportunity to directly own a portion of a company, allowing them to participate in the company's profits through dividends and capital appreciation. Unlike mutual funds, investing in shares requires investors to perform their own due diligence and research on individual companies before making an investment decision. While investing in shares can potentially offer higher returns than mutual funds, there is also a greater risk involved due to the lack of diversification.

When it comes to choosing between investing in mutual funds or shares in the Indian stock market, there are several factors that investors should consider. Firstly, investors should assess their risk tolerance and investment goals. Investors with a higher risk tolerance and a long-term investment horizon may opt for investing in shares, as they have the potential to generate higher returns over time. On the other hand, investors with a lower risk tolerance may prefer the diversification and professional management offered by mutual funds.

Additionally, investors should consider the past performance and liquidity, exit options, associated with both mutual funds and shares. Mutual funds typically charge management fees and expenses, which is very nominal to investors' as compared to insurance over time. On the other hand, investing in shares involves brokerage fees and other transaction costs that investors should factor in when making an investment decision, however, quality trusted advisory matters.

In conclusion, the choice between investing in mutual funds or shares in the Indian stock market ultimately depends on individual investors' financial goals, risk tolerance, and investment horizon. Both mutual funds and shares offer unique advantages and disadvantages, and investors should carefully evaluate their options before making an investment decision. By conducting thorough research and seeking advice from financial professionals, investors can make informed decisions that align with their investment objectives.

The author is an investor and founder at MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. He can be reached at: Irshad@bp.Sharekhan.com



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Elections: Bedrock of Democracy

Elections are the bedrock of democracy, granting citizens the vital privilege to elect their representatives. It could also be termed as the backbone of democracy, as this is the

way through which the citizen of a country directly participate in framing the government which works for their welfare.

However, this right is not passive; it is a duty, especially incumbent

upon the youth, to actively engage in the electoral process. Historically, young people have spearheaded societal change, and their involvement in elections is crucial. Strengthening democracy requires the active

participation of youth at every stage, from voter registration to grassroots campaigning.

Jubel D'Cruz

The Show-off Culture in Kashmiri Society

Umair Ali Wani

Today Kashmiri society finds itself ensnared in a many societal dilemmas, more prevalent being the "show-off" culture. This phenomenon prioritizes social validation over personal integrity. Prior to the advent of social media, the influence of ostentation was confined to local neighborhoods. However, in recent years, it is being reverberated across every nook and corner of Kashmir, due to expansion of social networking websites. This novel trend not only affects the flamboyant ones but also has a significant impact on those seeing it.

This societal malaise manifests prominently the institution of marriage. Our marriage here has two significant ceremonies: the Nikah followed by the Walima, but sadly, both these ceremonies manifest utter showiness and unwanted exhibition of financial standing. Mahr, as an amount, validates Nikah between partners and gives a sense of commitment and protection to the bride. However, it has devolved into a social symbol with higher Mahr being equated to higher social standing, albeit, paying of Mehr has no limits. I would like to clarify that Islam does not prohibit a bride from demanding a Mahr. Even Umar-ibn-Al-Khattab (RA) was guided by a woman about fixation of Mahr. However, given the present conditions of our society, I feel if our prophet (PBUH) had been alive at that time, he might have considered the suggestion, given the status of Umar-ibn-al-Khattab. Despite following the teachings of Surah-Al-Nisa by giving Mahr more than what a groom can afford, we often find ourselves falling into the sin of Riyah as our intentions regarding Mahr do not align with the teachings of Islam.

I remember a friend of mine who intended to marry a girl of his choice. The girl insisted that their family had a tradition of receiving more than 20 gold coins (Poand in Kashmiri) in Mahr, and did not consider the meager in-



come of to-be-groom. To meet the bride's demand, the groom's family had to resort to taking a loan from the bank. Only to show-off to the bride's neighbors that her family was giving their daughter to a financially well off family. It cost the groom's father his entire life savings.

The problem does not end with Mahr; it extends to Jaheez (Dowry) as well. While living in various parts of Srinagar, I saw how discussions solely revolved around the flamboyance of the jewelry in the neighborhood. One of our landlords, despite being concerned about his daughter's education, prioritized accumulating items for his daughter's Jaheez which was supposed to be given after a period of 15 years!

While I may not agree with all the aspects of American social norms, I admire the conscientiousness of their youth. For instance, I have a classmate who, despite being supported by a departmental assistantship, chooses to work as a chef in a local restaurant to meet his other needs. He might be an assistant professor in a few years, but he never thought that any kind of job will harm his status

They had even begun collecting gold coins only to avoid public humiliation and to match the

current social aura. Similarly, the Walima, although Sunnah in Islam, is an

articulation of happiness and joy has now turned into a comprehensive public display of financial standing in our society. Families now gauge their social standing by the amount and diversity of meat served as well as by the extravagance of their decorations and other forms of wastefulness. What is even more distressing is the emerging trend in several parts of Kashmir where hosts provide a feast without serving takeaway bags, boasting about the wastage of tons of quantity of meat, although this might have been more useful with less quantity of feasts served.

Furthermore, this societal pressure has had a significant impact on the employment

choices of our youth with many preferring parental support over menial jobs. Our society often appreciates young adults engaged in illicit money-making activities like betting on apps like Dream11 over working in honest jobs. Many parents feel ashamed if their child is seen working in a small shop to support the family, simply because they cannot boast to their neighbors about their child's prestigious job. Unfortunately, we prioritize our social media status like that of WhatsApp and Instagram over fundamental human values, leading to a deep societal crisis. Comparing the youth of Kashmir to those in the USA highlights what distinguishes a developed nation. While I may not agree with all the aspects of American social norms, I admire the conscientiousness of their youth. For instance, I have a classmate who, despite being supported by a departmental assistantship, chooses to work as a chef in a local restaurant to meet his other needs. He might be an assistant professor in a few years, but he never thought that any kind of job will harm his status. This exemplifies the work ethics of adults in the US, where individuals are willing to take on various jobs to sustain themselves. In contrast, during my unfortunate years of bachelor's degree, I met a PhD scholar who felt offended when assigned a task typically done by a clerk as it did not align in societal expectations. Sadly, this narrative is not unique, it reflects the experiences of many in Kashmir. The only thing that still makes us unique is the social fabric, although that is also diminishing alarmingly.

In conclusion, it is essential for everyone in our society to reassess the importance placed on social validation versus individual values. This introspection is crucial for the societal crisis we currently face.

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

Dental Secrets

Samer Zaky

At an auction in England in 2011, one of John Lennon's teeth sold for just over US\$31,000.

How much are your teeth worth?

Teeth are amazing little miracles. They light up our smiles, we use them to speak and we chew with them more than 600 times at every meal.

Yet, in a society where 1 out of 5 Americans ages 75 and up live without their teeth, many people may not realize that teeth are designed to stay with us for a lifetime.

I'm a dentist and an assistant professor spanning clinical dentistry and craniofacial regeneration research. Researchers like me are still deepening our understanding of tooth development, with the ultimate goal of serving patients with on-demand regrown ones.

In the process, I have developed reverence for natural teeth and for the complex beauty of these biological and mechanical masterpieces.

Designed for lifelong function

The secret of teeth longevity lies in their durability as well as in how they are anchored to the jaw – picture a hammer and its hand grip. For each tooth, durability and anchorage are functions of the complex interface between six different tissues; each alone is a biological marvel.

For anchorage, the cementum, ligament and bone grip the tooth at its root portion that is buried under the gum. The ligament, a soft tissue that

is about 0.2 millimeters wide (about the diameter of four hairs), attaches the cementum of the root on one end to the bone of the jaw on the other end. It serves to anchor the tooth as well as to cushion its movement during chewing.

For durability, however, the secret lies in the enamel, dentin and pulp – our focus in this discussion.

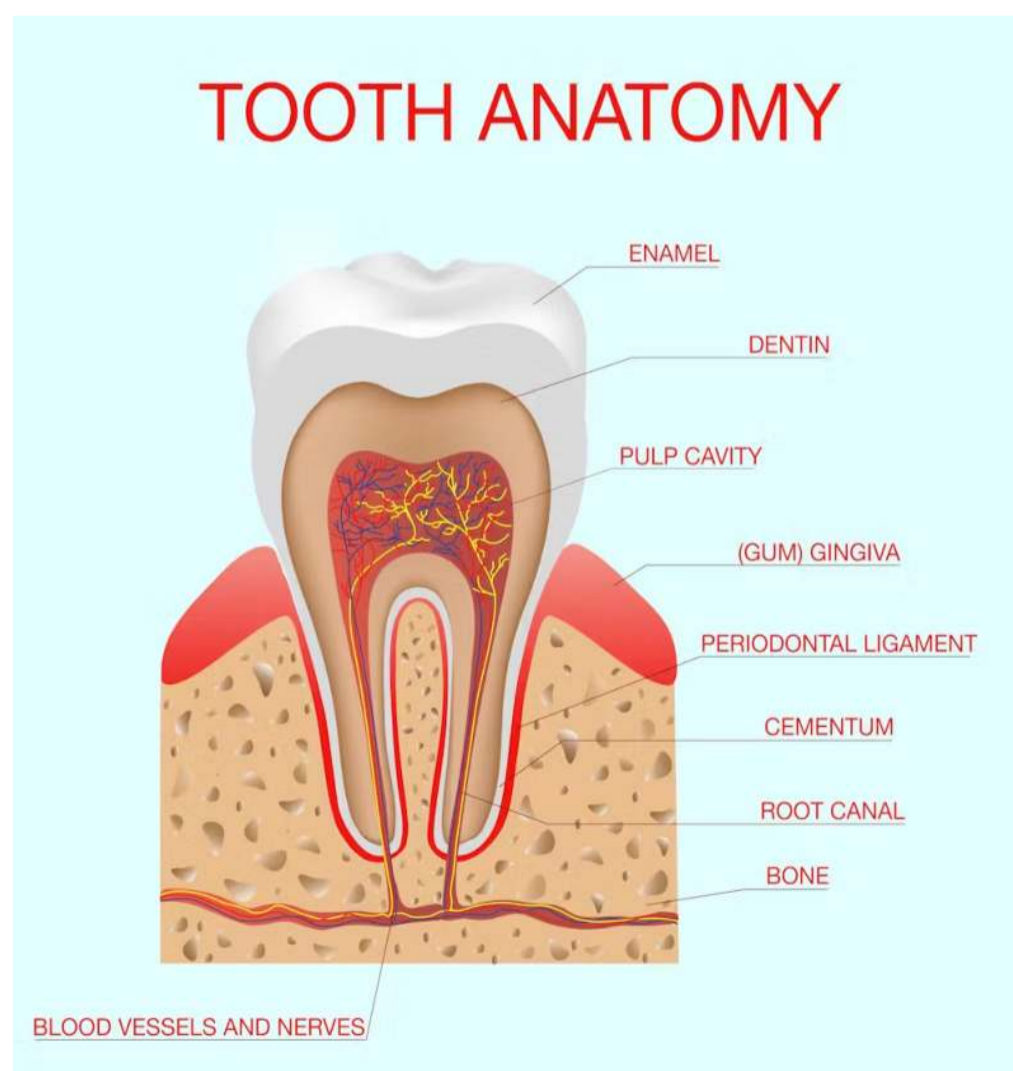
Enamel – the shield

The enamel is the protective shell that covers the visible part of the tooth above the gum. Thanks to its high mineral content, enamel is the hardest tissue in the body. It needs to be, since it acts as a shield against the constant impact of chewing.

Enamel does not contain cells, blood vessels or nerves, so it is nonliving and non-sensitive. Enamel is also non-regenerating. Once destroyed by decay or broken by misuse such as ice chewing, nail biting or bottle opening – or touched by the dental drill – that part of our priceless enamel is gone for good.

Because it interfaces with a germ-laden world, the enamel is also where decay starts. When acid-generating bacteria accumulate on unbrushed or poorly brushed teeth, they readily dissolve the minerals in the enamel.

Like hair or fingernails, the non-innervated enamel is not sensitive. The decay advances through the 2.5-millimeter thick (tenth of an inch) layer of enamel painlessly. When caught at that phase during a dental checkup visit, the dentist can treat the decay with a



relatively conservative filling that hardly compromises the tooth's structural integrity.

Because of its high mineral content, enamel is stiff. Its lifelong support is provided by the more resilient infrastructure – the dentin.

Dentin and pulp – body and heart

With less mineral content than enamel, dentin is the resilient body of the tooth. It is a living tissue formed of parallel tiny tubes housing fluid and cellular extensions. Both originate from the pulp.

The pulp is the tooth's soft tissue core. Vastly rich in cells, blood vessels and nerves, it is the life source of the tooth – its heart – and the key to its longevity.

Like smoke detectors communicating with a remote fire station, the cellular exten-

sions within the dentin sense decay as soon as it breaks through the nonsensitive layer of enamel into dentin. Once the extensions communicate the danger signal to the pulp, our tooth sensitivity alarm goes off: The tooth heart is in flames.

The inflamed pulp initiates two protective actions. The first is to secrete an additional layer of dentin to delay the approaching attack. The second is toothache, a call to visit the dentist.

The earlier the visit, the less the drilling and the smaller the filling. If caught in time, most of the tooth's natural tissues will be preserved and the pulp will likely regain its healthy state. If caught too late, the pulp slowly dies out.

Without its heart, a non-living tooth has no defense against further decay invasion. Without a hydration source, a dried-out dentin will sooner or later break under the forces of constant chewing. Besides, a tooth that has already lost a significant portion of its natural structure to decay, cavity preparation or root canal instrumentation becomes weak, with limited longevity.

In other words, the tooth is never the same without its heart. Pulpless, the tooth loses its womb-to-tomb endurance and mother nature's lifelong warranty.

The tooth coming together

More complex – and more precious – than a pearl within an oyster, the formation of a tooth within our jawbone involves layered mineral depo-

sition. As tooth development progresses in a process of ultimate cellular engineering, the cells of the six aforementioned tissues – enamel, dentin, pulp, cementum, ligament and bone – multiply, specialize and mineralize synchronously with each other to form uniquely interlocking interfaces: enamel to dentin, dentin to pulp, cementum to dentin and cementum to ligament to bone.

In a process akin to 3D printing, the tooth crown grows vertically to full formation. Simultaneously, the root continues its elongation to eventually launch off the crown from within the bone across the gum to appear in the mouth – the event known as teething. It is about that time, around 12 years of age, that our set of adult teeth is complete. These pearls are set to endure a lifetime and are undoubtedly worth preserving.

Save your teeth, visit the dentist

Tooth decay, the most prevalent disease in humans, is both predictable and preventable. The earlier it is caught, the more the tooth integrity can be preserved. Since the process starts painlessly, it is imperative to visit the dentist regularly to keep those insidious germs in check.

During your checkup visit, the dental professional will clean your teeth and check for early decay. If you are diligent with your daily preventive measures, the good news for you will be no news – enough to make anyone smile.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Star Sports Breaks Silence Over Rohit Sharma's 'Breaching' Privacy Accusation

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: IPL broadcaster Star Sports on Monday denied airing the audio of any personal conversation involving Rohit Sharma after the Indian captain accused the channel of "breaching" his privacy despite his requests to stop the recording.

A video shared by Kolkata Knight Riders, involving Rohit and KKR assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, in which the former was purportedly seen contemplating his future at the Mumbai Indians, had gone viral on May 11.

KKR subsequently deleted the video from its social media pages.

On May 16, Rohit was seen having a chat with Dhawal Kulkarni ahead of MI's fixture against Lucknow Super Giants. The opener requested the broadcaster to turn off the audio when he noticed that the cameras were once again directed towards him.



charge in a statement.

"The clip, taken during a training session on May 16 at Wankhede stadium, for which Star Sports had authorised access, momentarily showed the senior player in conversation with his friends on the side-

lines. No audio from this conversation was either recorded or broadcast.

"The clip, which only showed the senior player requesting for the audio of his conversation to not be recorded, got featured in Star Sports' live coverage of pre-match preparations and lacked editorial relevance beyond this," the channel stated.

Rohit had called for restraint while recording on-field moments.

"The need to get exclusive content and focused only on views and engagement will one day break the trust between the fans, cricketers and cricket. Let better sense prevail," Rohit said on Sunday. The channel said it was committed to protecting players' privacy.

"Respect for players' privacy while bringing fans, moments of intense action and preparations, sits at the core of this ethos, which the broadcaster remains committed to," it stated.

Short TAKES

BCCI Launches State-Of-Art Indoor Cricket Academies In North-East



The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) on Monday laid the foundation stone for indoor cricket training academies in six North-Eastern states, with the sole emphasis on helping budding cricketers from the region. The indoor cricket academies will serve players from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim and will be based in Shillong, Itanagar, Kohima, Aizawl, Imphal and Gangtok.

Meanwhile, the BCCI is already in the process of developing a new National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru with expanded area and facilities.

India's Mixed 4x400 Relay Team Clinches Gold At Asian Relay C'ships

India's mixed 4x400 relay team set a national record while winning the gold medal at the inaugural edition of Asian Relay Championships here on Monday but missed the target of entering the Paris Olympics qualification bracket.

The quartet of Mohammed Ajmal, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes 14.12 seconds to win the race. The earlier national record of 3:14.34 was clocked by the Indian team while winning silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year.

Gary Kirsten Joins Pakistan Team Ahead Of England T20I Series

Pakistan's newly appointed head coach, Gary Kirsten joined the 'Men in Green' in Leeds ahead of their upcoming four-match T20I series against England. Team manager Wahab Riaz, captain Babar Azam and assistant coach Azhar Mahmood welcomed the new head coach.

Kirsten was also presented with a team jersey after he linked up with the team. Kirsten joined the team after his stint with the Indian Premier League (IPL) outfit Gujarat Titans ended.

Brazil Replaces Injured Goalkeeper Ederson In Copa America Squad

Brazil coach Dorival Júnior has replaced injured goalkeeper Ederson with Sao Paulo's Rafael in his Copa America squad. Manchester City's Ederson has a broken right eye socket.

Júnior, who took over as the national team's coach in January, already has Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson and Athletic Paranaense's Bento in the squad.

Juventud defender Bremer, Atlanta midfielder Ederson and Porto forward Pepe were added to the squad on Sunday.

Ten Hag Says Man Utd 'Must Do Everything' To Win FA Cup

Erik ten Hag says Manchester United must "do everything" to reward the loyalty of the "best fans in the world" by winning the FA Cup following their worst finish to a Premier League season.

Although United won 2-0 at Brighton on Sunday's final day of the campaign, that was only good enough for eighth place.

Hopes of qualifying for Europe next season now rest on United beating Manchester City in next weekend's FA Cup final.

IPL 2024: Salt-Less KKR Take On SRH In Power-Hitting Slugfest



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: High-flying Kolkata Knight Riders and an unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad, teams that have built their IPL 2024 campaign on power-hitting, will look to outmuscle each other in Qualifier 1 here on Tuesday.

If KKR were the first team to make it to IPL playoffs this year, SRH gave themselves a huge boost by inflicting a four-wicket loss on Punjab Kings on Sunday to eventually finish second with 17 points, ahead of Rajasthan Royals.

While the two top teams from the 70-match league round have enjoyed some time off courtesy incessant rains during their respective clashes over last 10 days, the lack of turnaround time to compete in a high-intensity playoff game will also pose a unique challenge.

KKR and SRH will get only a day's time to traverse thousands of kilometres and get here for the first half of the playoffs as they both featured on the final day of the league round on Sunday.

SRH would feel they have hit their strides following a comprehensive win over PBKS and having

also got recent game-time, which isn't the case for KKR whose last complete game was on May 11.

Shreyas Iyer's KKR had won four games on the trot before rains washed away their last two league games and the two-time winners.

Table-toppers KKR (19 points) will also have to fill in the huge void at the top with their second-highest run-scorer and wicketkeeper Phil Salt (435 runs) leaving the camp for national duties with England ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Salt had forged a devastating partnership with Sunil Narine (461) at the top and KKR were immensely benefited by their ultra-aggressive approach with the bat.

In many ways, SRH match KKR's firepower on paper and that is what adds more to the lure of this contest.

Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma have both got their runs at a strike rate exceeding 200 while inspiring their side to rewrite a few records.

Australian southpaw Head has in many ways redefined aggressiveness with the bat while also remaining successful (533 runs with one century and four fifties).

YSS Hosts Zonal Level Competitions In Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports organized diverse Inter School Zonal Level sports competitions across various sports zones of district Kulgam on Monday.

Sports Zone Devsar conducted Inter School Zonal Level competition in the discipline of Kabaddi for under-17 girls at Sports Stadium Devsar under the banner of "Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan." More than 60 student players participated in the event from various educational institutions of Sports Zone Devsar.

The event was organised by Zonal Physical Education Office Devsar under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kulgam.

Meanwhile, in sports zone Qaimoh, the incharge ZPEO Qaimoh Zahoor Ahmad Mantoo monitored the event.

In another sports zone, H.C.



ball, Handball and Kabaddi for boys under-17 categories were organised at Indoor Stadium Khudwani and open play field Wanpora. More than 100 students participated in the event from various institutions of Qaimoh. The incharge ZPEO Qaimoh Zahoor Ahmad Mantoo monitored the event.

Gam, DYSS conducted Inter School Zonal Level competitions in the disciplines of Handball and Football for Girls under-17 categories. More than 150 students participated in this event from various institutions of H.C. Gam. The event was organised by zonal physical education office H.C.Gam under the supervision of DYSSO Kulgam.

DPS Sangam Lifts Inter School Football Title

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Delhi Public School Sangam lifted the title of Inter School Zonal Level Football Tournament 2024 by defeating BMS HP Tawaila on Monday here at Sports Ground DPS Sangam here.

The tournament was organised by Zonal Physical Education Officer Bijbehara under the banner of SVEEP programme 2024. In the final match DPS Sangam scored 2 goals against BMS HP Tawaila and won the match 2-0.

Four matches were played on Monday, which included



one quarterfinal match, two semifinals and a final match. In these matches, 80 football players participated. Riyan and Ehan were declared as best players of the tournament who scored goals consistently in the

tournament. In the post match presentation, Activity Incharge DYSSO Anantnag Mohammad Abbas Dar was the chief guest, who distributed trophies and certificates among the players of both teams.

Manchester City Make Case To Be Ranked As England's Greatest-Ever Team

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester City strengthened their case to be ranked as English football's greatest-ever team by winning the Premier League title for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year on Sunday.

No side has ever enjoyed the stranglehold over the English top flight that City have held during Pep Guardiola's glorious reign as manager.

On top of six Premier League titles, in the past seven years City have been crowned world and European champions for the first time in the club's history, won two FA Cups and lifted four League Cups.

Another FA Cup triumph could come next weekend when they are favourites to beat Manchester United in the Wembley showpiece for the second straight season.

Dominance over United is especially sweet for generations of City fans who had to live in the shadow of their neighbours. Last season, Guardiola's men became only the second club to win the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup in the same season -- matching United's vintage group of 1998/99.

That was part of a run of seven Premier League titles in nine

years for United under Alex Ferguson.

Liverpool's domination in the 1970s and 1980s included 10 league titles in 15 seasons and four European Cups.

Arsenal went through the entire 2003/04 league season without defeat as Arsene Wenger's title-winning "Invincibles" staked their claim to be regarded as the best ever.

Yet the scale of City's command over their rivals, despite the depth of resources in the world's richest league, has surpassed even the feats achieved by United, Liverpool and Arsenal in their glory years.

City are on a 35-match unbeaten run in all competitions from open play, setting a record in the Premier League era.

Their 3-1 victory over West Ham to seal the title on Sunday took the champions past 90 points for the fourth time in seven seasons -- a mark United only managed twice in Ferguson's entire Old Trafford reign in a 38-game season.

"I think to win the Premier League four times, no team has ever done it before, so to do it means we are up there," said City midfielder Phil Foden on the debate over which side is England's greatest.

In past seasons, City have



been pushed hard by Liverpool, who interrupted their dynastic spell by winning the 2019/20 title, while Arsenal finished just two points behind the champions this season.

RELENTLESS CITY
Liverpool racked up 97 points in 2018/19 and 92 points two years ago but still missed out on the title due to City's relentlessness.

This time a club-record 28

wins in a season and 89 points was not enough for Arsenal's first title in 20 years.

"In the beginning of the season, we didn't think about it," said Guardiola, speaking last

week about the possibility of winning four in a row.

"But then we were in February, March and April, we were still there (in the title race). After that, it ignites something in

all our heads.

"No team has done it. That shows how hard it is. Liverpool in the 1980s, Alex Ferguson's United in the 1990s, Chelsea with (Roman) Abramovich and Jose (Mourinho), Arsenal with (Arsene) Wenger didn't do it."

City have been showered with praise for their performances on the pitch, but the plaudits come with caveats.

In a Premier League season in which Everton and Nottingham Forest were docked points for breaches of financial rules, a case against City over 115 charges has rumbled on for 15 months without resolution.

City strongly deny any wrongdoing, but face accusations of failing to provide accurate financial information between 2009 and 2018 and not cooperating with the Premier League's investigation.

The source of the club's wealth since a takeover by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour, which transformed City's fortunes on and off the pitch, has also dampened the enthusiasm of many for their astonishing success.

"I don't know," said Guardiola on whether his side get the credit they deserve for their historic feats. "We know how good we have been." (AFP)