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**Intensifying Heat Wave** 

## Will J&K Break **All-Time Highs** This Week?



**Agencies** 

**Srinagar:** The Kashmir valley including some parts of Jammu are simmering as the heat wave intensified across Jammu and Kashmir while the weatherman here has predicted more hot and dry weather conditions for

Capital Srinagar recorded the

hottest day of the season at 31.6 degree Celsius.

As per the details, almost all the stations across Kashmir including Srinagar, Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Kokernag and Gulmarg have recorded the heat wave.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled at 31.6 degree Celsius while the departure | More on P6

#### **Advisory Issued For Farmers**

mid rising temperatures in Jammu and Kashmir, the Agrometeorological division of the meteorological department has issued advisories for the farmers. The Agro division asked farmers to go for nursery sowing of early

transplanted rice varieties. For Rice farmers, nursery sowing Farmers may go for nursery sowing of early | More on P6

J&K Listed **Under 'Cool Summers** Of India' Campaign

ith heatwave prevailing in almost all states of India, the Centre is currently promoting Jammu and Kashmir under its 'Cool Summers of India' campaign. Under the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign, the ministry has, in consultation with | More on P



42 degrees, is expected to cross 44 degrees in coming days, probably by May 27-28."

#### CUSTODIAN LAND ENCROACHMENT

## No Intimation Or Notice **Received: Mirwaiz**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: A day after news surfaced regarding an FIR filed by the anti-graft body of Jammu and Kashmir against Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and six others in connection with a land allotment case, the Hurriyat leader has denied the claims.

In a statement, Mirwaiz Manzil Nigeen said the attempt to "malign and harass" is clear from the threat of eviction, when he has received no intimation or notice on this matter from the ACB.

"It is part of the same vehement print, electronic and social media propaganda carried out against the Mirwaiz in 2018 when multiple properties including the properties of Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Anjuman Nusratul Islam, Darul ul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil were all attributed to him and later all proved to be false and baseless," the statement said.

"Such things will not cow Mirwaiz down," it said.

"The fact of the matter is that no property at present - house or land - belongs to Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in Nigeen. The residential land and house where he lives in Nigeen was purchased and built upon by his father Mirwaiz Molvi Mohammad Faroog in 1973, the same year Mirwaiz Umar was born. Its boundary walls are the same since that year," the statement said.

From 1990 till today, the Mirwaiz had no | More on P6

# Last Phase Of LS Polls: All Eyes Now On Anantnag-Rajouri Seat

#### Over 18 Lakh **Voters Weigh 20 Candidates**

**Press Trust Of India** 

Anantnag: Polling in four of the five parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir having ended peacefully, the focus has now shifted to the reshaped Anantnag-Rajouri constituency which witnessed four terror attacks in the last 30 days.

The constituency spread on either side of the mighty Pir Panjal was originally scheduled to go to polls on May 7 but it was deferred to May

25 due to adverse weather conditions on the request of several parties, including the BJP, Apni party and the DPAP. The parties also cited

the closure of the Mughal road - an alternative link connecting Jammu with Kashmir.

O v e 18.30 lakh eligible voters, includ-ing 8.99 lakh women and over 81,000 firsttimers, will decide the fate of 20 contestants, including former chief

minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, in the fray for the prestigious seat. The Anantnag-Rajouri con-

stituency was reshaped on the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission in 2022, excluding Pulwama and some segments of Shopian and bringing in

> Poonch districts. Mehbooba faces a tough challenge from National

most of Rajouri and

Conference candidate and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf and the

Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, who has the BJP's backing.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader Mohamad Saleem Parray and 10 Independents are also in the fray.

Although the terror attacks left three people, including an Indian Air Force (IAF) corporal and a former sarpanch of the BJP, dead and several more injured, campaigning by political parties and individual contestants continued without any disruption.

campaigning The now gathered steam especially after the Srinagar and Baramulla Lok Sabha seats witnessed record-breaking turnout on I More on P6

**Testing Time For INDIA Bloc** 

s the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir are entering in the last priase and Albanians of Rajouri seat will be going for polls on May 25, are entering in the last phase and Anantnagthis will be a testing time for both the partners of

INDIA bloc, National Conference and Congress party to get popular support. Apart from the two parliamentary constituencies of Jammu region. Udhampur and Jammu, the redesigned Anantnag-Rajouri | More on P6 'STOP DIVISIVE **CAMPAIGN'** 

### **EC Pulls Up BJP, Congress**

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Wednesday asked the BJP and the Congress to desist from campaigning along caste, community, language, and religious lines, asserting that India' socio-cultural milieu cannot be made a casualty to elections.

Nearly a month after it issued notice to BJP president J P Nadda on opposition charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a divisive speech in Raiasthan's Banswara, the poll watchdog rejected his defence and asked him and his party's star campaigners to desist from campaigning on religious and communal lines.

It also asked the BJP to stop campaign speeches that may divide society.

Along with Nadda, the EC had issued a similar notice to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asking him to respond to the complaints filed by the BJP against him and the main opposition party's | More on P6

## PM Modi Enabled Opposition Rallies In Kashmir: Singh

Says Kashmir Has Changed After Abrogation Of Art 370

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said a lot has changed on the ground in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing in development to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

J-K has seen tremendous development after the removal of the special status granted to it under Article 370, he said.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said the biggest testament of the return of normalcy and peace is the unusual tourist flow in Kashmir Valley. Nearly 2.5 crore tourists visited last year and even this season the illey is packed with tourists



from within and outside the country, and even film shooting has resumed there, he said.

"A lot has changed on the ground in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. Prime Minister Modi has brought in tremendous development in the

Union territory," he told PTI here. The minister said there has

been substantial voter turnout in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls held in four out of the total of five seats in J-K.

"It is Prime Minister Modi who created conducive conditions for the opposition parties to hold election rallies in the Kashmir valley, which was something unimaginable till a few years ago," said Singh, a sitting Lok Sabha member seeking re-election from Udhampur constituency in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that for the last several decades even the National Conference and PDP leaders were coming out for each of the election campaigns surrounded by a huge security cover around them.

MEHBOOBA'S VEILED JABS

## **Accuses 'BJP-Backed' Bukhari Of Hawala Ties**

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The BJP is supporting a party which has been involved in Hawala money pumped in from Pakistan to fund militancy in Kashmir, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said on Wednesday, in a veiled attack on Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari.

Bukhari, a former PDP leader, was expelled from the party in January 2019. His Apni Party has fielded Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas parliamentary constituency against Mehbooba and National Conference leader Mian Altaf.

from the Anantnag-Rajouri

The seat goes to polls on May 25 in the sixth round of the seven-phase general elections and, besides them, there are 17 others in the fray. "The first-of-its-kind at-

tack on tourists in Pahalgam (on Saturday night that left a tourist couple from Rajasthan injured) should be investigated | More on P6

Such Allegations **Not In Good Taste: BJP** 

ammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday hit out at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for her "Hawala money from Pakistan" barb at the Apni Party, saying it is | More on P6

**ILLEGAL APPROVAL OF IT PARK** 

## **ACB Registers FIR Against** Rahim Rather's Son

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday registered an FIR against Hilal Rather, son of former Jammu and Kashmir minister Abdul Rahim Rather, in connection with alleged irregularities in granting permission for the construction of an IT park in

A former vice chairman and former Chief Town Planner (CTP) of the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) have also been booked in the case.

The CBI had previously filed a charge sheet against Hilal Rather in 2020 in Rs 177-crore bank 'scam' in Jammu.

The ACB's case, filed under the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B RPC (criminal conspiracy), names the officers and officials of the enforcement wing, the former Chief Town Planner, the former Vice Chairman of the JDA, and beneficiary Hilal Ahmad Rather, an ACB spokesman said.

The case was the result of an investigation into allegations that the JDA had unlawfully approved an IT Park's construction for Rather using a backdated site plan for a threestory building, despite knowing there | More on P6

**BISHKEK MOB VIOLENCE** 

## Kashmiri Students In Kyrgyzstan **Desperate To Return Home**

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Locked inside their college hostels in Kyrgyzstan since last week, in the aftermath of mob violence in Bishkek against foreign students, the panicstricken Kashmiri students have urged the Union Foreign Ministry to facilitate their safe return to India.

According to reports, certain hostels housing students from medical universities in Bishkek, as well as private residences accommodating international students have been subject to attacks. These hostels primarily cater to students from India, Pakistan,



Four Pakistani students were allegedly killed and as many Indians critically

injured after Kyrgyz locals barged inside a dormitory of a medical college in Bishkek, the capital city | More on P6

#### **LG Greets People On Buddha Purnima**

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the eve of Buddha Purnima.

In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, I convey my hearty greetings and good wishes to all.'

He added that Lord Buddha guided humanity on the path of peace, non-violence, selflessservice and virtuous living. His eternal message continues to guide us on the path of truth, compassion and universal

brotherhood. "May Buddha Purnima usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for everyone."

## Iran's Supreme Leader Leads Prayers At Raisi Funeral

Tehran: Crowds packed the streets of Tehran and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, performed funeral prayers on Wednesday for the country's president, with senior officials from Hamas and Hezbollah joining the commemorations.

"Oh Allah, we didn't see anything but good from him," Avatollah Khamenei said in the standard prayer for the dead in

**Vice President Attends Iran President Raisi's Funeral, Pays Tribute** 



Iran's acting president, Mohammad Mokhber, stood nearby among a sea of mourners, and openly wept during the service.

People then carried the coffins out on their shoulders, with chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel".

The millions-strong procession started from the University of Tehran to the iconic Azadi Square. In attendance were top lead-

ers of Iran's military and paramilitary | More on P6

acting President Mohammad Mokhber here and conveyed

condolences over the tragic demise of President Ebrahim

Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a helicop-

ter crash. Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is leading the Indian delegation

at the official funeral ceremony, paid | More on P6

The 77th session of the

### India To Showcase 'Ayushman Bharat' At World Health Assembly

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: India will highlight its universal coverage through Ayushman Bharat, public health emergency preparedness and digital health transformations in the country at the World Health Assembly to be held in Geneva from May 27, official sources said on Wednesday.

It will also showcase the Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube -- an indigenous portable hospital -equipped with several innovative tools designed to enhance disaster response and medical support at the annual event organized by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Health Assembly

(WHA) will be held in Geneva from May 27 to June 1. Indian delegation from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is being led by Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra.

Representatives from 194 countries will participate in the event to structure the global health ecosystem. The theme for this year's WHA is "All for Health, Health for All".

The WHA comprises sessions in three main committees -- Plenary, Committee A and Committee B. The plenary session will open the Health Assembly and will be attended by health ministers/heads of delegation of 194 nations, sources said.

Committee A will be chaired by India and facilitate discussion on | More on P6

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board**

CPO Chowk, Panjthirthi, Jammu/Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Final Selection List for the posts of Panchayat Secretary, under Item No. 059 (District Cadre, Anantnag), Item No. 060 (District Cadre, Kulgam), Item No. 061 (District Cadre, Pulwama), Item No. 062 (District Cadre, Shopian), Item No. 063 (District Cadre, Bandipora), Item No. 064 (District Cadre, Bandipora), Item No. 065 (District Cadre, Ganderbal), Item No. 066 (District Cadre, Budgam), Item No. 067 (District Cadre, Kupwara), Item No. 068 (District Cadre, Jammu), Item No. 069 (District Cadre, Samba), Item No. 070 (District Cadre, Kathua), Item No. 071 (District Cadre, Udhampur), Item No. 072 (District Cadre, Reasi), Item No. 073 (District Cadre, Cadre, Doda), Item No. 074 (District Cadre, Kishtwar), Item No. 075 (District Cadre, Ramban), Item No. 076 (District Cadre, Rajouri), Item No. 077 (District Cadre, Poonch), Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022.

#### Notification No. 19 -Selection of 2024 21st of May, 2024

Whereas, the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Rai, vide Indent No. RDD/Estt/63/2021-22-RDD dated 02.04.2022, forwarded the requisition for making direct recruitment to the 1395 postsof Panchayat Secretary

Sr. No.	Item No.	Cadre of the Post	ОМ	sc	ST	osc	ALC/ IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	Total Pos
1.	059	Anantnag	59	10	12	5	5	12	5	12	120
2.	060	Kulgam	20	4	4	2	2	4	2	4	42
3.	061	Pulwama	31	5	6	2	2	6	2	6	60
4.	062	Shopian	19	3	4	1	2	4	2	3	38
5.	063	Bandipora	15	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	30
6.	064	Baramulla	60	10	12	5	5	13	5	12	122
7.	065	Ganderbal	17	3	3	1	1	4	1	3	33
8.	066	Budgam	48	8	10	4	3	10	4	9	96
9.	067	Kupwara	61	10	12	5	5	12	5	12	122
10.	068	Jammu	26	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	53
11.	069	Samba	18	3	3	1	1	4	1	3	34
12.	070	Kathua	51	8	10	4	4	11	4	10	102
13.	071	Udhampur	48	8	9	4	3	10	4	9	95
14.	072	Reasi	30	5	6	2	2	6	2	5	58
15.	073	Doda	35	6	7	2	3	7	3	6	69
16.	074	Kishtwar	20	4	4	2	2	5	2	4	43
17.	075	Ramban	32	5	6	2	2	6	3	6	62
18.	076	Rajouri	58	10	12	5	5	12	5	11	118
19.	077	Poonch	49	8	10	4	4	10	4	9	98
				TOTAL	POSTS						1395

Whereas, as per the Indent/Advertisement Notification, the prescribed qualification for selection for the Post of Panchayat Secretary, RDD&PR is(was):

#### "Graduation from a recognized University"; and

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) advertised the aforesaid 1395 posts of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, vide Notification No.03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022 and the cut-off date, i.e. the last date for applying for the aforementioned posts and for determining the eligibility/academic qualification and validity of category

Whereas, as per the notified criteria, the selection for the aforementioned posts was to be made on the basis of Written Examination only. Accordingly, the JKSSB conducted the OMR based test for the said posts on 10.12.2023 and on the basis of merit obtained by the candidates, the Document Verification was conducted vide Notice No.  ${\tt JKSSB/COE0EXAM(UT)/86/2023-03(7312349)}\ \ dated\ \ 01.01.2024,\ both\ \ at\ \ {\tt Jammu\ \ and\ \ } Srinagar\ \ offices,\ by\ \ the\ \ {\tt DV\ \ \ } Committees$ constituted vide Order No. 01-SSB of 2024 dated 02.01.2024. Also, Supplementary Document Verification Committees for the left-out candidates were constituted vide Order No. 29-SSB of 2024 dated 12.01.2024, which conducted the Supplementary DV on 15.01.2024, both at Jammu and Srinagar; and

Whereas, the Selection Committee for preparing the selection to the aforementioned posts was constituted vide Order No. 33-SSB of 2024 dated 16.01.2024; and\

Whereas, the additional DV of the candidates was also conducted both at Jammu and Srinagar offices or 23.01.2024, vide Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/86/2023-03(7312349) dated 20.01.2024; and

Whereas, the Provisional Selection List for the above-mentioned 1395 posts of Panchayat Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022, was notified with the approval of the Board its 258th meeting held on 31.01.2024, vide Notification No. JKSSB-Scry/3/2024-03(E-7402474) dated 01.02.2024, seeking objections from the candidates; and

Whereas, pursuant to the above, various representations were received in the Board, pertaining broadly to ibmission of documents w.r.t. withheld cases, correction in particulars etc., which were examined as per the available

Kashmir and Ladakh and the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunals, Jammu and Srinagar Benches and upon consideration of the matter, the issuance of final selection list/appointment of candidates was stayed by the competent court(s); and

Whereas, the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh in the WP(c) No. 1318/2022 and CM Nos 3726/2022 & 941/2024, titled Shafket Ali and Ors. vs UT of J&K and Ors., in its order dated 20.04.2024, directed that:

"...25.It is very strange that the petitioners instead of participating in the selection pr have filed the instant writ petitions with a view to stall the selection process by v draft rules, the proposal of which has already been rejected by the competent authority.

26. That due to the passing of the interim orders in the aforesaid writ petitions ion process has been stalled and as per the learned counsel appearing for the officia ndents, the department is suffering due to dearth of staff and has prayed fo vacation of the interim orders. Even otherwise also, this Court is *prima-facie* of the view that the petitioners have no locus to challenge the selection process for direct recruitment, as there is no preferential fundamental right of the petitioners for seeking regularization. Thus, it can safely be concluded that the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board being a creature of the statute, is under an obligation to carry out and finalize the selection process for the advertised posts strictly in accordance with the rules/regulations occupying the field and not as per the draft proposal, which has since been rejected by the competent authority.

27.Thus, after hearing learned counsel for the parties, this Court is of the opinion that no due to the rider imposed by this Court and in the aforesaid backdrop, the interim directions passed by this Court vide orders dated 16.06.2022 & 24.06.2022 in all the above -stated write etitions are hereby vacated and the official respondents are directed to finalize the sel

28. However, the selection/appointment of the selected candidates shall the final outcome of the instant writ petitions.
29. Registry is directed to list all these matters on 31.05.2024."

Whereas, the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh in the WP(c) No. 1400/2022 and CM Nos. 3669/2022, 1888/2024, 936/2024 & 1533/2024, titled Balkar Singh and Ors. vs UT of J&K and Ors., in its order dated

....1. At the request of the learned counsel for the parties, the matter is taken out of turn today

2. Learned counsel for the respondents submits that the facts and relief claimed in this petition 2. Learned counsel for the respondents submits that the facts and relief claimed in this petition has been fully covered by the order passed by the Coordinate Bench of this Court in a batch of petitions bearing WP(C) No 1318/2022. He further submits that in view of the order passed by the Coordinate Bench of this Court on 24.04.2024, the interim direction dated 16.06.2022 and 24.06.2022 was vacated and also respondents were directed to finalize the selection process expeditiously and the selection/appointment of the selected candidates shall be subject to the final outcome of the writ petition. The petitioners aggrieved of the order of the Coordinate Bench filed LPA bearing No. 93/2024, wherein, it is ordered that the services of the appellants

3. Learned counsel for the respondents submits that the interim order passed in this petition is also required to be vacated. Accordingly, while modifying the interim direction, same are vacated with a direction to the respondents to finalize the selection process expeditiously, however, the selection/appointment of the selected candidates shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petitions and that the petitioners may not be disturbed until further orders.

#### 4. List on 15.07.2024'

Whereas, upon the directions of the HHC stated above, regarding the finalization of the selection process, the proposal for notifying the Final Selection List for the aforesaid 1395 posts of Panchayat Secretary, Department of Rural Development &Panchayati Raj, advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022, as prepared by the concerned Selection Committee, was placed in the Board in its 272<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 17.05.2024, which after due consideration and deliberation on various aspects attendant to the selection, approved its notification.

Now, therefore, the Final Selection List of the candidates for the posts of Provisional Selection List for 1395 posts of Panchayat Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2022 dated 26.05.2022, is hereby notified as **Annexure-A** to this Notification. It is further notified that:

- The above Final Selection List shall be subject to outcome of the OAs/Writ Petition(s), if any, pending adjudication before any Competent Court of law.
   The List shall also be subject to the outcome of such *enquiry*, involving any candidate(s), as figuring in this List.
- (3) The formal recommendations to the concerned Indenting Department shall be forwarded separately (4) The candidates whose recommendations are kept withheld shall submit the requisite documents/certificates within a period of one month.

No. JKSSB-Scry/3/2024-03(E-7402474)
DIPK-615/24 Dated 22.05.2024

(Sachin Jamwal), JKAS Secretary J&K Services Selection Board

## **Global Study Predicts Significant Increase In Life Expectancy By 2050**

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

Life expectancy around the world is projected to improve by almost five years in men and by over four years in women between 2022 and 2050, according to a global study published in The Lancet journal.

Researchers said that the improvements are expected to be the highest in countries where life expectancy is lower, thereby contributing to an overall enhancement of life expectancy across geographies.

Public health measures preventing and improving survival rates from cardiovascular diseases, COVID-19, and a range of communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases, are largely driving the trend of increasing life expectancy globally, the authors said.

"In addition to an increase in life expectancy overall, we have found that the disparity in life expectancy across geographies will lessen," said Chris Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, US.

"This is an indicator that while health inequalities between the



highest and lowest income regions will remain, the gaps are shrinking, with the biggest increases anticipated in Sub-Saharan Africa," said Murray. The IHME coordinates the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, the "largest and most comprehensive effort to quantify health

loss across places and over time." However, the researchers from the GBD 2021 Forecasting Collaborators said that the ongoing shift in disease burden to non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular ones, cancer and diabetes, and exposure to associated risk factors including obesity and high blood pressure, will have the most impact on the next generation.

This shift was analysed to increase an individual's years lived with disability or YLDs. Disease burden is the impact of a health problem on a given population, measured through varied indicators such as deaths, disability, or financial costs.

Therefore, as the disease burden shifts from that of communicable ones to non-communicable health problems, people are expected to live longer, but with more years spent in poor health, the researchers said.

They said that healthy life expectancy around the world, referring to the number of years one could expect to live in good health, will increase by 2.6 years in the coming years - from 64.8 years in 2022 to 67.4 years in 2050.

For India, the study has projected that by 2050, on average, men could have a life expectancy of over 75 years, while that for women could be almost 80 years.

Healthy life expectancy, however, was projected to be over 65 years for both men and women in India.

Drawing on the work of more than 11,000 collaborators, the GBD 2021 includes more than 607 billion estimates of 371 diseases and injuries and 88 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, according

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able

Tender's (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled tenders, bidder's will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No. 251-Elect-T-15-2024-25 Name of Work Provision electrical power supply in connection with Provision of XBS Hall, Boom Barriers, new fencing, Parcel scanning m/c as per Multi-Disciplinary Committee Report for Phase-1 in JAT-SVDK Section & Provision of GRP Barrack, SDPO Office, Coy, HQ, fencing repair at station and Daugeter Well to see the Microsoft Section of Section 25 and 15 and 1 and Boundary Wall etc. as per MDC report for development of Security infrastructure for Phase-1 in BAHL BRML section. App. Cost (in Rs.) 1,09,82,823.00/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 2,04,900.00/- Completion period 6 Months Opening of tender 12.06.2024 after 15:00 Hrs. Website Particulars <a href="https://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

251-Elect/T.Notice No. 10-Elect/2024-25 Dated: - 22.05.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



#### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders or https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender No. 433-Sig-T-07-24-25 Closing Date Time 14.06.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this ender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnes money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like ne banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banke cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Name of work	PI/EI/RRI sta (ii) Integrated po xing gates over F (ii) Provision of dual	PI/EI/RRI stations over Firozpur (ii) Integrated power supply system (IPS) a xing gates over Firozpur Division.						
Tender closing date and time	14.06.2024	Date Time of	21.05.2024					
	at 15:00	uploading Tender	11:11					
Advertised	(i) ₹1,65,95,969.21	Bidding Start	31.05.2024					
Value	(ii) ₹1,66,65,073.74	Date as per IREPS						

(i) ₹2,33,000.00 (ii) ₹2,33,300.00 Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-07-24-25 Dated: 22.05.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to inform that I am applying for the Date of Birth Certificate of my son Mohammad Kamil who was born on June 04, 2021 at Sub District Hospital Char-e-Sharief.

Any objection to this notice may be submitted in the office of Muncipal Committee Char e Sharief within 7 days of publication. No objection shall be accepted after due date.

Mohammad Younus Haiam R/o Alamdar Colony Char e Sharief Contact No. 7051829138

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old name) Syed Mustafa al Mosavi Aga to (New name) Aga Syed Mustafa. In future i will be known as (new Name) Aga Syed Mustafa.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The mothers's and father's name of my Daughter namely Bareen Aijaz in School records has been wrongly recorded as Darakhshan Aijaz while as Darakshan Mushtaq and Aijaz Ahmad Bhat while as Aijaz Rashid Bhat which needs to be corrected. if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the GD Goenka Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Darakshan Mushtaq Mother of Falisha Aijaz

R/o Umar colony Blane 3 Lalbazar Srinagar

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

#### The mothers's and father's name of my Daughter namely Falisha Aijaz in School records has been wrongly recorded as Darakhshan Aijaz while as Darakshan Mushtaq and Aijaz Ahmad Bhat while as Aijaz Rashid Bhat which needs to be corrected. if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the GD Goenka Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Darakshan Mushtaq

Mother of Falisha Aijaz

R/o Umar colony Blane 3 Lalbazar Srinagar

## ChatGPT Is Now Better Than Ever At Faking Human Emotion And Behaviour

#### The Conversation

Earlier this week OpenAI launched GPT-40 ("o" for "omni"), a new version of the artificial intelligence (AI) system powering the popular ChatGPT chatbot. GPT-40 is promoted as a step towards more natural engagement with AI. According to the demon-stration video, it can have voice conversations with users in near real-time, exhibiting human-like personality and behaviour.

This emphasis on personality is likely to be a point of contention. In OpenAl's demos, GPT-40 sounds friendly, empathetic and engaging. It tells 'spontaneous" jokes, giggles, flirts and even sings, The AI system also shows it can respond to users' body language and emo-Launched

interface, streamlined OpenAI's new version of the ChatGPT chatbot appears designed to increase user engagement and facilitate the creation of new apps based on its text, image and audio capabilities. GPT-40 is another leap

forward for AI development. However, the focus on engagement and personality raises important questions about whether it will truly serve the interests of users, and the ethical implications of creating AI that can simulate human emotions and behaviours.

#### The personality factor

OpenAI envisions GPT-40 as a more enjoyable and engaging conversational AI. In principle, this could make interactions more effective and increase user satisfaction.

Studies show users are more likely to trust and cooperate with chatbots exhibiting social intelligence and personality traits. This could prove relevant in fields such as education, where studies have indicated AI chatbots can boost learning outcomes and motivation.

However, some com-

mentators worry users may become overly attached to AI systems with human-like personalities or emotionally harmed by the one-way nature of human-computer interaction.

#### The Her effect

GPT-40 immediately inspired comparisons - including from OpenAI boss Sam Altman – to the 2013 science-fiction movie Her, capabilities show how important it is that we have some system or framework for ensuring AI tools are developed and used in ways that are aligned with public values and priorities.

#### **Expanding capabilities**

GPT-40 can also work with video (of the user and their surrounds, via a device camera, or pre-



with a which paints a vivid picture of the potential pitfalls of human-AI interaction.

In the movie, the protagonist, Theodore, becomes deeply fascinated and attached to Samantha, an AI system with a sophisticated and witty person-ality. Their bond blurs the lines between the real and the virtual, raising questions about the nature of love and intimacy, and the value of human-AI connection.

While we should not seriously compare GPT-40 to Samantha, it raises similar concerns. AI companions are already here. As AI becomes more adept at mimicking human emotions and behaviours, the risk of users forming deep emotional attachments increases. This could lead to over-reliance, manipulation and even harm.

While OpenAI demonstrates concern with ensuring its AI tools behave safely and are deployed in a responsible way, we have yet to learn the broader implications of unleashing charismatic AIs onto the world. Current AI systems are not explicitly designed to meet human psychological needs – a goal that is hard to define and measure. GPT-4o's impressive

recorded videos), and respond conversationally. In OpenAl's demonstrations, GPT-40 comments on a user's environment and clothes, recognises objects, animals and text, and re-

acts to facial expressions. Google's Project Astra AI assistant, unveiled just one day after GPT-40, displays similar capabilities. It also appears to have visual memory: in one of Google's promotional videos, it helps a user find her glasses in a busy office, even though they are not currently visible to the AI.

GPT-40 and Astra continue the trend towards more "multimodal" models that can work with text. images, audio and video. GPT-4o's predecessor, GPT-4 Turbo, can process text and images together, but not audio and video. The original version of ChatGPT, released less than two years ago, was based only on text.

GPT-40 is also significantly faster than its predecessor. The ability to work across audio, vision and text in real time is considered crucial to develop advanced AI systems that can understand the world and effectively achieve complex and meaningful goals.

#### SAD DEMISE

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raaji'oon- Indeed we belong to Allah and indeed to Him we will return.

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Abdul Rashid Bhat S/o Late Mohammad Sultan Bhat R/o Lane No. 9, Moomin Abad, Batamaloo, Srinagar.

He was a man of principles, a pious Muslim and a noble soul. His congregational Fatehkhwani will be observed on Friday, May 24th at 2:30 PM in their graveyard situated at Gojwara near Majid Hakeem

Note:- Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of fruits/ eatables with them.





Lok Sabha Elections-2024

### **Counting Of Votes: RO Srinagar Inspects Counting Centre's At SKICC-Centaur**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead Counting of Votes for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat, the Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited SKICC-Centaur to take on site assessment of the arrangements being put in place for upcoming Vote Counting on June 4.

SP East, Mubashir Bukhari; Nodal Officer MCC, Ilyas Ahmad; Nodal Officer, MCMC, Ahsan ul Haq Chisti; Nodal Officer ETPBS, Mujtaba Ahmad Banday; Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz and other concerned were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Returning Officer along with the concerned Officer took a thorough inspection of the preparations with regard to the arrangements in and around the counting centre's for a smooth and well organized counting process.

He reviewed the

surveillance and security measures, seating arrangements. porting of EVMs and the technical setup at the counting halls being made to ensure transparency, accuracy and the timely announcement of counting results.

interacting While with the Officers at the venue, the RO stressed on ensuring seamless arrangements and facilities in place for counting centre's, strong rooms, CCTV links and training of manpower for upholding the sanctity and integrity of the democratic ethos.

The RO also said that the counting process will be done as per ECI guidelines under video recording and except the observer and Returning Officer; no one will be allowed to take mobile phones inside the counting room.

The EVMs are presently kept under three-layer security cordon in strong rooms at SKICC-Centaur, after the voting process was completed on May 13, 2024 for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.



**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The residents of Noorbagh, Sheikh Colony took to the streets on Wednesday, demanding adequate power supply.

The locals staged a protest after what they said to have been receiving inadequate power supply for several months.

Chanting slogans, the protesters gathered near Noorbagh, voicing their frustrations and urging the authorities to address the issue promptly.

The residents, according to KNO, claimed that the frequent power cuts have disrupted their daily lives, affecting everything from household chores to the education of their children.

"We have been fac

power outages for hours every day, and it has become unbearable," said Rashid Ahmed, a resident of Noorbagh Sheikh Colony.

He added that their children are unable to study in the evenings because of the shortage of power supply

The locals emphasized that despite numerous complaints to the Power Development Department (PDD), no concrete action has been taken to resolve the situation.

"We have approached the PDD multiple times, but our concerns have fallen on deaf ears," said Fatima Begum, another resident, adding, "We are paying our bills on time, yet we are being deprived of a basic necessity, while we request the administration to kindly look into this matter,"



Kids cooling off in Dal Lake as the heat wave intensified for the past few days in Srinagar. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

## **GMC Srinagar Successfully Treats Infants With Renal Calculi Using ESWL**

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar: In a landmark achievement, the Department of Urology together with the Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care at the Super Specialty Hospital, Government Medical College Srinagar, have successfully treated two infants, aged 7 and 8 months, for renal calculi using Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL).

This groundbreaking procedure marks the first time such young patients have undergone ESWL for 10mm and 12mm renal stones at this institution. The infants, diagnosed with significant renal calculi, faced potential complications that could have severely impacted their kidnev function and overall health, the hospital administration said here.

The hospital said the traditional surgical approaches posed considerable risks due to the patients' age and size. However, the multidisciplinary team of experts at the hospital opted for the minimally invasive ESWL procedure, which uses highenergy shock waves to break the kidney stones into smaller, passable fragments, it added.

Prof (Dr) Syed Sajjad Nazir, Head of the Department of Urology, led the urology team in this delicate procedure. "This successful treatment underscores our commitment to providing cutting-edge. patient-centered care. The ESWL procedure offers a safer alternative

■ This successful treatment

underscores our commitment to providing cutting-edge, patient-centered care. The ESWL procedure offers a safer alternative to conventional surgery, particularly for our youngest and most vulnerable patients. We are proud to have achieved such a milestone in pediatric urological care

to conventional surgery, particularly for our youngest and most vulnerable patients. We are proud to have achieved such a milestone in pediatric urological care," he said.

Prof (Dr) Hina Bashir, Head of the Department of Anesthesiology, the hospital said, ensured the infants' safety and comfort throughout the procedure.

"Administering anesthesia to such young patients presents unique challenges, but our team's expertise and meticulous planning were key to the successful outcome," explained Dr Nusrat Jehan, Dr Mubashir and Dr Baby Shahnaz Jeelani from the Anesthesia Department. "Our collaborative approach with the urology department was crucial in managing these cases effectively."

Associate Dr Tanveer Iqbal,

بيغام تعزيت وتسليت

إِنَّالِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيهِ رَاجِعُونَ

وَمَن يَّبَاجِ فِي سَحِيلِ اللَّهِ يَجِد فِي الا رَضِمُ اعْمَا كَثِيرُ اوْسَعَةُ وَمَن يَتِرُ جِمِن مَيتِه مُبَاجِرُ اإِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِيمُ ثَمِيرِ رِيَهُ المُوثُ فَقَدُ وَقَعَ أَجَرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ

Professor of Urology, said the procedures were completed without complications, and the infants were discharged after one day. "This success highlights the advanced capabilities of the Super Specialty Hospital at Government Medical College Srinagar and opens new avenues for treating pediatric patients with renal calculi," he said.

Prof (Dr) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal of Government Medical College Srinagar, termed the achievement as a "remarkable advancement for our institution and for pediatric healthcare in the region". "It demonstrates our hospital's capacity to handle complex and rare cases with innovative solutions. We are committed to continuing our mission of delivering exceptional medical care to all patients, regardless of age," she said.

Dr Jahangir Bakshi, Medical Superintendent of SSH, said, "This pioneering treatment exemplifies the hospital's dedication to excellence and innovation in medical care, setting a new standard for pediatric urology.

The Super Specialty Hospital Government Medical College Srinagar is a leading healthcare institution dedicated to providing toptier medical services across various specialties. Equipped with state-ofthe-art technology and staffed by highly skilled medical professionals, the hospital is committed to advancing medical care and improving patient outcomes—(KNO)

شهداءخدمت شهداءراه ولايت فقيه

آیت اللّٰدرئیسی خسته نایز بریتھ (رہبر معظم)

عالم اسلام عظيم شخضيات سيمحروم هو گيا۔

بِسمِ الله الرَّحمان الرَّحِيم

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: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

#### **AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

## **RAILWAYS**



SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132

#### PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



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



**PRAYERS FAJR** 3:46 **ZUHR** 12:27 **ASR** 5:24 7:34 Magrib **ISHA** 9:10

### This Day In History

- 334 BC The Macedonian army of Alexander the Great defeats Darius III of Persia in the Battle of the Granicus
- 1040- Battle of Dandanagan: Tughril's Seljuk army defeats Ghaznavid force, near Merv (presentday Turkmenistan), brings about the fall of the **Ghaznavid Empire**
- 1059- Henri I crowns his son King Philip I (called the Amorous) of France
- 1493- King of France Charles VIII, King of the Romans Maximilian I and Archduke of Austria Philip I sign the Treaty of Senlis, ending hostilities between France and the Seventeen Provinces
- 1568- Battle of Heiligerlee, Groningen: Dutch rebels beat Spanish, thousands killed
  - 1568- The Netherlands declares independence from
  - 1659 France, England & Netherlands sign "Hedges Concerto" treaty
- 1746 Russia and Austria sign treaty of cooperation 1762 - Sweden and Prussia sign the Treaty of Hamburg, reaffirming the status quo that existed before the Seven Years War
- 1799 Napoleon makes statement in support of reestablishing Jerusalem for Jews
- 1892 Dr Washington Sheffield invents the toothpaste tube
- 1902 US President Theodore Roosevelt signs a treaty with Mexico under which both countries agree to submit a long-standing dispute over interest payments to the Court of Arbitration at The Hague 1926 - Chiang Kai-shek replaces communists in
- **Guomindang China** 1939 - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini sign "Pact
- of Steel" in Berlin, Germany 1941 - British troops attack Baghdad
- 1942 Mexico declares war on Nazi-Germany &
- 1947 "Truman Doctrine" goes into effect, aiding Turkey and Greece
- 1947 1st US ballistic missile fired
- 1957 South Africa's government approves race separation in universities 1967 - Egyptian president Nassar closes Straits of
- Tiran to Israel
- 1970 France performs nuclear test at Mururoa atoll 1972 - Ceylon becomes Republic of Sri Lanka as its
- constitution is ratified
- 1973 President Nixon confesses his role in
- Watergate cover-up 1976 - NASA launches space vehicle S-179
- 1979 Canadians elect conservatives, Joseph Clark replaces Pierre Trudeau as the 16th Prime Minister of Canada
- 1981- Soyuz 40 returns to Earth
- 1990 Microsoft releases Windows 3.0
- 1990 North & South Yemen merge to form Republic of Yemen 2004 - Manmohan Singh becomes the 13th Prime
- Minister of India. 2006 - Results from the Montenegrin independence referendum, 2006 are announced. 55.4% of voters
- vote to become independent from the Serbia and Montenegro Union.
- 2012 14 people die and 30 are injured in train collision in India **Daniel Johns**
- 2015 Ireland becomes 1st country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote
- 2015 -- Pakistan begin the first test-playing nation cricket tour of Zimbabwe since 2009 2016- Chinese archaeologists announce findings of earliest use of barley in China to make beer, Shaanxi
- province 3400-2900 BC 2017- Library of Al-Qarawiyyin, the world's oldest continually operating library, reopens after a major restoration by King Mohammed VI in Fez, Morocco
- 2018- Hamburg, Germany, becomes the first city to ban diesel cars on some roads
- 2019-Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wins re-election in a landslide over the opposition Congress Party, world's largest-ever democratic election with over 600 million voters

### **DIC Srinagar Hosts Another Workshop At IE Khunmoh To Promote NCSS**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: In a continued effort to bolster the industrial landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, the District Industries Centre (DIC) Srinagar held a Workshop cum Awareness Program today at Industrial Estate Khunmoh.

The event saw significant participation from unit holders, including the President of the Industrial Association.

During the workshop. General Manager (GM) DIC Srinagar engaged with participants in a dynamic question-and-answer session. The General Manager underscored

**GCE Organizes Two-Day** 

**Workshop On Teaching** 

Srinagar: The Department of

Art and Mathematics of Gov-

ernment College of Education

(GCE) M. A. Road, Srinagar

organized a two-day workshop

of Teaching Learning Material

ed by the Principal GEC, Prof

Dr Seema Naz. She also pre-

sented a welcome address and

highlighted the importance of

Arshad Sualeh were coordina-

tors of the program.

The event was inaugurat-

Prof. Tawheeda Rasool and

**Learning Material** 

**Observer News Service** 

(TLM), here.

the event.

the urgency of leveraging the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS-2021) before the registration deadline, promising to highlight the issues raised by unit holders at the highest administrative levels. The DIC officials and

resource persons from Ernst & Young LLP (DPI-IT PIU team Kashmir) addressed the scheme related queries like eligibility, document requirements, application procedure and quantum of incentives available for unit holders. The unit holders were informed about the incentives under NCSS-2021 which include a 30/50% Capital Investment Incentive (CII), a 6% Capital

Interest Subvention (CIS) on term loans for seven years, a 100% GST Linked Incentive (GSTLI) for ten years, and a 5% Working Capital Interest Subvention (WCIS) for five years.

The program concluded with expressions of gratitude, and eligible units were facilitated in applying for NCSS registration on the spot.

Looking ahead, the General Manager announced that another Workshop cum Awareness Program is set to take place on June 4, 2024, at DIC Srinagar, aiming to provide further support and information to unit holders about the benefits of the scheme

## **NOTICE**

I Dr Syed Manzoor UI Hag F/o Syed

will be submitted. Dr Syed Manzoor UI Hag

Zainab UI Haq R/o Reyazat Teng Khanyar have lost my Daughter's Class 8th Marks Card Session 2021 bearing Roll no 122159 Somewhere. Now I want its duplicate. Regarding this, if anybody is having any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the R P School Malla Bagh within 7 days after that no objection

F/o Syed Zainab UI Haq

Media Line



اور جواللّٰد کی راہ میں ہجرت کرے گاوہ زمین میں بہت ہی پناہ گا ہیں اور کشائش بائے گااور جواینے گھر سے اللہ اور رسول کی طرف ہجرت کی غرض سے نکلے پھر (راستے میں )اسےموت آ جائے تواس کا جراللہ کے ذمے ہوگیا،اوراللہ بڑامعاف کرنے والا،رحم کرنے والاہے۔ آبیة الله سیدابرا ہیم رئیسی خادم امام رضاً اینے ساتھیوں ،ایران کےوزیر خارجه سين امير عبداللهيان، تبريز كامام جمعه آية اللهالي باشی ۔۔۔ کے ساتھ عوامی خدمت کی ایک جہادی مہم پرمہا جرالی اللّدو رسولہ تھے، آذر با یجان میں خدا آفرین نامی ڈیم کا افتتاح کرنے کے بعدوالیسی کے سفر میں ایک ہوائی حادثے میں شہادت کے عظیم ور فع

مرتبے برفائز ہوکر، اپنے رہبرعز بر کو تنہا چھوڑ کر، امام رضا کی ولادت کے دن اپنے امام کی خدمت میں حاضر ہوگئے۔ فَقَدُ وَقَعَ أَجْرُهُم عَلَى الله ان كا جرالله اورامام رضّا كے باس ہے۔ ہم اس عظیم حادثے ،امتحان اوغم انگیز موقع برامام زمانه عجل الله تعالی شریف،ان کے نائب رہبرمعظم انقلاب اسلامی آیت الله سیدعلی خامنه ای حفظه الله،ملت شہیدیہ ورایران ،ان کے تمام عزیز وا قارب ،لوافقین اور دنیائے اسلام کوقعزیت وسلیت پیش کرتے ہیں۔ آ بیت اللّٰدرئیسی کی خلصا نہ خدمات اورا نقک کوششیں جنہیں رہبر معظیم انقلاب اسلامی نے متعدد بارسراہاہے ہمارے ذہنوں سے بھی محونہیں ہوگی۔امام رضاعلیہ السلام کے اس خادم اورعوام کے خلص وخدمت گرزاراوران کے شہیر ساتھیوں کی بلندی درجات کے لئے دعا گو ہیں۔اے اللہ توامام زمانہ عج اللہ تعالی فرجہ الشريف،مقام معظم رہبری حضرت آیۃ الله انتظی سیعلی خامنه ای دام خله العالی،خانوا دہشہید آیۃ الله سیدابرا ہیم رئیسی اوران کے ہمراہ دیگر شہداء کے گھر والوں, امت مسلمہاورملت ایران کواس در دناک،غیرمتو قع اور بےموقع غم کو ہر داشت کرنے کی ہمت عطا کر اورمظلومین مستضعفین عالم پرحضرت ولی عصر (عج ) کے ظہور میں تعجیل کے ذریعے حم اور لطف فر ما۔

> جاری کرده: مسجدامام مهدی علیه السلام سيدميرك شاه كالوني حبك حضرتبل

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday | 23-05-2024

## No Clear Wave

s India approaches the final phases of its parliamentary elections, a distinct air of uncertainty hangs over the country. Unlike previous elections where a clear wave or sentiment favored a particular party, this time there is no visible surge propelling any single entity to a decisive victory. Both major contenders, the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress, are locked in a tight battle, each facing significant challenges that make the outcome unpredictable.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's repeated assertions that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not secure a third term may seem like strategic bravado aimed at countering the narrative of Modi's electoral invincibility. However, this stance is underpinned by Congress's calculations and ground reports suggesting that the BJP could fall short of the majority mark of 272 seats. According to Congress strategists, the BJP is likely to lose a substantial number of seats in key states like Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Haryana. These potential losses could overshadow minimal gains in states such as Telangana and Odisha.

In Maharashtra, the combined strength of Congress, Sharad Pawar's NCP, and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena under the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) banner appears to be eroding the BJP's base. Civil society groups and NGOs actively campaigning against PM Modi's policies indicate a certain shift in voter sentiment. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, issues like unemployment, inflation, and the controversial Agniveer scheme have resonated with voters, challenging the BJP's dominance in the state that sends the largest number of MPs to Parliament.

The Congress party's confidence is boosted by reports of changing voter dynamics in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat. In Rajasthan, the backlash against the Agniveer scheme among Jat and Rajput communities has created an opening for Congress, while in Gujarat, even a minor loss for the BJP signals broader dissatisfaction. Despite these optimistic projections, the Congress acknowledges that achieving a majority remains a formidable task. They anticipate winning around 115 seats on their own, which, combined with their allies, might bring the opposition alliance close to 250 seats—still short of the majority needed to form the government.

The BJP, on the other hand, remains a potent force, albeit facing its own set of challenges. The party's internal assessments suggest possible gains in regions like Telangana and Odisha but acknowledge potential setbacks in its traditional strongholds. Prime Minister Modi's recent rhetoric and campaign intensity hint at an awareness of these vulnerabilities, possibly indicating the BJP's recognition of a tougher contest than initially expected.

In this climate of uncertainty, the final outcome of the elections hinges on a multitude of factors: regional dynamics, coalition arithmetic, and voter turnout. The absence of a clear wave reveals the complexity of the Indian electorate, where localized issues and alliances play a critical role in shaping national politics. As the nation awaits the final results, one thing is clear: this election is set to be a closely contested affair, reflecting the diverse and evolving political landscape of India.



## The Real Wealth in the Stock Market: Patience and )ver Impulse

Did you know?

Irshad Mushtag

n the hustle and bustle of the stock market, it's easy to be dazzled by the idea of quick fortunes through intraday trading. Many people dream of making a fast buck, imagining the thrill of daily market swings. But let's face the truth: the big money in the stock market doesn't come from these rushed moves. It comes from \*smart, longterm investments.\* Look at some of the richest individuals in the world. They didn't amass their wealth overnight by making rapid trades. Instead, they crafted their fortunes through careful, calculated investments. They studied companies deeply, believed in their long-term growth, and invested with patience. The stock market's daily ups and downs might seem exciting, but they're also \*unpredictable\* . Wise investors know that it's not about timing the market perfectly each day. It's about spending time in the market and letting your investments grow. They avoid emotional decisions, focusing instead on the potential of companies over the long haul. Think of it like planting a tree. While it may be tempting to dig it up every day to check its growth, true growth only happens when it's left to grow over months and years. Similarly, your investments need time and care to blossom into significant wealth. Next time you feel the urge to buy or sell stocks impulsively, pause and remember this: the real money lies in thoughtful, patient investing. Successful investors have shown us the way. They didn't chase a quick profit; they planned carefully and stuck to their \*strategies\* \*Conclusion\* If you want to succeed in the stock market, follow their lead. Do thorough research, invest wisely, and most importantly, be patient, consult always trusted financial professional ,Over time, your well-planned investments can lead to financial security and prosperity.

Learn from the insights of writer and investor, Irshad Mushtaq, founder of MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan! Reach out to him at Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com

## **Feeding India Amid Climate Fight**

Path forward is clear: cut greenhouse gases, foster greener agriculture, harness new tech.

Reena Singh

## Given food

security and livelihood needs. India has exempted agriculture from its stringent energy reduction targets. Yet, this leniency, fuelled by subsidies for power, fertilisers, and food (through assured procurement of rice at minimum support price), threatens to veer the country off its course towards net-zero emissions by 2070



n 2023, humanity crossed the 1.5°C threshold, a critical limit often seen as a guardrail for climate stability. According to the World Meteorological Organization, this year could be even hotter. In India, the mercury has climbed by 0.7°C since 1901, while the monsoon rains that fed 50% of the country's agriculture lands — have dwindled by 6%, particularly over the fertile Indo-Gangetic Plains and the lush Western Ghats. Yet, paradoxically, central India is witnessing more intense deluges during the monsoon. This climate conundrum presents a Gordian knot for policymakers: the imperative to green the economy and bolster climate resilience tugs against the need for new policies that may

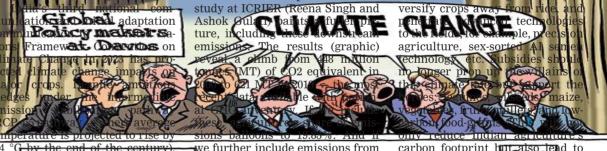
proximately 169 million hectares), largest bovine population (300 million), and the world's largest riceproducing area (45 million hectare) have made it a breadbasket. But it has also made India a top emitter, responsible for 13% of global agricultural greenhouse gases (GHGs), according to Climate Watch 2023. The GHG emissions from India's farms have four horsemen:

agriculture's own carbon foot-

print. India's vast croplands (ap-

methane from waterlogged rice fields and bovine belches; nitrous oxide from fertilisers and manure; methane and nitrous oxide emissions from crop burning; and the often-overlooked carbon-dioxide (CO2) from energy-guzzling irrigation and application of inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides. Our hood needs, India has exempted agriculture from its stringent energy reduction targets. Yet, this leniency, fuelled by subsidies for power, fertilisers, and food (through assured procurement of rice at minimum support price), threatens to veer the country off its course towards net-zero emissions by 2070. The way forward calls for a radical transformation — eschewing old, carbon-intensive methods for innovative, low-carbon practices. This pivot is essential not just for sustainability but for survival.

The path forward is clear: slash greenhouse gases, foster a greener agriculture, and harness new technologies and policies. The mantra is to avoid the carbon-heavy sins of the past: choose direct seeded rice over flooded fields, balanced fer-



ny 536 can bill carbon nd 2000 185 both

ballooning to \$612 billion-1 by 2050-2100. The losses would be much higher under high emission pathway RCC 25. With nearly 45.8% of India's workforce tilling the soil, contributing 17.58% to the GDP, and feeding the world's largest population, the stakes are skyhigh. The climate crisis, however. is a game of Russian roulette, with the most marginalised farmers fac-

ing the greatest peril. The policy compass, thus far, has pointed towards adaptation: crop insurance and the quest for seeds that can withstand climate's fury. Last year, 60% of wheat fields were sown with heat-resistant varieties, a figure set to rise to 80%. Yet,

ve further include emissions from the fabric of the prob-

of nitrous oxide and methane development goal by 2030.
gases 273 and 27.2 times mightier.
As carbon finance takes root,
respectively, than CO2 in their offering a green bounty for those warming prowess in 100 years' time horizon in India, the sector is the chief culprit for 73% and 75% of these emissions respectively. In 20 years, methane

will be more impactful and could warm the temperature 80.8 times more than CO2. Thus, sharp reduction in methane emissions from rice paddies and bovines can deliver a net cooling effect within a relatively short period. Despite this, agriculture has been given a hall pass from climate negotiations in the country.

Given food security and liveli-

retter health outcomes throu diverse range of nutritious for and help India achieve the nutri tional target under the sustainable

beckons farmers to join the crut beckons farmers to join the sade for a low-carbon future. The incentive? Carbon credits, a currency for the climate-conscious, rewarding those who sow the seeds of change.

> Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express



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## Change Your Life and Personality

HERE'S no real "you". You're just a blueprint of the society in which you were born and one that made you. Your habits, hobbies, interests, religion, beliefs and actions are all meditated by society. What you are right now is not the actual you. However, there is a possibility to discover and rediscover yourself. You are the creator of your own story. However this

change will hardly come overnight. Consider this, in a village two children are born. One grows up in the village itself and another is raised in a developed country abroad. After twenty years, they both will have different personalities. The village boy will have his own set of hobbies and

dreams. On the other hand, the one raised abroad will have a different set of values meditated by a completely different society abroad. Therefore, it is obvious that you do not control your life, society does. One might mistake ones life as though luck directed it, however, things aren't that simple.

However, no matter what society has done, you can change it if you don't like your story that you are living. You can completely recreate it no matter how old and strong your story is. You have the power, because you are the author of your own life story. This is the highest power for a hu-

You have to first accept it deep

within by increasing your self understanding. Research on it, analyse your past. Listen and watch struggle stories of people who then become successful all over the world. One thought can change your life. Plant your thoughts deeply in your subconscious mind through gratitude affirmations. Do this until your belief in your abilities becomes stronger.

Then the next step is to destroy your fear of people. As they say, "sabse bada rogh, kya kahenge log". If you don't remove this fear then you can't unlock your true potential or inner voice. Listen to the inner voice not the outer voice. No matter how many failures you have faced, you become closer to success from every failure.

If you are so concerned about what people are thinking, then how can you make your decisions? You will act on their expectations of you and not on your inner voice.

Life is what you make it, it's your choice. Don't compromise in life, enjoy it to the fullest. Don't make excuses. Be patient, work hard. Keep a learning attitude, an open mind and do not see through the beliefs you hold but see things as they are.

Make a commitment that no matter what your boring story was in the past and that you will live life on your own terms and conditions

By Mohsin Nazir

# Overcoming Drug Addiction: A Journey to Hope and Recovery





# BY FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING AND UNITY, COMMUNITIES CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT NETWORKS AND ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES TO DETER DRUG ABUSE. Seeking professional help encourages individuals to reach out to professionals if they are concerned about someone's drug use

Jasib Shabir

In today's world, parents' worries have shifted from career aspirations for their children to concerns about avoiding harmful habits like drug use, particularly prevalent in places like Kashmir.

#### Getting at the root of the problem

My understanding of the issue indicates various reasons behind drug abuse in our society. Some families foster toxic environments, pushing children towards drugs for solace. Peer pressure and the allure of appearing 'cool' contribute to drug use. Teenage heartbreaks or unemployment can also trigger drug dependency.

#### A Message of Hope

Contrary to popular belief, drug addiction doesn't signify weak-

ness, and sheer willpower won't suffice for recovery. Drugs can alter brain chemistry; intensifying cravings and making quitting seem insurmountable. Yet, recovery is achievable with the right support and treatment.

#### **Empowering Solutions**

Strengthening Family Bonds Building strong connections within families and using appropriate discipline can help eliminate risk factors associated with drug abuse. Promoting Drug Awareness Raise

awareness about the dangers of drug abuse through various initiatives: Organize drug awareness events

to educate communities about the risks and consequences.

Share personal knowledge and

experiences to help others understand the impact of drug abuse. Promote positive mental health, particularly among youths, to equip them with coping strategies and resilience against drug use.

Volunteer your time to support organizations and initiatives focused on drug prevention and rehabilitation.

Community Building Activities promote community engagement and solidarity in local towns. By fostering a sense of belonging and unity, communities can provide support networks and alternative activities to deter drug abuse. Seeking professional help encourages individuals to reach out to professionals if they are concerned about someone's drug use. Professional support and intervention can provide guidance, resources, and treatment options for those struggling with addiction. By implementing these empowering solutions, communities can work

together to combat drug abuse and create a safer, healthier environment for everyone.

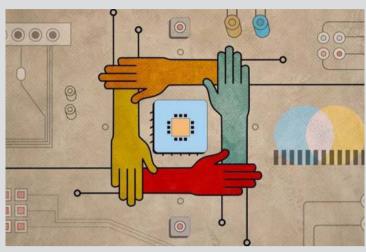
#### A Call to Action

It's imperative to reach out to drug rehabilitation centers for those struggling with addiction, ensuring a brighter future for individuals and society. By educating youngsters about the dangers of drugs from an early age, we can mitigate the risk of addiction.

Overcoming drug addiction is a challenging journey, but it's one filled with hope and possibility. By addressing its root causes, offering support, and fostering awareness, we can pave the way for a society free from the grip of addiction, where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

 $The \ author \ is \ a \ student$ 

## Automated Ethics: Unveiling the Shadowy Side of AI



**Mubashir Reshi** 

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become an unavoidable presence in modern society, revolutionizing industries and reshaping the way we interact with technology. From predictive text on our smartphones to self-driving cars on roads, AI has become a part of our daily lives in ways we may not even realize. However, the integration of AI into everyday life also raises complex ethical questions that cannot be ignored.

One of the most pressing ethical concerns surrounding AI is the issue of bias. AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on, and if that data is biased or incomplete, the AI algorithm will reflect those biases. For example, in the field of hiring, AI-powered recruitment tools have been found to discriminate against certain groups based on biased historical data. Similarly, in criminal justice, AI algorithms used to predict the tendency of a person to re-offending, have been shown to unfairly target minority populations.

Addressing bias in AI systems requires a diversified approach. On the technical side, researchers and developers must work to create algorithms that are more transparent, interpretable, and fair. This may involve implementing techniques such as bias mitigation strategies. However, tackling bias in AI goes beyond just technical solutions. It also requires a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the entire AI development pipeline. This means diversifying the

teams that build AI systems, ensuring that diverse perspectives are represented from the outset.

In addition to bias, another ethical consideration when it comes to AI in everyday life is the issue of accountability. As AI becomes more autonomous and widespread, it raises questions about who is ultimately responsible for the decisions made by AI systems. In the case of autonomous vehicles, for example, who is to blame if a self-driving car gets into an accident? Is it the manufacturer, the programmer, or the owner of the vehicle? These are crucial questions that need to be addressed as AI technology continues to advance.

Furthermore, the deployment of AI systems in areas such as healthcare, finance, and law enforcement raises concerns about privacy, consent, and algorithmic transparency. As AI becomes more integrated into these sensitive domains, it is essential to establish clear guidelines and regulations to protect individuals' rights and ensure that AI is used responsibly and ethically.

Navigating through the ethical horizon of AI in everyday life requires a thoughtful and proactive approach. By prioritizing fairness, transparency, accountability, and human well-being in the design, deployment, and regulation of AI systems, we can utilise the power of AI for good. Through collaborative efforts and ethical examination, we can ensure that AI serves as a force for positive societal change, rather than continuing with the existing inequalities and injustices.

## **Techno Optimism: An Evaluation**



olving intractable problems such as persistent poverty requires a combination of solutions that sometimes, yes, includes technology. But they're complex. To us, insisting that there's a technological fix for every problem in the world seems not just optimistic



Seyram Avle Jean Hardy

Silicon Valley venture capitalist Marc Andreessen penned a 5,000-word manifesto in 2023 that gave a full-throated call for unrestricted technological progress to boost markets, broaden energy production, improve education and

strengthen liberal democracy.
The billionaire, who made his fortune by co-founding Netscape – a 1990s-era company that made a pioneering web browser – espouses a concept known as "technooptimism." In summing it up, Andreessen writes, "We be-

lieve that there is no material problem – whether created by nature or by technology – that cannot be solved with more technology."

The term techno-optimism isn't new; it began to appear after World War II. Nor is it in a state of decline, as Andreessen and other techno-optimists such as Elon Musk would have you believe. And yet Andreessen's essay made a big splash.

As scholars who study technology and society, we have observed that techno-optimism easily attaches itself to the public's desire for a better future. The questions of how that future will be built, what that future will look like and

who will benefit from those changes are harder to answer.

#### Why techno-optimism matters

Techno-optimism is a blunt tool. It suggests that technological progress can solve every problem known to humans – a belief also known as techno-solutionism.

Its adherents object to commonsense guardrails or precautions, such as cities limiting the number of new Uber drivers to ease traffic congestion or protect cab drivers' livelihoods. They dismiss such regulations or restrictions as the concerns of Luddites – people who resist disruptive innovations.

In our view, some champi-

ons of techno-optimism, such as Bill Gates, rely on the cover of philanthropy to promote their techno-optimist causes. Others have argued that their philanthropic initiatives are essentially a public relations effort to burnish their reputations as they continue to control how technology is being used to address the world's problems.

The stakes of embracing techno-optimism are high – and not just in terms of the role that technology plays in society. There are also political, environmental and economic ramifications for holding these views. As an ideological position, it puts the interests of certain

people – often those already wielding immense power and resources – over those of everyone else. Its cheerleaders can be willfully blind to the fact that most of society's problems, like technology, are made by humans.

Many scholars are keenly aware of the techno-optimism of social media that pervaded the 2010s. Back then, these technologies were breathlessly covered in the media – and promoted by investors and inventors – as an opportunity to connect the disconnected and bring information to anyone who might

Yet, while offering superficial solutions to loneliness social media has failed to address their root structural causes. Those may include the erosion of public spaces, the decline of journalism and enduring digital divides.

and other social problems,

#### Tech alone can't fix everything

Both of us have extensively researched economic development initiatives that seek to promote high-tech entrepreneurship in low-income communities in Ghana and the United States. State-run programs and public-private partnerships have sought to narrow digital divides and increase access to economic

opportunity.

Many of these programs embrace a techno-optimistic mindset by investing in shiny, tech-heavy fixes without addressing the inequality that led to digital divides in the first place. Techno-optimism, in other words, pervades governments and nongovernmental organizations, just as it has influenced the thinking of billionaires like Andreessen.

Solving intractable problems such as persistent poverty requires a combination of solutions that sometimes, yes, includes technology. But they're complex. To us, insisting that there's a technological fix for every problem in the world seems not just optimistic, but also rather convenient if you happen to be among the richest people on Earth and in a position to profit from the technology industry.

By arrangements with The

#### **Will J&K Break**

was recorded at 7.6 degree Celsius. In Srinagar, the departure temperature was 6.8 degree Celsius. According to the data, Pahalgam and Kokernag have recorded a maximum temperature of 27.1 degree Celsius and 30.2 degree Celsius respectively while the departures at both the places were 5.5 degree Celsius and 6.6 degree Celsius correspondingly.

The Meteorological department has mentioned that Kupwara and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, have recorded the maximum temperature of 30.2 degree Celsius and 21.2 degree Celsius respectively. The departure at the twin places was 4.5 degree Celsius and 5.2 degree Celsius respectively.

The temperature also crossed the 30 degree Celsius mark at multiple places in Jammu division, which include Banihal, Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah while in Jammu, the mercury settled at 41.2 degree Celsius.

The Meteorological department has predicted severe heat wave in coming days with the possibility of further rise in the maximum temperature and can settle above 44 degrees Celsius in the next couple of days.

Dr Mahender Singh, senior scientist and Incharge Agrometeorology unit of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu said that as of now no major change is expected till the end of the month and day temperature, which is currently between 41 degrees to 42 degrees, is expected to cross 44 degrees in coming days, probably by May 27-28.

Giving a year-wise detailed report, the weatherman shared that the maximum temperature recorded on 26th May 1984 in Jammu was 47.4 degrees and it was an all-time record.

As per the image, on 23 May 2023, the maximum temperature recorded was 42.0, on 15 May 2022 it was 43.9, on 27 May 2021 it was 41.6, on 28 May 2020 it was 42.6, on 31 May 2019 it was 44.1, on 30 May 2018 it was 43.5, on 27 May 2017 it was 41.7, on 20 May 2016 it was 43.2, on 26 May 2015 it was 40.5 and on 29 May 2014 it was 41.8 degrees Celsius.

He said that from May 22 to 28, generally dry weather with possibility of thundershower activity at isolated places can't be ruled out while overall there will be no significant weather activity till May 28

He said that heatwave over plains of Jammu division with hot and dry weather over hilly districts of Jammu and plains of Kashmir would likely to continue during the next five days.

#### **Advisory Issued**

transplanted rice varieties. (var. IET-1410, K-39, Ratna, PC-19, Jaya) Treat seed with Carbendazim or Bayistin @2gm/Kg before nursery raising.

or Bavistin @2gm/Kg before nursery raising.
Incorporate the FYM @ 10-15 tons/ ha at least
15 days earlier to transplanting in the field, where rice is to be transplanted.

Fallow land pulses and other crops the farmers advised to deep plough the land with soil turning plough for soil solarization against insect pests and weed infestation. Incorporate well rotten F.Y.M. 15 days prior to sowing in the fields where Kharif maize and paddy are to be sown in June.

For vegetable farmers, the Agro division said that apply irrigation as per requirement of crop followed by ash application on wetted leaves in cucurbits for control of red pumpkin beetle. Timely harvest the matured fruit in order to avoid spoilage. Monitor tomato crop for leaf curl. Remove virus infected plants. Spray imidacloprid @ 0.5ml/lt of water to check further spread of disease by whitefly. If yellow leaves (YVMV) are observed, uproot and bury deep in soil and wash hands after that. Moreover, it also advised to keep the field free of weeds.

Poultry farmers are advised to provide adequate clean drinking water all the time for poultry birds besides proper hygiene should be maintained at the farm.

The farmers advised to get their birds vaccinated against infectious bursal dermatitis IBD & Gumbroo at 7th& 14th day after birth.

The Livestock farmers which include dairy animals, sheep & goat are advised to provide an adequate amount of fresh cool and clean drinking water, plant shady trees around the sheds, provide water baths 3-4 times in a day, install fans and desert coolers for high-yielding animals, sprinkling of water in sheds to reduce heat stress, provide good quality green leguminous and non-leguminous fodders. Maize and bajra. Urea treatment of dry straw/fodder, increase protein content in animal ration by 2% and mineral mixture should be supplemented in the diet to prevent animals from heat stress.(KNO)

#### **J&K Listed Under**

respective state governments and Union territories, picked over 50 destinations and efforts are on to actively promote them as tourist attractions. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the prime destinations, which the centre is promoting under the

campaign to attract more tourists towards the destination.

As per reports, this summer, instead of Shimla, Manali, Nainital or Mussourie, the union tourists.

As per reports, this summer, instead of Shimla, Manali, Nainital or Mussourie, the union tourism ministry is making efforts to develop places including Patnitop in Jammu & Kashmir, to give tourists an option to escape from the scorching heat during the summers.

The other selected destinations include Bir Billing, Kinnaur, Dalhousie and Tirthan in Himachal Pradesh, Auli in Uttarakhand, Wayanad in Kerala, Thenzawl in Mizoram and Kurseong in West Bengal.

ment will focus on lesser-known places known for their crafts, culture and cuisine. This campaign is also aimed at decongesting

Under this initiative, sources said the govern-

This campaign is also aimed at decongesting the overcrowded hill stations and managing tourist flow in popular locations.

The tourism stakeholders and local authorities have welcomed the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign, expressing optimism about its potential to attract a significant influx of tourists to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Kashmir.

"Kashmir is already in demand currently and this campaign will further give a boost to the tourism flow to Kashmir. The government is making efforts to promote both known and offbeat places in Jammu and Kashmir to accommodate more tourists in order to flourish the tourism in-

dustry," said Umar Ahmad, a travel agent. Currently, as the summer heat grips the rest of India, tourist flow to Kashmir has increased with hotels occupied to full capacity for the months of May and June. President, Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) Rouf Ahmad Tramboo said that majority of the hotels were occupied with tourists currently across all the destinations of Kashmir.

"We are witnessing an uninterrupted flow of tourists currently. Winter as well as the spring season has been very encouraging for the tourism sector of Kashmir. We are expecting the flow to sustain for the rest of the months and hope to break previous tourism records," he said.

#### **Last Phase Of LS**

May 13 and 20, respectively, as voters put behind separatist-sponsored boycott calls of the past.

While the Srinagar constituency recorded nearly 38 per cent polling — its second-highest in the past three decades — Baramulla registered its alltime high voter turnout of 58.17 per cent.

National Conference vice president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah contested from the Baramulla seat.

The Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu province was the first in the Union territory to go to polls on April 19 and it registered a 68 per cent turnout in the first major electoral battle in the Union territory since the abrogation of Article 370, sealing the fate of Union minister Jitendra Singh, seeking a third term from the seat.

The polling in the Jammu parliamentary constituency in the second phase of the Lok Sabha election on April 26 recorded a turnout of 69.01 per cent, the highest so far in Jammu and Kashmir in this election.

Spread across 18 assembly segments – seven in Anantnag district, four in Rajouri, three each in Kulgam and Poonch and one in Shopian – the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency is witnessing a high-pitched campaign with leaders such as National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar, Mehbooba Mufti, DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad and Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari making all-out efforts to garner support.

Prominent CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, who is backing INDIA bloc candidate Mian Altaf, reached out to voters in Shopian, while Omar was seen canvassing for him in Anantnag on Wednesday.

Mehbooba has been camping in Rajouri-Poonch for the past two days.

Officials said there has been just one untoward incident so far that happened during an election rally of the National Conference in which three of its workers suffered injuries in a knife attack in the Mendhar area of Poonch on Sunday.

They said a total of 2,338 polling stations, 2,113 in rural areas and 225 in urban areas, are being set up across the constituency. Campaigning is scheduled to end Thursday evening.

Multi-layered security arrangements have been put in place in the poll-bound districts, the officials said, expressing confidence that the trend of record-breaking voting set by central and north Kashmir will continue in south Kashmir as well.

Terrorists struck Kunda Top in Rajouri's Shahdara area on April 22 and shot dead a government employee, Mohd Razaq. This was followed by an ambush on an IAF convoy moving towards Sanai Top in the Surankote area of Poonch on May 4, resulting in the death of one soldier and injuries to four others.

The border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have witnessed some of the major terrorist attacks over the past two years, resulting in the loss of lives of both security personnel and civilians.

The attacks have also signalled the return of terrorism to the region, which remained peaceful between 2003 and 2021.

In two more back-to-back attacks on Saturday night, terrorists shot dead former sarpanch of the BJP Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh in Shopian and injured a tourist couple from Jaipur in the Pahalgam area of Anantnag district.

The terrorists behind all the four attacks are still at large and efforts are on to bring them to book, the officials added.

#### No Intimation

inkling of this matter as no information or notice was ever sent or shared with him by the concerned.

"If as per the authorities, there was any issue involved, the concerned, as is the procedure, should have intimated Mirwaiz instead of 'instantly booking' him in the case. The motive to malign and defame is apparent," the state-

ment said.

It said the Mirwaiz's close kin who is also being implicated, is a well-respected civil servant known for his integrity, and neither of the two have and nor God willing will do anything immoral and illegal.

"The fact is that the present Mirwaiz does not have any land or property in Nagin, but the house in which he is residing was given to him by his father, the late Shaheed Millat Maulana Muhammad Farooq, after fulfilling the legal requirements of that time as well as in 1973. It was built and its walling was also implemented in the same period and coincidentally Mirwaiz was also born in the same year," the statement from Mirwaiz reads.

#### **Testing Time**

constituency is the one seat where the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has a strong base in twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Anantnag seat is going for polls during the sixth phase of the seven-phase general elections. The election on this seat was postponed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) after receiving multiple requests from political parties including BJP, J&K Apni Party and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) whereas NC and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had opposed the same. The elections on this seat was scheduled for the third phase on May 7 but ECI changed it to the sixth phase on May 25.

Previously, Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency was confined to north of Pir Panjal whereas after delimitation Rajouri and Poonch districts of south Pir Panjal were added to this seat making it the only constituency which is spread in both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir.

At present there is a triangular fight between NC, PDP and Apni Party. NC has fielded Gujjar leader Mian Altaf Ahmed, who is a religious leader of his community as well, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti herself is in the race and Apni Party has given the mandate to former Member of Legislative Council (MLC), Zafar Iqbal Manhas, who enjoys the support from BJP as well.

BJP has invested among both Pahari and Gujjar

communities which consist of most of the population of Rajouri and Poonch districts. In absence of the direct candidate of BJP, the saffron party is seeking votes for Apni Party as the ruling party wants to keep its vote bank intact for the upcoming Assembly elections. BJP has announced to field its candidate everywhere during forthcoming Assembly elections.

In this Lok Sabha seat, which comprises 18 Assembly segments, Congress party has a strong base in few pockets where they can support the INDIA bloc partner NC in getting votes. In Assembly segments like Surankote, Rajouri, Dooru and Kokernag, Congress party has a strong base and the oldest political party of the country may be able to garner support for NC candidate.

PDP on the other hand, has lost its ground in many areas like Darhal, Poonch-Haveli and Rajouri when its leaders Choudhary Zulfikar, Shah Muhammad Tantray and Choudhary Qamar left the party. It will be tough for Mehbooba Mufti to reclaim support in these areas as the party doesn't have local leaders who enjoy a strong base among voters.

#### **EC Pulls Up**

senior leader Rahul Gandhi regarding their

The EC also rejected his defence and asked the Congress not to politicise defence forces and make potentially divisive statements regarding socioeconomic composition of the armed forces.

It also asked the Congress to ensure that its star campaigners and candidates do not make statements which give false impression that the Constitution may be abolished or sold.

The EC asked the presidents of the two national parties to issue formal notes to their star campaigners to correct their discourse, exercise care and maintain decorum.

#### **PM Modi Enabled**

afraid of the terror atmosphere around them and had hardly ever dared to hold an open public rally or road show during the election campaign. The result of this was that they would get elected as MLAs and MPs after a heavily guarded limited campaign and a dismal voter turnout.

"This scene is no more visible now in J-K as people have gained faith in Modi's policies aimed at welfare of all, irrespective of any caste and creed," Singh added.

#### Accuses 'BJP-Backed'

with a focus on the role of a party which brought Hawala money in large quantities from Pakistan for funding militancy (in Kashmir)," the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) president told reporters in Poonch district.

"I do not want to name anyone but if you try to find out, you will come to know who is behind handing over money to militants and (separatist) leaders. The connections are still intact and they can use those connections to do anything to ensure low polling percentage in Kashmir," she said.

Mehbooba was apparently referring to Bukhari, who was a former minister in the 2015-18 PDP-BJP alliance government in Jammu and Kashmir. He had won the 2014 assembly elections on a PDP ticket and later formed the Apni Party with 31 former MLAs, mostly from the PDP, in March 2020.

"I am surprised that the BJP, which is claiming to be nationalist, is supporting the party that is involved in Hawala funding and has a direct role in bloodshed. The money pushed from Pakistan for militancy was also used to set up business," Mehbooba alleged.

She also alleged that voters, particularly religious leaders and government employees, are being "harassed". The central government should not fail the youth who are enthusiastically turning up to vote instead of using stones or guns, Mehbooba said.

"Employees are being threatened that their promotions will be stopped and they will be transferred if they do not vote for a particular candidate which I believe is interference in the elections. The Waqf board (headed by BJP leader Darakhshan Andrabi) is used to intimidate religious leaders," she claimed.

Mehbooba said she hopes that "the prime minister (Narendra Modi) will intervene to ensure that no trickery is allowed to vitiate the atmosphere on the polling day (May 25)".

Seeking support from the people, the PDP chief said she will raise all the issues being confronted by the people of the region, including construction of a tunnel along the Mughal road and a government medical college in Poonch, besides bringing various areas on the tourism map of the country.

#### **Such Allegations**

better to fight elections by propagating "your party agenda and policies" rather than making "bitter" comments.

The Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party, which is being supported by the BJP, has fielded Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas from the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency against Mehbooba and National Conference leader Mian Altaf. Bukhari, a former PDP leader, was expelled from the party in January 2019.

In a veiled attack on Bukhari and the Apni Party, Mehbooba, a former J-K chief minister, on Wednesday alleged that the BJP is supporting a party which has been involved in Hawala money pumped in from Pakistan to fund militancy in Kashmir

She made the remarks while talking to reporters in Poonch district, which falls in the Lok Sabha seat that goes to polls on May 25 in the sixth round of the general elections.

"I respect Mehbooba and everyone else. Such allegations by her are not in good taste. Opposing one another on the political turf should be on the basis of agenda, manifesto and election programmes," Raina told reporters in Mendhar in Poonch district.

The BJP leader was canvassing for Apni Party's Manhas. Besides him, Mehbooba and Mian Altaf, there 17 others in the fray from the south Kashmir seat.

Referring to the PDP-BJP coalition government

Referring to the PDP-BJP coalition government between 2015 and 2018, Raina said Mehbooba was a part of it. National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah was a foreign minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led BJP government between July 2001 to December 2002, he said.

"There is no bitterness in politics. The showdown between rival parties is imperative and everyone should try to win elections but we should not reach the level of enmity," Raina said. He said that "it is better to propagate your party agenda, policies and past performances of your government among the people and let them decide whom to vote for".

#### **ACB Registers**

was no legal provision for such a construction, he said.

Verification revealed that backdated permission was granted by the Building Operations Controlling Authority (BOCA) of JDA, stipulating the building be used exclusively for IT purposes, the spokesman said.

Rather violated these conditions, constructing a fifth floor and a porch, and encroaching on the rear setback by building additional structures, the ACB spokesperson said.

The ACB alleged that these former JDA officials colluded with Rather by neglecting their duties and allowing the unauthorised construction, causing a wrongful loss to the government exchequer.

These actions constitute offenses punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act and criminal conspiracy statutes, the spokesperson said, adding further investigations are on.

Previously, on March 14, 2020, the CBI filed

a charge sheet against Hilal Rather in the Rs 177-crore bank fraud case within 10 days of taking over the probe.

The charge sheet, presented before the Special Court in Jammu, also named former branch heads of J&K Bank, New University Campus branch Iqbal Singh and Arun Kapoor as accused.

The CBI had alleged that Hilal Rather conspired with bank officials to secure loans totalling Rs 177.68 crore in violation of established rules and guidelines.

The case, initially investigated by the Anti-Corruption Bureau of the Union Territory (UT), is now being probed by a special investigation team following the CBI's registration of the FIR on March 4, 2020, at the UT's request.

#### **Kashmiri Students**

of Kyrgyzstan last week. The unrest is said to have stemmed from an incident of harassment involving female students from Egypt.

The attacks were instigated by online videos depicting a confrontation between Egyptian and Kyrgyz students on May 13. Reports said that Egyptian girls were physically attacked by the irate local students, who burst into their hostel on May 17, four days after the confrontation between two sides.

Though the Kyrgyzstan government, according to the students who spoke to Kashmir Observer, apologized for the unfortunate incident and guaranteed safety for the foreign students, the situation in Bishkek is yet to get back to normal.

"Locals are threatening to kill foreign students, in case they don't leave the country," a student from south Kashmir studying in Jalalabad State University In Kyrgyzstan told Kashmir Observer over phone.

"After breaking into the dormitory of an Egyptian girl's hostel in Bishkek, a group of enraged local students assaulted female students, prompting retribution together from Egyptian students and those from India and Pakistan. At least four Pakistani students lost their lives while around a dozen Indian students were critically injured in the incident," he said.

The student claimed that the incident stemmed from anti-black sentiment prevalent in Kyrgyzstan, where black individuals are employed or enrolled in different educational institutions, and the locals actively pressure the government for their 'expulsion'.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to consider organizing special flights to bring the Indian students back "till the issues come under control".

The people of Kyrgyzstan, according to the

The people of Kyrgyzstan, according to the stranded students, have apologized to the students from Pakistan and India and have requested them to carry on with their education without fear of violence or threats.

The Kyrgyz citizens in a video circulated on social media have condemned such despicable acts and sought action against the hooligans, having created a sense of fear among foreign students in Kyrgyzstan.

"On behalf of the people of Kyrgyzstan, we extend our sincere apologies to the students of Pakistan and India. And while the recent incident could have happened anywhere, we also want to highlight that our country is generally safe and hospitable for foreigners," the video recorded in English language says.

Adding, we deeply regret that due to the actions of a few hooligans, many people have experienced fear and stress. We strongly condemn such despicable acts and hope our relationship will continue to develop based on the best human qualities, all instigators and provocateurs will be punished. This event serves a lesson to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

"Most Kyrgyzstan people are worried and support foreign students. Brothers and sisters, we hope this situation will only unite our nations and not cause any discord," it says.

"We have been siled to stay indeers till the

"We have been asked to stay indoors till the situation returns to normal in Bishkek which is around five kilometers from here. We always worry about being attacked by the Kyrgyz people. Although all the universities and colleges where students from various Asian and Middle Eastern countries study have security officers stationed. But we no longer feel secure," Andleeb, a student from Srinagar, told Kashmir Observer.

She claimed that since the incident some 800 Pakistani students departed Kyrgyzstan; however, hundreds of Indian students are waiting for their return to their homeland.

The Indian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan provided a contact number for assistance and urged students to remain indoors until further notice. Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar echoed this advice, urging Indian students to stay in touch with the Embassy.

"Since the rioting started on May 17, lessons are only offered virtually. We are not allowed to move out or open the door for anyone. How could we ever survive here under such circumstances, hence we humbly ask the Indian government to guarantee our prompt return to India," Andleeb added.

#### **Iran's Supreme Leader**

Revolutionary Guard. The presence of leaders from Hamas and Hezbollah — two key Iranian allies in the Middle East — alongside an array of non-Western officials offered a stark illustration of Tehran's international standing at a turbulent moment for the country.

The president, Ebrahim Raisi, 63, was killed in a helicopter crash along with Iran's foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, 60, and five others traveling with them on Sunday.

Following the deadly helicopter crash, Iran set June 28 as the next presidential election. For now, there's no clear favorite for the position among Iran's political elite.

Speaking at the ceremony Iranian Interior

Minister Ahmad Vahdidi said that Iran is mourning the loss of a beloved, popular, and humble president.

"We had a bad landing in this matter, but we will have a brilliant rise," Vahidi stressed.

During Raici's term in office, Iran launched an

During Raisi's term in office, Iran launched an unprecedented attack on Israel last month as its war on Gaza rages on. Iran has supported Hamas throughout the war.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh attended the fu-

neral prayers and said in his address that, "I come in the name of the Palestinian people, in the name of the resistance factions of Gaza...to express our condolences," Haniyeh said.

Haniyeh recounted Raisi telling him this year that the Oct. 7 attack was an "earthquake in the

that the Oct. 7 attack was an "earthquake in the heart of the Zionist entity." In a later meeting with Ayatollah Khamenei, the supreme leader told Haniyeh that the "destruction of the Zionist regime is feasible and, God willing, the day in which Palestine will be created from the sea to river will arrive."

Haniyeh's presence and that of commanders from Lebanon and Yemen signaled Iran intends to continue its policy of support for resistance groups — including Palestine, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement.

Statesmen from the Mideast and beyond attended a later memorial service, including Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and

Tunisian President Kais Saied.

According to Barbara Slavin, an Iran expert and distinguished fellow at the Stimson Center, a think tank in Washington, the "fairly modest showing of heads of state" was most likely a reflection of Raisi's political status — which was more akin to that of a prime minister than a president.

"Raisi was not the head of state — the supreme leader is," Ms. Slavin said, adding that, as such, it "would not be appropriate" for President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia or China's Xi to attend the funeral.

#### **Vice President**

tributes to Raisi, Amir-Abdollahian, and other Iranian officials who died in the crash.

A one-day state mourning was observed across India on Tuesday as a mark of respect for Raisi.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar paid tributes to late President Raisi, late Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian, and other Iranian officials in Tehran today, his office said in a post on X along with pictures of the event.

Vice President Attends Iran President Raisi's Funeral, Pays Tribute

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar met Iran's acting President Mohammad Mokhber

Tehran: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday met Iran's acting President Mohammad Mokhber here and conveyed condolences over the tragic demise of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-

Abdollahian in a helicopter crash.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is leading the Indian delegation at the official funeral ceremony, paid tributes to Raisi, Amir-Abdollahian, and other Iranian officials who died in the crash.

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"VP lagdeep Dhankhar met Acting President of

Iran, Dr. Mohammad Mokhber in Tehran today. VP conveyed condolences on the tragic demise of President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister H. Amir-Abdollahian," the External Affairs Ministry said in a separate post on X. Jagdeep Dhankhar, who arrived here earlier in the day to attend the official funeral ceremony.

the day to attend the official funeral ceremony, was received by the Iranian authorities on his arrival in Tehran. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have conveyed their condolences on the demise of Raisi.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the embassy of Iran in New Delhi on Tuesday to convey India's condolences on the loss.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei presided over a funeral on Wednesday for the country's late president, foreign minister, and others killed in the crash. Thousands of people attended the funeral procession of the late president and his companions.

Several world leaders attended the official funeral ceremony in Tehran.

The Iranian president, the country's foreign minister, and several other officials were found dead on Monday, hours after their helicopter crashed in a foggy, mountainous region in the northwestern part of the country, Iran state media reported.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com Raisi, 63, and his entourage were heading to Tabriz city after returning from a visit to a locality on the Azerbaijan-Iran border on Sunday.

#### **India To Showcase**

topics covering universal health coverage, public health emergency preparedness and response, anti-microbial resistance, climate change, sustainable financing for WHO etc, an official source said.

Committee B mainly focuses on internal and external audit, budget and financing matters and the WHO secretariat.

At least 14 side events and multiple strategic

roundtables are being organized on the sidelines of WHA focusing on diverse health topics where the participant will share their thoughts on the way forward for the global health architecture. India is leading and supporting the Regional

India is leading and supporting the Regional One Voice for the Southeast Asia region, advocating for well-being and health promotion, social determinants of health, maternal, infant and young child nutrition and economics and health for all.

## **Rising Temperatures in Kashmir: Doctors Issue Heatwave Guidelines**

Urge precautions to stay hydrated, advise increasing water intake, avoiding sunlight, taking citrus fruits, salads

**SRINAGAR:** As temperatures continue to rise in Kashmir, health experts have urged people, especially those exposed to direct sunlight, to take necessary precautions to avoid heatrelated illnesses.

Several doctors who spoke to the news agency, called upon people to stay hydrated.

Dr Fayaz Ahmad of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar advised people to increase their water intake even if they do not feel thirsty. "People must try to avoid direct sunlight as much as possible and keep themselves hydrated, especially those working outdoors, such as agricultural workers and labourers," he said.

He recommended consuming enough water multiple times a day, prioritising work during the cooler morning and evening hours, and avoiding midday activities. He also suggested eating fruits and vegetables and drinking electrolyte-rich fluids like coconut water and fruit juice.

"Excessive heat can lead to sweating, dehydration, heatstroke, and other health problems like drowsiness, irritability, muscle cramps, a drop in blood pressure, headaches, fatigue, confusion, dry and pale skin, and palpitations," Dr Fayaz



from GMC Srinagar, advised people to avoid direct sunlight, especially in paddy fields, and to wear full sleeves to protect against insect bites. "Those working in the fields must drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated," he said.

According to doctors, hot weather can exacerbate conditions for those with heart disease and high blood pressure. They warned against excessive consumption of tea, coffee and caffeinated drinks, as these can cause fluid loss. "Eating cold foods and fruits with high water content like melon, citrus fruits, and salads is preferable. Highlyspiced food should be avoided as it increases the need for water to Dr Sameer, another doctor quench thirst," they advised.

Clothing also plays a crucial role in managing heat, the doctors suggested. "Wear light, loosely fitted clothes in lighter colours. Darker colours, especially black, absorb more heat and transmit it to the body."

They added, "High temperatures can lead to heat stress, causing various heat-related illnesses, ranging from mild (heat rash, heat cramps) to severe (heatstroke). Symptoms include dizziness, nausea, headache, extreme thirst, decreased urination, rapid breathing, and heartbeat. Heat stress can also worsen chronic conditions like cardiovascular, respiratory, and kidney diseases.'

For those experiencing heat stress, the doctors recommended immediate measures: "If vou feel dizzy or uneasy, drink water to rehydrate, loosen clothes if possible, and move to a cooler place. Sponge with water and avoid forcing food or drink if unconscious. Seek medical attention immediately if necessary."

In cases of severe heat stress, such as heatstroke, they advised: "Take the affected person to the nearest hospital or call an ambulance if unconscious. Do not give anything to drink or eat if the person is unconscious. If alert, provide frequent sips of cool water or fluids like an ORS solution. Remove safety gear, loosen clothing, splash or sponge with tap water, and turn the person onto their side if vomiting to avoid choking."—(KNO)

## **Omar Questions PDP's** Allegiance To INDIA Bloc

PAHALGAM: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah has criticised the PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, questioning her allegiance to the INDIA bloc and the PAGD, and alleging she never campaigned against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), solely targeting his National Conference.

Reiterating the unity of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and its ioint efforts during elections, Abdullah said the People's Democratic Party's decision to distance itself from the grouping was driven by self-interest rather than any ideological issue.

There was a method that they did. As far as the PAGD is concerned, the PAGD is intact. The PAGD fought this election together, whether it was the Awami National Conference, CPI(M) and the NC, it was only the PDP that moved away," the NC vice president told PTI.

The PAGD was formed by six parties which also included the CPI and Sajad Lone's People's Conference. However, Lone's party moved away after defeat in the local body elections.

Abdullah, who kickstarted the final round of campaign in Anantnag-Rajouri seat, questioned the PDP's stance on the BJP, highlighting the absence of any active canvassing by Mehbooba Mufti in favour of the Congress or the INDIA bloc, and against



the BJP in places like Udhampur and Jammu.

"She didn't campaign against the BJP in Udhampur, nor did she campaign in Jammu. So how can she claim to be part of the IN-DIA bloc? How can she claim to be against the BJP? She is only against the NC, she is not against the BJP," Abdullah

The Anantnag-Rajouri seat goes to poll in the sixth phase on May 25.

Abdullah accused the PDP of fostering animosity against the NC, saying the party had been consistently criticising the NC for the past two years.

Without directly naming the PDP's Srinagar Lok Sabha candidate Wahid Para, Abdullah pointed out that as he resumed political activities after being released from jail, his initial speeches were aimed against the National Conference, indicating a deliberate PDP strategy.

"So clearly, the PDP did that by design. There was a meth-od that they did...For the PDP, this alliance was not about ideology, it was self-interest. NC which they did not get. For us and for other constituents of PAGD even INDIA bloc, this was ideological.

'The PAGD was never an electoral understanding but the INDIA bloc was. I ask the PDP where is their campaign against the BJP, tell me one place where Mehbooba Mufti had gone and campaigned for the Congress or the IN-DIA bloc against the BJP. Nowhere," he said.

On the Jamaat-e-Islami announcing its intention to fight elections if the ban on in it lifted, Abdullah said, "Better late than never. The Jamaat-e-Islami has been on the forefront of seeking to make JK a part of Pakistan. And this is not just now, it has been for decades, so for them now to openly say that they will contest elections as an organisation should the ban on them be revoked, I think nothing like it."

Abdullah said the Centre should immediately revoke the ban on the Jamaat once the Model Code of Conduct is lifted so that it could field candidates with their own symbol and party.

"In the past, the Jamaat has dabbled in politics and they have quietly supported different political par-ties and different political candidates...I believe the ban should be lifted and let them take the same oath that we take and then whatever we have to say to them and ask them to answer for, we will do that at that time," he said.

## **Geyser Blast In Budgam** Claims One Life, Injures Two



Agencies

**BUDGAM:** Tragedy struck early Wednesday morning at the vilmir's Budgam district, when a geyser explosion at a local residence resulted in one fatality and multiple injuries.

An official told the news agency, that the incident occurred at the home of Manzoor Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Gani Dar and the huge explosion caused significant structural damage to the house, leading to its collapse.

He said that due to the collapse, Manzoor Ahmad Dar, who was inside at the time,

was buried under the rubble and died on the spot; however locals managed to extricate two family members from the debris who sustained various injuries in the incident.

The injured were swiftly transported to JVC hospital in Srinagar, where they are currently receiving medical treatment.

As soon as the news spread in the area, thousands of people gathered in the village to offer their condolences to the bereaved family.

Later, a massive crowd attended the funeral of the deceased amidst tears and sobs, bidding their final farewell to Manzoor—(KNO)

## Mehbooba Mufti To Build Consensus Against UAPA: Para

**Agencies** 

booba Mufti, who is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from the Anantnag-Rajouri seat in Jammu and Kashmir, will rally support for the abolition of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the party's youth wing president Waheed Ur Rehman Para said.

Para, who served an 18-month jail term following his arrest in a terror conspiring it violates basic rights, undermines democratic values by allowing prolonged detention without a trial.

Speaking to PTI at a campaign event for his party chief Mehbooba Mufti in south Kashmir, Para highlighted "alarming statistics" associated with the UAPA, citing its alleged misuse and low con-

viction rates. He stressed Mufti's commitment to repealing the law which is perceived as an instrument of governmental overreach.

"If elected, Mehbooba will work towards repealing this law, which is seen as a gross

**KPDCL Urges Domestic** 

**Consumers To Avail** 

**Interest Waiver** 

**Agencies** 

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir Power

Distribution Corporation Lim-

ited (KPDCL) has urged its

domestic consumers to come

forward and avail the interest

waiver offered by the Govern-

ment under Power Amnesty

Scheme, which shall help

them to settle their long pend-

In a statement released

today, a KPDCL spokesman

said that the Power Amnesty

Scheme notified in 2022, has

now been extended till March

31, 2025, to facilitate those do-

mestic consumers who have

not been able to avail its ben-

Expressing satisfaction on

the positive response received

to the Amnesty Scheme, the

KPDCL spokesman advised the

consumers to approach their

concerned Electric Subdivision

to clear outstanding electric-

ity dues without late payment

surcharge as per Scheme. "Con-

sumers can either pay their

efits earlier.



abuse of power," Para, also the candidate from Srinagar, said, emphasising his party's oppoacy case in November 2020, sition to oppressive laws like condemned the UAPA, claim- the UAPA which are being used to "stifle dissent and encroach on civil liberties".

Mehbooba, aligning with her agenda of "justice, unity, and resilience"

"The UAPA undermines democratic principles, allowing prolonged detentions without a trial and violating fundamental rights," he said.

Underlining the significance of voting in shaping the future, Para called for support to Mehbooba's cause, positioning the fight against the UAPA as a bid to uphold the rule of law and prevent unjust persecution.

He advocated for the law's

principal amount due to KPDCL

n full or in equal instalments

to claim waiver on interest

charged to settle their claims,"

he said, reiterating Government

has ordered that the Scheme

shall not be further extended

As many as 13,985 domes-

tic consumers have availed

the scheme for waiver on late

payment surcharge with KD-

PCL collecting a revenue of

Urging the domestic con-

sumers to avail the last oppor-

tunity provided by the Gov-

ernment, KPDCL spokesman

further stated that as per the

orders issued, it shall be left

with no option but to discon-

nect the consumers without

any further notice, who do not

Highlighting the ongoing in-

spections and disconnection

drives being undertaken by KP-

DCL, the spokesman asked the

consumers to clear their out-

standing bills, failing which their

connections will be snapped.

avail the scheme benefits.

beyond March 31, 2025.

Rs.12.41 crore so far.

abolition as a step towards fostering peace and rebuilding trust in society.

Additionally, Para pledged to champion the release of Kashmiri vouths detained under stringent laws like the UAPA and the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Drawing from personal experiences, he expressed solidarity with incarcerated youth and vowed to amplify their voices nationally.

Promising to address the legitimate aspirations of the populace, including securing amnesty for youth and students. Para vowed to advocate for the release and repatriation of political prisoners.

He assured to prioritise the concerns of affected families, pledging to be their advocate in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

## **Aiding Peace Disruptors** Will Face Law: DGP

Agencies

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain on Tuesday issued a stern warning saying that any-one found aiding those who seek to disrupt peace and development will face strict legal consequences.

DGP Swain, who held a security review of Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and Shiv Khori temple in Reasi, emphasised the necessity of robust and proactive measures to ensure pub-

"Anyone found aiding those who seek to harm peace and development will be dealt with firmly under the law," he said.

The DGP held interaction with jawans and officers, where he reiterated the need for diligence and responsibility in maintaining security.

"There is a need for robust and proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of people" he said.

He inaugurated various facilities for officers and officials, underscoring the importance of a strong security framework.

**Traffic Resumes On** 

**Kashmir Highway** 



measures with jurisdiction officers, highlighting the importance of thwarting attempts to destabilise peace. The DGP noted that with an

organisational strength of over 1.20 lakh, each Inspector rank officer oversees about 1,000 individuals.

He stressed that these officers must exhibit substantial pride in their community service, rooted in honesty and dedication.

During his visit, DGP Swain, along with other senior officers, paid tribute at the Martyr's Memorial and inaugurated new facilities.

He also distributed tablets to Beat officers and provided Close User Group (CUG) numbers to jurisdictional officers.

## **Forest Department Taking Steps** To Conserve Biodiversity: PCCF

**KO NEWS SERVICE** 

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: In order to conserve the biological diversity for environmental security and economic prosperity of the people of J&K, the J&K Forest Department has initiated various measures across the UT of J&K to protect the natural ecosystem like Forest, Wetlands, Alpine pastures, etc.

This was stated by Roshan Jaggi, PCCF- HoFF and Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council while addressing a gathering of different stakeholders viz. frontline staff of Forest, Wildlife and other wings, students from different colleges and schools, representatives of NGOs, Scholars and faculty members of SKUAST- Kashmir and local people.

The programme was organized at world famous Dachigam National Park, famous for the Kashmir Stag (Hangul) which is found exclusively in this endemic area.

The PCCF said the Department has involved PRIs, ULBs, local people, students, Army and Para military forces besides other sections of the civil soci-

ety in Green J&K Drive. He informed that 180 lakh

plants were planted inside the forest as well as on vacant lands during last financial year. Department has constituted Committees Panchayat-wise to conserve medicinal plants, protect forests, promote afforestation activities, and conserve the water resources like wetlands,

Campaigns like 'Plastic Free Forest', 'Paid Lagao Beti Ke Naam', 'Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeewn' and 'Mission Life' have been taken up across all districts of UT of J&K to protect the natural resources, conserve water bodies and create awareness on issues of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

Efforts have yielded the results in the form of increase in ToF, and has also increased the participation of people in nature based tourism.

The emphasis of the Department is to empower the local communities to create forest based livelihoods and ensure peoples participation in management of the forests, the PCCF said.

It is worth mentioning here that J&K has forest cover over 54% of the geographical area with 42 types of forests which is highest in the country.

# ANANTNAG: PDP chief Meh-

He urged voters to back

#### **Property Of Terrorist** Commander **Attached In Shopian**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Continuing its crackdown on the terror ecosystem, Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday said to have attached property including land and partial residential house of a selfstyled terrorist commander in Shopian.

statement issued to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Police in Shopian under the supervi-

sion of SSP Shopian Tanushree in collaboration with revenue authorities attached property of a self-styled terrorist commander Abid Ramzan Sheikh @ Saifullah @ Khalid son of Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh resident of Chotipora Shopian, a police spokesman said in a

The property includes 01 kanal & 10 marlas of land under survey No. 1165 situated at Chotipora Shopian and a partial residential house, police said, adding that "the said active terrorist is involved in a number of terror related cases in district Shopian as well as neighbouring districts. It is pertinent to mention here that the said terrorist is highly involved in instigating/ motivating gullible and budding youth to join the ranks of terrorists. This action became inevitable in view of his continuous involvement in terrorism and spoiling the career of poor, innocent & gullible youth of the area."

JAMMU: The vehicular traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway resumed early Wednesday after being suspended for a day, officials said. Light motor vehicles and pri-

**Agencies** 

vate cars are allowed to travel in both directions on the highway, a traffic police official said. However, heavy motor vehicles are restricted to one-way traffic from Jakhani (Udhampur) towards Srinagar, he added.

"Traffic resumed on the highway following a day-long suspension," the official said.

He said there is slow movement between Ramban and Banihal due to poor road conditions and the movement of nomadic flocks.

Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline to avoid congestion.

The highway was closed on Tuesday for unspecified reasons, though sources indicated it was for repair and maintenance work.

Meanwhile, the Mughal Road and Bhaderwah-Chamba Road are open for traffic.

The traffic police official also said that there was slow movement on the highway due to the breakdown of five heavy motor vehicles, movement of 10 nomadic flocks and single-lane traffic at several points, including Dalwas, Mehar, Panthyal, Magerkote, Nachlana, Gangroo, and Shalgari.

Passengers and operators are advised to travel during daylight hours to avoid inconvenience due to the nomadic movement towards the Kashmir Valley and the risk of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.

## People In India Try To Find Reason Not To Pick Kohli, He's My First Pick: Ponting

BENGALURU: Legendary Australian cricketer Ricky Pointing is perplexed why people in India try to "find reasons" to not pick Virat Kohli in the national side and said the charismatic former skipper would be his "first pick" for the T20 World Cup in the Americas.

Kohli's sublime form in the ongoing IPL has seen him leading the run-chart with 708 runs from 14 innings, though questions keep cropping up about his strike rate at the top of the order.

"He (Kohli) is the first pick for me for India. So, class and experience like that, you can't

"It's funny with Virat. I think people in India just always try to find a reason not to pick him or a reason why he's maybe not as good as some of these other guys in the T20 game," the former Australian captain and Delhi Capitals head coach told ICC.



Ponting feels Kohli should open the innings with captain Rohit Sharma at next month's T20 World Cup in the West In-

dies and USA, as Suryakumar Yadav and the likes are quite capable of prepping up the run

"They (selectors) have still got a decision to make (on the opening pair) because (Yashasvi) Jaiswal is in that squad

a lot in their team is left-hand

"So they've got a decision to make with Jaiswal (batting position), but I'm pretty sure that they'll go with Kohli and Rohit Sharma (as openers)," added Ponting.

"He can play his role at the top. And if you've got the right guys around him scoring (like) (Yadav)...Rohit Suryakumar Sharma's going to have a high strike rate. These other guys can go in there and play their way."

Kohli has scored a century, his eighth overall, this IPL season and five half-tons, a feat that has helped PCB make a dramatic turnaround to make the playoffs with six straight wins.

Despite all the talk about Kohli's strike rate of 155.60 this season, it has been his best in the 17 years that he has played for RCB, an indicator that he is improvising and trying his best to better it further

## **Kashmir University Holds Intra-University Road Race**



**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Directorate of Physical Education and Sports initiated Inter Department Road Race for men and women at the university campus on Wednesday. A total of 87 students from different departments participated in the race, including 50 boys and 37 girls from various departments and satellite

campuses of University of Kashmir. Prof Naseer Iqbal, Registrar of University of Kashmir, extended greeting to participants and motivated them to come forward and participate in all sports activities. The medallists in the men and women categories were felicitated by Dr. Mandeep Singh, Director Directorate of Physical Education and

In Men's section, Mir Riyaz of Department of Mathematics bagged Gold, while Amir Saleem of Law

Department won Silver and Abid Amin Khan took Bronze. In Women's category, Inayat Farooq

of MPEd and Hurmah Shah of Law Department clinched Gold, Sumy Jan bagged Silver and Iqra Bano of MPEd won Bronze.

## **Cross Country Race For Girls** Held In Bijbehara

**Observer News Service** 

**ANANTNAG:** The Zonal Physical nized a Cross Country Road Race for Under-14 and Under-17 girls on Wednesday. The race was flagged off from Padshah Bagh Bijbehara & was culminated at Govt. Middle School Gadiseer. The race was flagged off by Senior PEM Khurshid Ahmad War along with Activity Incharge Zone Bijbehara Sajad Ahmad Darsaroo and other field officials of ZPEO Bijbehara.

In the race, nearly 220 students from different schools of Bijbehara participated. Medical Team from Block Medical Office Bijbehara provided first aid facility to the runners.

In U-14 age group, Aqsa Azad of BMS HP Tawaila secured 1st Place,



Saliha of MS Gadiseer secured 2nd place, Sakiya Fayaz of HS HP Bagh secured 3rd place.

While in U-17, Sufoora of HS HP Bagh secured 1st place, Falak Feroz of Public School Bijbehara secured 2nd place, Maliha Amin of Public School Bijbehara secured 3rd place.

## **Umran Malik Selected For High Performance Monitoring Program**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: J&K star speedster Umran Malik was on Wednesday selected for the National Cricket Academy's High Performance Monitoring Program for the 2024-25 domestic cricket season.

VVS Laxman, Head Cricket, National Cricket Academy, informed J&K Cricket Association that All India Men's Selection Committee has selected Umran for the program.

'The Sub-Committee JKCA is pleased to see the hardwork and perseverance of Umran Malik being recognised by the National Selectors and hope that Umran Malik will continue to work hard and will live up to the expectations of the National Selectors," a press



release by JKCA stated. "The cricket fraternity of Jammu & Kashmir is also hap-

py that Umran Malik has once again figured in the radar of the National Selectors," it added.

To ensure effective and continuous monitoring, the NCA has issued a set of detailed instructions to the player and the association.

The monitoring includes GPS units for injury prevention and tracking overload of players, who will be issued a personal GPS monitoring unit.

## **YSS Organises District Level Basketball Tourney For Girls**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Department on Wednesday organised an Inter-School District Level Basketball Tournament for Under-17 girls on Wednesday at Gindun Playfield here. The event focused on slogans of "Drug Free Srinagar" and "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao."

"The tournament promises to be a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship," the department said in a statement.

The event witnessed the participation of various schools from the district, fostering healthy competition zones of Srinagar are geared



among the students.

DYSS is organising several other Inter School Zonal Level tournaments across Srinagar in Chess/Table Tennis, Badminton, Football and Basketball. All the eight up in conducting diverse sports activities.

The District Level Basketball Tournament at Gindun Ground is also being organised for boys of all age groups, where they could be selected for national level competitions.

## **Short TAKES**

#### **Umpires Shahid Saikat, Richard Illingworth To Officiate T20 WC Opener**

The ICC on Wednesday named Shahid Saikat and Richard Illingworth as the stand-in umpires for the T20 World Cup tournament opener between the USA and Canada. Shahid will become the first Bangladesh umpire to officiate at the Men's T20 World Cup

Saikat, 47, took charge of five matches in the last edition and has also been on the panel at two ICC Women's Cricket World Cups and the 2018 ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

#### **India Shines At World Para Athletics C'ship**

India's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari defended his gold medal in the men's shot put F46 category with an Asian record at the World Para Athletics Championship as the country surpassed its best-ever haul in the global competition here on Wednesday.

Dharambir claimed a bronze medal in the men's club throw F51 category to take India's tally to 12 medals (five gold, four silver and three bronze) and maintain their third spot in the standings behind China (18-16-14) and Brazil (17-8-5).

#### **Match-Fixing Rocks Lanka Premier League: Franchise Owner Arrested**

Tamim Rahman, a British citizen of Bangladeshi origin who owns the Lanka Premier League (LPL) franchise Dambulla Thunders, was on Wednesday ar-

rested on suspicion of indulging in match-fixing. An official from the Special Investigation Unit for the Prevention of Offenses Relating to Sports at the Sports Ministry confirmed the arrest of the individual, who holds British citizenship.

Rahman was arrested by the immigration officials at the city's Bandaranaike International Airport following a court order.

#### **Azam Khan's Dollar Controversy Sparks Outrage Among Pakistani Fans**

Dakistan wicketkeeper-batter Azam Khan has landed himself in controversy after he was being seen wiping his eyebrow with a US dollar on social media. The video, also featuring Pakistan captain Babar Azam and some other players, has drawn backlash with Pakistani cricket fans criticising Azam and other players for their insensitivity, given the country's economic situation.

Babar laughingly asks Azam, "What happened Abba?", who responded: "Bohat garmi hai (It is too hot here)," while wiping sweat with the dollar note leading to laughter from teammates.

#### **Oaktree Capital Takes Over Inter Milan Amid Financial Turmoil**



S. investment fund Oaktree Capital Management said it had taken ownership of Italian champions Inter Milan after a missed 395 million euro (\$428 million) payment from the club's Chinese majority shareholder. Granted by Oaktree in 2021 to the Luxembourg-based vehicle through which Chinese conglomerate Suning controlled Inter, the loan was guaranteed by the stake in the club. That gave Oaktree, which specialises in providing

rescue funding to struggling firms, the potential right to take control of the club in the event of a default.

## Rafael Nadal Ready For An Emotional Farewell At French Open

**Associated Press** 

PARIS: If this is, as expected, Rafael Nadal's final French Open, it will be one that everyone — the 37-year-old Spaniard included surely will remember vividly.

No matter how healthy the guy everyone calls "Rafa" might be. No matter how long his stay in the bracket lasts. No matter whether he somehow adds another championship at Roland Garros to the record 14 he owns.

Narrator: Not even Nadal truly believes that is possible. Indeed, as of Wednesday morning, he had not announced definitely whether he would be in the field, although he showed up on-site to practice.

"I am not negative," he explained. "I am just realistic."

Think back just a couple of years ago to Serena Williams' farewell at the US Open. That's the sort of atmosphere and adoration likely to be on display whenever Nadal swings a racket or simply strolls around compact-for-a-Grand-Slam-grounds in the southwest section of Paris where the

clay-court tournament begins

Sunday.

"I cannot predict what kind of emotions I am going to have there," said Nadal, who has been saying for a while that he thinks 2024 will be his final season before retirement. "I just want to enjoy every day.

That's been difficult lately because of hip and abdominal muscle injuries that limited him to 20 matches, and a 9-11 record, over the past 20 months.

Nadal missed nearly all of 2023 after hurting his hip during a loss at the Australian Open that January. He had surgery almost exactly a year ago and sat out the French Open for the first time since making his debut there in 2005, when, naturally, he claimed the trophy at age 19.

A torn hip muscle this January forced Nadal to miss the Australian Open; an ab problem sidelined him later. He returned in April, but in three places he's won a total of 27 titles - Barcelona, Madrid, Rome - Nadal made it no further than the fourth round anywhere and

called himself "unpredictable." That stretch was capped by a 6-1 6-3 loss to Hubert Hurkacz at the Italian Open, a result so



dispiriting that Nadal wondered aloud whether he should bother showing up at Roland Garros, although did say he was reluctant to skip "the most important event of my tennis career." The 22-time major champion is not able to run at full speed or compete with full force. He does not have the match-readiness

required to succeed. "For him to feel like he's going in with his C' game - not B' game; C' game — and maybe

fearing almost that he could

Chris Evert, who won seven of her 18 Grand Slam titles in Paris. "He's been such a perfectionist on that surface, why would he want to expose himself at that level? No man has won even half as

lose first or second round?" said

many French Opens as Nadal. His winning percentage there is .974. He had streaks of five championships in a row, four in a row and three in a row. This says it all: There's al-

ready a statue of him near the main stadium.

"It's really a paramount challenge to play him in Roland Garros," said Novak Djokovic, whose 24 major trophies make him the only man with more than Nadal. "He's an incredible athlete. The tenacity and intensity he brings on the court, particularly there, is something that was very rarely seen, I think, in the history of this sport."

Djokovic - who formed, with Nadal and the now-retired Roger Federer, the so-called Big Three — and Iga Swiatek are the defending champions in France and both are ranked No. 1. Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner are the emerging stars of men's tennis; Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff have that status in the women's game.

But all eyes — of spectators and of other athletes — will be on Nadal for however long he stavs in the field.

"He's probably the only player that when I practice on the court next to him, I would literally zone out of my practice to watch him," said Gauff, the 20-year-old American who won last year's US Open.

The way he carries himself is just great. His legacy is going to be something that is almost unmatched when it comes to just the intensity in which he approaches everything. That's something that the players will miss and the fans will miss."

So this represents a chance to say "Merci" and "Au revoir." No one — maybe not even Nadal himself – knows how many more times he will play, whether at Roland Garros, which also is set to host tennis at the Summer Olympics (he already owns singles and doubles golds), or

anywhere else. So plenty of standing ovations await. Likely a post-match ceremony, too.