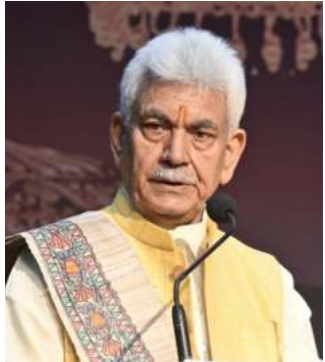


LG Praises Historic Voter Turnout



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the people and all the stakeholders on historic turnout in Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency polls.

He also commended Jammu Kashmir Police and Security forces for elaborate security management during polls in all five Parliamentary Constituencies of the Union Territory.

In a tweet, the LG said, "I congratulate the people for historic turnout in today's polls for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency. I compliment all stakeholders for successful conduct of this huge exercise, especially voters for their unique contribution in strengthening democratic values."

"Overall, there has been 58% polling in J&K UT for 5 Parliamentary Constituencies in 5 phases, which is a record turnout and the entire process was conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. Congratulations to the JKP & Security forces for elaborate security management". | [More on P6](#)

53% - Anantnag Records Highest Turnout Since 1984



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday said after a record polling percentage in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and

Baramulla, the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat too has "shattered" the voter-turnout record with 53 per cent voters exercising their franchise, the highest in 40 years.

With this, the three seats in

the Kashmir valley -- Srinagar (38.49 per cent), Baramulla (59.1 per cent) and Anantnag-Rajouri (53 per cent) -- have recorded the highest voter turnouts "in many decades", the poll panel said. | [More on P6](#)

Poll Process For 5 LS Seats In J&K Ends

Overall 58% Voting Percentage, Highest In 35 years

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Five seats of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) witnessed a record 58 percent voter turnout, officials said on May 25, the day when the polling in the Union Territory ended with the commencement of voting in Anantnag-Rajouri seat.

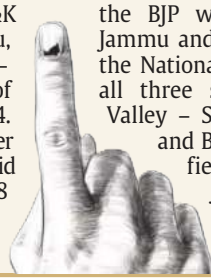
Four other seats of J&K -- Udhampur, Jammu, Srinagar and Baramulla -- voted in earlier phases of Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, PK Pole said on Saturday that the 58 per cent turnout for all Jammu and Kashmir

seats is a record. "The previous high was 49 per cent recorded in 2014, while the turnout in 1996 was 47.99 per cent," Pole said.

All three seats of Kashmir Valley -- Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri -- witnessed record turnouts. While Anantnag-Rajouri registered about 53 per cent polling on May 25, Baramulla saw 59.1 per cent voter turnout on May 20 and Srinagar saw 38.49 per cent voter turnout during May 13 polling.

In 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP won two seats of Jammu and Udhampur while the National Conference won all three seats of Kashmir Valley -- Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla. The BJP fielded candidates in Jammu seats but did not contest the | [More on P6](#)



From Zero To Record South Kashmir Villages End Election Boycott

In a remarkable turnaround, numerous villages across south Kashmir saw a significant increase in voter participation, marking a shift from zero percent voting to a substantial turnout. | [More on P6](#)

Young Voters Prioritize Statehood, Employment

Restoration of statehood and employment was the key issue for the first time voters in Anantnag-Rajouri constituency on Saturday. First-time voters, at different polling stations, said that the vote has more importance as | [More on P6](#)

Border Villages Enjoy Peaceful Voting

Just metres from the Line of Control (LoC), the polling stations set up for Lok Sabha elections at Sehar and Makri, the last Indian villages in this sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, came to life with enthusiastic voters | [More on P6](#)

Mehbooba Accuses Admin Of 'Engineering 1987-Like Rigging'

Nazir Ganaie

Anantnag: Former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party President, Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday alleged that her party workers and polling agents were being detained in police stations "without any reason"—accusing admin of "engineering 1987-like rigging." While as Police claimed they had detained Over Ground Workers (OGW) from the erstwhile militancy-infested areas in south Kashmir.

Mehbooba Mufti also claimed that complaints regarding the efforts to "tamper the EVMS" were being received for which she had alerted the Election Commission of India. Mehbooba Mufti, who is a candidate from Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat in South Kashmir where voting was held today on May 25, staged a protest along with party leaders and workers.

The former chief minister is contesting the elections from



Anantnag-Rajouri seat where 53 percent voter turnout on Saturday during the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections

Mufti also claimed that outgoing calls on her mobile number were suspended. Police, however, said those detained are over-ground workers (OGWs) and the action was taken to ensure smooth conduct of elections.

Mufti, among 20 candidates in the fray from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, staged a sit-in outside Bijbehara police station on the | [More on P6](#)

Process To Hold Assembly Polls In J&K To Begin Soon: CEC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Encouraged by the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission will "very soon" initiate the process of holding assembly polls in the Union Territory, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Saturday.

He also told PTI Videos that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve their government.

Responding to a question on the turnout in various seats of Jammu and Kashmir and if assembly elections could be held soon, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kumar said the poll panel is very encouraged by people's participation in the parliamentary polls.

"It's music to (my) ears. People -- youth, women -- are happily turning out in large numbers (to vote). The roots of democracy are being further



strengthened, people are participating," he said.

"They deserve their government. We will initiate that process very soon ... very encouraged to do this," the CEC added.

While announcing the schedule for the Lok Sabha elections in March, Kumar said holding assembly and parliamentary elections

simultaneously was not practical due to logistical and security reasons.

Whenever assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, they will be the first since the August 2019 abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the division of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. | [More on P6](#)

'Loss Of Faith In Politics' Over 40% Abstain From J&K LS Polls

Agencies

Srinagar: Despite witnessing brisk polling in the recent election, over 40 percent of voters in Jammu and Kashmir have abstained from voting due to disillusionment with the unfulfilled promises of politicians.

Many people who participated in previous elections chose to stay away this time, saying the elected candidates failed to deliver on their promises.

Reports quoting disgruntled voters said the politicians after winning prioritise their personal interests and those of their families over the needs of the public.

Ghulam Hassan, a resident of Zainapora in Shopian, said he has voted six or seven times in his life. "Although the candidates I voted for often won, they always failed to keep their promises. This repeated disappointment has led me to lose interest in the electoral process," he said. Mukhtar Ahmad, a PhD scholar from | [More on P6](#)

Only PM Modi Can Put An End To Terrorism: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Shimla: Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is a part of India and "we will take it", Home Minister Amit Shah asserted on Saturday as he castigated the Congress for trying to "frighten" the BJP by saying the neighbouring country possesses atom bombs.

Addressing rallies in support for BJP candidates Anurag Thakur and Rajiv Bhardwaj from Hamirpur and Kangra parliamentary seats respectively, he also appealed to people to ensure the BJP's victory in the by-polls to six assembly seats for the formation of the new government in the hill state, currently ruled by the Congress.



"The real face of the Congress, which came to power in the state by making false promises like free electricity, one lakh jobs every year and giving Rs 1500 per month to women, has been exposed in front of the people of | [More on P6](#)

Modi Not A Coward: PM

Calling Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal cowards, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that terrorists in the previous governments used to attack the country because of these cowardly leaders adding that he is not a coward while citing an example of India carrying out surgical strikes across the border of Pakistan. Addressing an election rally in Bihar's Karakat, Prime Minister Modi said, "Coward Congress, | [More on P6](#)

KP Migrants Vote For Homeland, Peace In Kashmir



Nearly 40% Turn Out To Vote

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits turned out enthusiastically in large numbers to vote for the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency at various polling stations in Jammu, seeking peace and the establishment of their 'homeland' in the Kashmir Valley.

In the sixth phase of the Lok

Sabha elections for Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, nearly 52 per cent of the 18.36 lakh eligible voters cast their votes. This includes nearly 40 per cent of the over 27,000 Kashmiri Pandits, who voted at 34 special polling stations set up for the community in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi.

The Kashmiri Pandits, some of whom travelled from outside the Union Territory to vote, emphasized the need for a permanent restoration of peace and the | [More on P6](#)

No Major Weather Activity Till May 31

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Weather department here on Saturday ruled out any significant weather in Jammu and Kashmir till the end of this month even as it also predicted the heatwave to continue for next four days.

A meteorological department official said that till May 28, generally dry weather is expected but possibility of thundershowers activity at isolated places cannot be ruled out.

From May 29-31, he said, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected with light rain/thunder at isolated places towards afternoon.

"Overall, no significant weather activity is expected till May 31," he said, adding, "Heat wave over plains of Jammu Division & Hot and dry weather over Kashmir Division & hilly districts of Jammu Division is likely to continue during next four days." The weather office has urged people to avoid heat exposure and also advised | [More on P6](#)

LG Condolences Loss Of Lives

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the tragic road accident in Kulgam on Saturday in which four residents of Punjab lost their lives and three others were injured. In a condolence | [More on P6](#)



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2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name NextGen Edu Scholarship 2024-25

Description: Buddy4Study in collaboration with EY Global Delivery Services is inviting applications through NextGen Edu Scholarship 2024-25- a social impact initiative. Class 11 students enrolled in private or government schools across India are eligible to receive financial support for their studies.

Eligibility: Students studying in Class 11 at any private/government school across India are eligible to apply. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 60% in their Class 10. They must have an annual family income up to INR 3 lakh from all sources.

- Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of INR 15,000
- Last Date to Apply: 26-06-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EYGDS1

Scholarship Name 2 UK-India TOEFL Scholarship 2024

Description: UK-India TOEFL Scholarship 2024 is a program that supports Indian students pursuing full-time UG/PG studies in the UK. This opportunity is offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), in collaboration with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU).

Eligibility: Open to Indian citizens applying to undergraduate or postgraduate courses at UK universities. Applicants must have taken the TOEFL iBT test between April 1 and July 15, 2024, with a minimum score of 75.



- Prizes & Rewards: A one-time scholarship of 2,50,000 each for 10 students
- Last Date to Apply: 15-07-2024
- Application mode: Online Applications Only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TOEF1

Scholarship Name 3 ICRO Amrit Internship Programme 2024

Description: ICRO Amrit Internship Programme 2024 is a joint initiative of the Indian Potash Limited (IPL) and the National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India for Class 12 passed, final-year graduation students, graduates, and diploma holders.

Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals aged between 18-45 years. Applicants must be Class 12 passed, final-year graduation students, graduates, or diploma holders with a valid Aadhaar card.

- Prizes & Rewards: A monthly stipend of 6,000 and a certificate of completion
- Last Date to Apply: 01-10-2024
- Application mode: Online Applications Only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ICRA1

About 7.5 Lakh Deaths A Year In LMICs Could Be Prevented By Infection Control: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

About 7.5 lakh deaths associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR) could be prevented every year in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) by improving measures that prevent infections, according to an analysis, part of a four-paper series published in The Lancet journal.

These measures included hand hygiene, regular cleaning and sterilisation of equipment in health-care facilities, along with providing access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation and paediatric vaccines, researchers said.

The international team of researchers estimated that each year, one in every eight deaths globally is caused by bacterial infections - about 77 lakh deaths in total, of which 50 lakh are associated with bacteria that have become resistant to antibiotics.

The authors called for support in providing sustainable access to antibiotics to be central to ambitious and actionable targets for tackling AMR.

"Access to effective antibiotics is essential to patients worldwide. A failure to provide these antibiotics puts us at risk for not meeting the UN sustainable development goals on child survival and health ageing," said series co-author, Iruka Okeke of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Okeke said that effective antibiotics prolong lives, reduce disabilities, limit healthcare costs and enable other life-saving medical actions such as surgery.

"However, antimicrobial resistance is on the rise - accelerated by inappropriate use of antibiotics during the COVID-19 pandemic - threatening the backbone of modern medicine and already leading to deaths and disease which would have once been prevented," said Okeke.

Existing infection prevention methods can prevent AMR-associated deaths, according to modelling analysis undertaken for putting to-



“Access to effective antibiotics is essential to patients worldwide. A failure to provide these antibiotics puts us at risk for not meeting the UN sustainable development goals on child survival and health ageing

gether the series of papers.

Up to 3.37 lakh deaths a year could be saved by improving infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities including better hand hygiene and regular cleaning and sterilisation of equipment, the authors found.

Around 2.5 lakh deaths could be avoided yearly by providing universal access to safe drinking water and effective sanitation in community settings, they found.

Further, 1.82 lakh deaths a year could be saved by expanding the rollout of some paediatric vaccines, such as pneumococcal vaccines which help protect against pneumonia and meningitis, along with introducing new ones, such as RSV vaccines for pregnant women, the researchers found.

"Our findings highlight how public health actions to prevent infections in the first place should be prioritised as a strategy to tackle AMR as these methods have the potential to drastically reduce the number of deaths from AMR-associated infections," said co-author Yewande Alimi of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"If we can focus on improving infection control methods, water and sanitation and vaccination in LMICs then it should be possible to reduce the number of deaths linked with AMR by 10 per cent by 2030," said Alimi.

Along with preventing infections in the first place, the authors also looked at evidence for preventing resistance emerging in bacteria. Antibiotic stewardship (reducing the use of antibiotics when the benefit to patients is limited) is thought to reduce the selection pressure on bacteria to develop resistance, however, there is a lack of research in this area.

"The currently limited evidence on the impact of antibiotic stewardship on AMR from low- and middle-income countries does not mean it is not a key intervention that needs focus but rather makes it difficult to anticipate the effects of antibiotic stewardship in those countries.

"We urgently need studies to investigate the impact to help inform future policies and interventions fit for different contexts," said co-author Esmita Charani of the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Assistant Controller Legal Metrology Department Baramulla Website: www.jklm.nic.in | E-mail ID: ac1mbaramulla@gmail.com

CONSUMER ADVISORY

In order to prevent any kind of exploitation in the market places, both offline as well as online, consumers are advised to ensure following:

i. While buying pre-packaged commodities, consumer should check following statutory declarations on the package: name and address of the manufacturer, packer (manufacturer and packer where packer is not the manufacturer) or importer, name of the commodity, net quantity, maximum retail price and year of manufacture, unit sale price, size of the commodity (wherever relevant) and consumer care details. In case any of the above mentioned declarations is missing from the package or is false, inform the Legal Metrology Officer concerned for taking legal action against the offending manufacturer/ packer/importer/ distributor/ retailer.

ii. Overcharging on pre-packaged goods is prohibited under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. Smudging, alteration or obliteration of maximum retail price mentioned on packaged goods is an offence.

iii. While shopping online, consumers need to check following statutory declarations on e-commerce platforms: name and address of the manufacturer, packer or importer, name of the commodity, maximum retail price and net quantity of the commodity being offered for sale online. In case any of the declaration is missing or is false, concerned Legal Metrology officer should be informed for initiating legal action against the e-commerce entity involved.

iv. In case of essential commodities (medical devices), consumer needs to check rate list issued by the competent authority.

v. Use of dual maximum retail price on packaged goods is legally forbidden.

vi. While purchasing Liquefied Petroleum Gas, please make sure that LPG dealers do not adopt any of the following prohibited activities: forced sale of LPG equipment, over charging, short weight or excess weight of LPG cylinders, recovery of unauthorized charges, sale of spurious LPG equipment and out-of-turn release of LPG connection.

vii. While purchasing fuel from dispensing pumps, consumers can check quality as well as quantity of fuel being sold to them. Quality can be checked by carrying out a filter paper test (for petrol only) or a hydrometer test (for both petrol as well as diesel). Quantity can be checked by using a 5 Litre conical capacity measure (Brass measure) duly verified by the Department of Legal Metrology. Instruments for carrying out such tests are available at every petrol pump. Consumer should remain vigilant against following malpractices while purchasing fuel: Short delivery of fuel, adulteration, overcharging and un-authorized sale/ purchase/ possession/ exchange of fuel.

viii. While hiring services, consumers need to be aware that providing less service than contracted for or paid for and deficiency of service is prohibited under Law. Further, consumers need to be vigilant against adoption of any unfair or restrictive trade practice by unscrupulous traders or service providers.

ix. Products with certification marks like ISI, FPO, Agmark, BIS Hallmark etc may be given priority while making purchases.

x. ISI mark is mandatory for some products such as packaged drinking water, mineral water, cement, electrical wire etc.

xi. Always ask for a valid bill at the time of buying goods or hiring services.

xii. Keep the warranty/ guarantee cards in safe possession and make best use of them as and when needed.

For further details, kindly visit our Department website: www.jklm.nic.in. In case of consumer grievances, the same may be brought into our notice at following e-mail ID: ac1mbaramulla@gmail.com.

DIPK-651/24
dated: 25-05-2024

Sd/- (Mudasir Rashid),
Assistant Controller,
Legal Metrology Department,
Baramulla.

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu / Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar. www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Final Selection List of the candidates for the posts of Junior Stenographer, Junior Scale Stenographer and Steno Typist for UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various District Cadres, advertised Vide Notification Nos. 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 and 03 of 2021. **Release of Waiting List for Item Nos. 459, 476 and 472 thereof.**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) received Indents from various departments for the posts of Junior Stenographer, Junior Scale Stenographer, Personal Assistant and Steno Typist for UT, Divisional and various District Cadres for making direct recruitment to these posts, as per following break up:

Name / Cadre of Post	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	Total
Junior Stenographer/ Junior Scale Stenographer/ Steno Typist	117	24	15	03	05	39	04	10	217

Whereas, the Board advertised these 217 posts, vide Notification Nos. 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 & 03 of 2021, for seeking applications from the eligible candidates and the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for these posts was held on 29.11.2022; and

Whereas, the selection committee framed the Final Selection List for these posts of Junior Stenographer/ Junior Scale Stenographer/ Steno Typist, which was subsequently approved in the 227th Board Meeting and notified vide No. JKSSB/23/2023-03 (E-7164134) dated 30.05.2023; and

Whereas, the Waiting List for these posts was not forwarded with the main Selection List as it was a Combined Selection and as per the Board Regulations, the Waiting List for such selections shall be forwarded only upon the receipt of such requests from the concerned departments. Further, the provisions for drawing the Waiting Lists were also omitted altogether; and

Whereas vide S.O 134 dated 28th February, 2024, the provisions for preparation of the Waiting Lists were revived and, vide Letter No. Rev-NG/13/2023-7152177 dated 15.05.2024, a communication was received from Revenue Department/Financial Commissioner (Revenue), for furnishing the Waiting List against three Non-joining candidates; and

Whereas, the Selection Committee constituted for these posts, having regard to the candidature, merit/preference of the candidates, prepared Waiting List in respect of three (03) eligible candidates in the respective category/cadre (shown in Annexure to this notification), which was subsequently placed and approved in the 272nd Board Meeting.

Now, therefore, after taking into consideration all the aforementioned factors, the Waiting List for the posts of Junior Scale Stenographer, Revenue Department, advertised Vide Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021, is hereby notified in respect of eligible candidates as per Annexure-A to this notification. It is further ordered that:

- The above Waiting List shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s)/OA(s), if any, pending in the court of law.
- The Waiting list shall also be subject to the outcome of any pending enquiry, involving candidate(s), figuring in the Selection/Waiting List.
- Formal recommendations to the concerned Indenting department shall be made separately.
- The candidate(s) whose recommendation is kept withheld shall submit the requisite documents/certificates within a period of one month.
- The Selection of the candidates has been made on the basis of self-declaration/Certificates submitted by them and if at any stage, it comes to the light that any candidate(s) has submitted false information or has secured selection in the list on the basis of false documents/certificates, the selection shall be liable to cancellation at any stage.

By Order.

DIPK-657/24
dated: 25-05-2024

No. JKSSB/23/2023-03 (E-7164134)

Sachin Jamiwal, JKAS,
Secretary,
J&K Services Selection Board.
Dated: 24.05.2024

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Uzma Arif D/o Mohd Arif Ganie R/o Gohal Tangpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 06.09.2022 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko_

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Rukhsar Imran S/o Imran Ramzan Darba R/o krahtang Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 28.04.2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko_

NOTICE

I intend to rectify my name my Wife's name, Address & my son name, studying in the grade 1st session 2024 under Roll no.-15, section Blue, in green Valley Educational Institute, Elahi Bagh, Buzpora, Srinagar, From Suhail Ahmed Shah Bazzaz instead Suhail Ahmad Bazzaz & From Shaista Instead Shaista Suhail & Mohammad Wasq Shah Bazzaz instead Mohammad Wasq Bazzaz From R/o Sheikh Hamza Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar instead Shahi Hamdan Colony Lane no- 3 Masjid Bilal, Zakura Srinagar, which in inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quater, the same may be reported to the principal of the institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quater.

Suhail Ahmad Bazzaz
F/o Mohammad Wasq Bazzaz
R/o-: Shahi Hamdan colony lane no 3
Masjid Bilal, Zakura Srinagar
Media Line

NOTICE

I Waseem Ahmad Sheikh F/o Sheikh Aazan Ahmad R/o Medina Bagh Chanapora Srinagar want to correct my son's name in School Record Studying 7th class under Admission no CHSN/1268 in CANDID HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL NOWGAM, BYEPASS, SRINAGAR 190015 Aazan to Sheikh Aazan Ahmad which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if anybody has any objection, he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the CANDID HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL NOWGAM, BYEPASS, SRINAGAR 190015 within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line

NOTICE

I intend to rectify my name my Wife's name, Address & my Daughter's name, studying in the grade 2nd session 2024 under Roll no.-2, section Green, in R.P School Malla Bagh Srinagar, From Suhail Ahmad Shah instead Suhail Ahmad Bazzaz & From Shaista Instead Shaista Suhail & Azla Suhail instead Fatima Suhail Bazzaz From R/o Sheikh Hamza Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar instead Shahi Hamdan Colony Lane no- 3 Masjid Bilal, Zakura Srinagar, which in inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quater, the same may be reported to the principal of the institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quater.

Suhail Ahmad Bazzaz
F/oFatima Suhail Bazzaz
R/o-: Shahi Hamdan colony lane no 3
Masjid Bilal, Zakura Srinagar
Media Line

NOTICE

I intend to rectify my name my Wife's name, Address & my son name, studying in the grade 8th session 2024 under Roll no.-14, section White, in green Valley Educational Institute, Elahi Bagh, Buzpora, Srinagar, From Suhail Ahmad Shah Bazzaz instead Suhail Ahmad Bazzaz & From Shaista Instead Shaista Suhail & Maeen Ahmad Shah Bazzaz instead Maateen Suhail Bazzaz From R/o Sheikh Hamza Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar instead Shahi Hamdan Colony Lane no-3 Masjid Bilal, Zakura Srinagar, which in inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quater, the same may be reported to the principal of the institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quater.

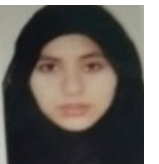
Suhail Ahmad Bazzaz
F/o Maateen Suhail Bazzaz
R/o-: Shahi Hamdan colony lane no 3
Masjid Bilal, Zakura Srinagar
Media Line

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 124018263 Session: 2021 Year 2021 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/Board, against my against my name and my father's name as Ayesha D/o Younus Malik instead of Ayesha Malik D/o Mohd Younis Malik

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Ayesha Malik
F/N: Mohd Younis Malik
M/N : Nusrat
DOB : 08-06-2005
Residence: Syed Colony Habak



inf

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 124018264 Session: 2021 Year 2021 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/Board, against my against my name and my father's name as Sara D/o Younus Malik instead of Sara Malik D/o Mohd Younis Malik

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Sara Malik
F/N: Mohd Younis Malik
M/N : Nusrat
DOB : 08-06-2005
Residence: Syed Colony Habak



inf



Police Officer Caught Red-Handed Taking Bribe, Arrested

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu & Kashmir has apprehended a Station House Officer (SHO) Pantha Chowk and his associates for demanding and accepting a bribe.

The ACB in a statement said it apprehended Inspector Azim Iqbal Khan, SHO of Police Station Pantha Chowk, and his associate, Mushtaq Ahmad Abassi, on charges of demanding and accepting a bribe of 8 lakh rupees.

The arrests followed a written complaint alleging that Inspector Khan, through his intermediary Abassi, demanded Rs 8 lakh to issue a report regarding an accident case, the ACB said, adding that the complainant needed this report to process an insurance claim for a damaged hydraulic excavator.

"Upon receiving the complaint, the ACB conducted a discreet verification, confirming the allegations. Consequently, an FIR (No. 13/2024) under section 7 read with section 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was registered, initiating a thorough investigation," the ACB said.

The investigation revealed that on March 25,

2024, an accident at the Khanmoh stone quarry resulted in much damage to a hydraulic excavator and the death of a labourer, Mohd Mushtaq, the bureau said.

Following the incident, FIR No. 26/2024 under sections 188 and 304-A of the IPC was registered, and the case was assigned to Inspector Khan. "Despite multiple court directives to release the excavator, Inspector Khan delayed the process, ultimately demanding Rs 8 lakh to issue the necessary reports," the ACB said, adding that the complainant, under pressure, paid Rs 5.5 lakh but did not receive the reports.

A trap was set by the ACB, leading to the arrest of Inspector Khan and Abassi while accepting the remaining bribe amount of Rs 1.5 lakh and a cheque for Rs 50,000. Further searches uncovered Rs 5.36 lakh in cash from Inspector Khan's official residence, it added.

"Both suspects were arrested after completing all legal formalities and will be presented before the Anti-Corruption Court in Srinagar," the ACB said, adding that the investigation is ongoing

Female Body Recovered From Jhelum In Nowgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An unidentified female dead body was recovered from the River Jhelum near the Nowgam area of uptown Srinagar this morning, officials said.

An official said that an unidentified female body was found floating

on the water near Shalina Nowgam, Srinagar, by locals who then informed the police.

He said the police have taken up the investigation, and shifted the dead body to the hospital and will be handed over to the family after medico-legal formalities—(KNO)

Exceptional IAS Academy Hosts Felicitation Ceremony Of Its UPSC, CSE Toppers

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir - Exceptional IAS Academy proudly announces the successful conclusion of its felicitation ceremony and seminar held on Saturday, May 25, 2024. The event, which took place at Exceptional IAS Academy Parraypora Srinagar celebrated the remarkable achievements of the UPSC 2023 toppers and marked the launch of a cutting-edge E-learning platform aimed at revolutionizing education for aspiring civil servants and competitive exam candidates.

The Event started with Felicitation of UPSC 2023 Toppers, the ceremony honoured the exceptional talents who secured top ranks in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2023. The distinguished achievers felicitated were, Harn-eet - AIR 177, Mohammad Harris - AIR 345, Mohammad Farhan Seh - AIR 369, Aparajita Aaryan - AIR 381, Survan Sharma - AIR 412, Major Abhinandan Singh - AIR 549

The toppers were felicitated by Chief Guest Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary - Secretary to Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu & Kashmir and Special Guest of Honour Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat - Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. The event also saw the attendance of other notable dignitaries: Abdul Khahir - Deputy

Director, Tribal Affairs Department, Nazir Ahmad Dar director CCPC Kashmir University.

The primary aim of the event was to honour the outstanding achievements of the UPSC CSE 2023 toppers and to create awareness among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir about the importance of civil services and to launch the E-learning platform for 11th,12th, NEET & JEE students.

The IAS qualifiers, along with the chief guests, interacted with aspiring candidates, offering valuable suggestions and strategies for cracking this prestigious examination

Director Saqlain Bhat and Azhar Sofi of Exceptional IAS Academy proudly launched their newest offering state-of-the art E-learning platform aims to provide comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality education to students across the region and also announced fresh Batches For one year foundation courses of IAS, KAS and Three-year foundation courses for college going students starting from 17 June and 17 July 2024

The E-learning platform was also inaugurated the platform features interactive video lectures, live doubt-clearing sessions, and a vast repository of study materials, catering to the diverse needs of students preparing for competitive exam of 11th 12th NEET and JEE.



An aerial view of the crowded Down-Town, surrounding the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar. KO photo by Abid Bhat

CEO SSCL Reviews Progress Of Ongoing Projects In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The CEO SSCL, Dr. Owais Ahmed today reviewed the ongoing projects including Traditional Souq Market, Craft Center, Jehangir Chowk Junction and Balidan Stambh at Pratap Park under Srinagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL) in Srinagar to ensure their timely completion and successful implementation.

The Traditional Souq Market and Craft Center, a vibrant hub for local artisans and craftsmen, is set to become a prominent destination for showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. The project aims to provide a platform for traditional artisans to display and sell their exquisite hand-crafted products, promoting local craftsmanship and boosting the region's economy.

At the Jehangir Chowk Junction,



At the Jehangir Chowk Junction, a key intersection in Srinagar, infrastructure development initiatives are underway to enhance traffic flow and pedestrian safety

tion, a key intersection in Srinagar, infrastructure development initiatives are underway to enhance traffic flow and pedestrian safety. CEO emphasized the importance of efficient urban planning and design to create a more accessible and aesthetically pleasing environment for residents and visitors alike.

Additionally, the progress of the Balidan Stambh at Pratap Park was reviewed by the CEO.

The memorial, dedicated to the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation, is being meticulously constructed to honor their valor and commemorate their service. The CEO underscored the significance of preserving the memory of these heroes and ensuring that their legacy lives on for future generations.

During the review, the CEO expressed his satisfaction with the pace of work on these projects and commended the dedication and hard work of the teams involved. He reiterated the commitment of SSCL to delivering high-quality infrastructure and public amenities that contribute to the overall development and prosperity of Srinagar City.

As these transformative projects near completion, the vision of a more culturally vibrant, accessible, and inclusive urban landscape in Srinagar is becoming a reality.

ذہنی صحت کی حفاظت کے لئے
مفت مشاورت
ہمارے کلینک پہ روزانہ میسر ہے۔
اور ساتھ ساتھ ہم آن لائن موڈ میں بھی
مشاورت کے لئے دستیاب ہیں

HAPPY AND HEALTHY MINDS

خوشحال اور صحت مند ذہن

ہمارے پاس پیشہ ور اور تربیت یافتہ ماہرین کی ٹیم تجربہ کار ماہر نفسیات کی سربراہی میں مختلف اقسام کے نفسیاتی اور منشیات امراض سے چھٹکارہ پانے کے لیے سماج کے متاثرہ افراد کی مدد کے لیے دستیاب ہیں۔

درج ذیل ذہنی صحت سے وابستہ مسائل پہ قابو پانے کے لیے رجوع فرمائیں:

- عصبانیت اور زہنی تناؤ کا درمان
- بھیانک حادثات اور واقعات کے بعد آنے والا ذہنی عارضات، مثلاً بد خوابی، شدید تشویش اور واقعات کے بارے میں قابو میں نہ ہونے والے خیالات - (PTSD)
- انفرادی ترقی اور مثبت تبدیلی کی خاطر اپنے فیصلوں پر عملدرآمد کرنے کا عمل
- اداسی کی کیفیت۔
- ذہنی پریشانی کے آثار
- منشیات کی لت پر قابو پانے کے لیے مشاورت
- خودکشی کے انتہائی اقدام سے روکنے کی مشاورت

مفت ذہنی مشاورت کے لئے پیر سے ہفتہ، صبح 10 بجے سے شام 5 بجے تک رابطہ کریں۔

9070806160

HPVT فارمیسی بلڈنگ، دوسری منزل -دریش کدل چوک، سری نگر، جموں و کشمیر

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 17 Zil-Qadah 1445	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3 : 43
	ZUHR	12:28
	ASR	5: 25
	Magrib	7:36
	ISHA	9: 13

This Day In History

- 1961- USAF bomber flies Atlantic in a record of just over 3 hours
- 1966- Guyana (formerly British Guiana) declares independence from UK
- 1969- Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth
- 1970- The Soviet Tupolev Tu-144 becomes the first commercial transport to exceed Mach 2.
- 1972- US President Richard Nixon & Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign SALT accord
- 1980- Soyuz 36 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Hungarian) to Salyut 6
- 1983- Space Shuttle Challenger moves to launch pad for STS-7
- 1983- NASA launches Exosat
- 1984-US President President Ronald Reagan rules out US military intervention in Iran-Iraq war.

From KO Archives

‘Love Bug’ Computer Virus Wreaks Fresh Havoc

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, MAY 05: Copycat variants of the "Love Bug" vi-rus labeled "Joke" and "Moth-er's Day" infected computers around the world on Friday, a day after the most widespread cyberattack ever-wreaked havoc on business and govern-ment operations.

Tens of millions of the com-puters have been disabled so far as the virus, first detected in Asia, spread around the globe, forcing network admin-istrators to shut down e-mail systems at major companies and penetrating the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and Britain's Parliament.

Security experts said the vi-rus was far more devastating than last year's Melissa bug, with losses now counting in the billions from damaged data and the distractions of fighting the software scourge, and warned that it could take weeks to stem the invasion. "There's a potential ' that anyone who receives this virus can go to the Internet and (nd) tools to change codes within the virus program that can give the e-mail or the attachment a new name," said Simon Perry, vice president for security products at Computer Associates Inter-national Inc. (NYSE : CA - news).

The Islandia, N.Y is a leading maker of anti-Virus software such as inoculateIT.

For the time being, most of the virus variants are only cos-metically different from the original virus. "Based on our research, we believe that the variants are coming from a number of different people," Perry said. ASIA AND EUROPE TAKE STOCK OF IMPACT: Computer users woke up on Friday to the chilling implications for a world that is now so wired up that quarantining such bugs may prove an endless cat-and-mouse game — with far- reaching financial consequences. Computer Economics, a market research firm located in Carlsbad, Calif, estimated that the virus already had caused \$2.61 billion dollars in damages worldwide, but most experts said precise figures would be difficult to pin down.

The impact of the bug in Asia on Friday was possibly muted by the fact the markets in four countries-Japan, South Korea, China and Thailand - were closed for pub-lic holidays on Friday.

European Enterprise Com-missioner Erkki Liikanen said: "The Love Bug is a warning to us all that security must be given top priority if consumer and user confidence is to be maintained as we move into the information age." A German government spokeswoman said the virus had penetrated its foreign, jus-tice, interior and economics min-istries. The spokesman re-ported no serious damage as the interior ministry called in a special task force to advise on coun-ter-measures.

Britain's Consumers Asso-ciation said 30 to 50 percent of UK businesses seemed to be af-fected. "It is spreading very rap-idly. Yesterday we had 10 to 15 percent," said Alan Stevens.

Kit experts warned the full effects of the bug may carry through the weekend.

(Kashmir Observer, May 26, 2000)

Erratic Weather Patterns in Kashmir

Immediate and Future Costs

Dr. Mushtaq Rather

“
The catastrophic consequences of adverse climate change will severely dent human existence if immediate mitigation measures are not put in place with sound and constructive planning. These extreme weather events serve as a grim reminder of the urgent need to address climate change

The magnitude and the ramifications of the extreme weather conditions across the globe are such that the current United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has rightly remarked that “ the dog days of the summer are not just barking , they are biting”. It is absolute clear that the extreme weather events are not localized or confined to a particular region, country or continent, they are wide spread in occurrence and are literally engulfing every nook and corner of the globe irrespective of the geographical coordinates.

Fragile and sensitive ecosystem of Kashmir Valley

The valley of Kashmir is a fragile and sensitive ecosystem and is highly vulnerable to even slightest fluctuations attributed to climate change. . The Kashmir valley is witnessing unusual weather patterns, which has lead to drying up of prominent water bodies there by impacting flora and fauna of the region. Dr. Rajesh Verma, a climate scientist at the National Institute of Climate Studies emphasized that “the heat wave in September is a clear indication of the changing climate patterns. Kashmir is not immune to the global phenomena of rising temperatures due to climate change”. Dr. Verma further added, that human centric activities including high scale urbanization, deforestation and the liberation of green house gases , are major drivers of this climate change. “The Himalayan region, including Kashmir is particularly vulnerable to these changes and it is imperative that we take swift measures to mitigate the impact”. The climate experts are of the opinion that the factors such as deforestation, urbanization and climate change are facilitating to this unusual weather pattern in Kashmir.

Insights from World Meteorological Organization

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued its annual update on its projections for temperature trends in the next decade. The prognosis , expectedly is worrying . The annual mean global near-surface temperature for each year between 2023 and 2027 is likely to be 1.10 -1.80C. higher than the average from 1850-1900. There is 66% chance that the global near -surface temperature will exceed 1.50C above pre-industrial era. The 1.50C thresh hold , the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change has repeatedly said, is one that is best left unbreached to avoid the disas-



trous consequences of global warming. The WMO further projected that atleast one of the years from 2023-2027 will be hottest on record.

Immediate repercussions of erratic weather events

In 2023 , Srinagar experienced its hottest September in over half a century, with temperature touching 34.2 degrees Celsius on September 12 which was 6 degrees above the normal range, that marks the second -highest maximum temperature in September since the establishment of the weather observatory in 1891. The previous record, dating back to September 1,1970 , stood at 33.8 degrees Celsius . The all time highest temperature in Srinagar was registered on September 28, 1934 at 35 degrees Celsius. The trend of abnormally high temperature seems to castigate its shadow on the ongoing year as well ,as the local population is feeling the brunt of the scorching heat of May and the experts of the firm belief that the coming months are going to be even hotter.

The prominent stagnant water bodies like springs and ponds are drying up at an alarming pace in our part of the world. This has worried the local populace to the core as these springs used to provide continuous drinking water round the clock to our homes. There is absolute chaos and scarcity when it comes to accessibility to drinking water. Even I have not witnessed such a degree of scarcity of portable water in my entire life .The taps literally run dry and fetching drinking water is cumbersome and at the same worrisome .The people in our

hamlet have to go for extra mile to manage drinking water and the ordeal of the people in other hamlets of the Khoveripora block of District Anantnag are echoing the same concern. The scarcity of portable was exacerbated by the scant snow fall in the region in peak wintering months especially in the harshest Chil-e-kalan period of the current year , which has led to severe water crisis thus affecting local populace, horticulture and pastoralism.

The Agrarian sector is an extremely prone and vulnerable sector and thereby hugely influenced by climate change. Erratic weather disturbances such as drought, unseasonal rains , high intensity rainfall events, hailstorms , heat waves, cold waves , pest outbreaks and other perceived threats were being witnessed frequently as a major fallout of climate change. The horticulture sector in our part of the world, which is central to our economy seems to be worst hit as the apple orchards especially the high density orchards exploded least in terms of flowering and this is seriously going to scale down the production in the current harvesting season. The experts are attributing this least flowering in high density apple orchards to the prevalence of warmer weather conditions during the peak wintering months of the 2024 and are of the opinion that reduced chilly hours during these months let to dramatic decline in flowering and there by diminished the hope of bumper crop yield in the harvesting season in the later half of the year. Infact the unusual trend in weather pattern was that Kashmir recorded comparatively higher temperature than most of the states of northern

India during wintering months of the current year.

Future repercussions of extreme weather events

The frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and heat waves is projected to rise manifold in the future due to climate change, according to a study conducted by the researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar. Simultaneous rainfall and heat waves will become more frequent , severe and widespread due to climate change. For every 1 degree Celsius rise in temperature, the air's capacity to hold moisture increases by 6 to 7 % . The hot and humid air , thus makes more water available to fall as rain, making wet-hot extremes likelier .Events such as floods and landslides could become more frequent , under wet -hot conditions , the heat waves first dry out the soil , thereby reducing its ability to absorb water. Subsequent rainfall has a harder time penetrating the soil and instead runs along the surface, contributing to flooding, landslides and ruining crop yield. The consequences of adverse climatic conditions have begun to castigate their shadow with serious ramifications in this part of the world. ‘Paradise on earth’ as the Valley of Kashmir is known to the world due to its picturesque scenery and ideal climate, luring both domestic and foreign tourists but the continued erratic weather patterns may severely impact the tourist footfall and agricultural sector in alarming proportions in near future.

Conclusion

The catastrophic consequences of adverse climate change will severely dent human existence if immediate mitigation measures are not put in place with sound and constructive planning. These extreme weather events serve as a grim reminder of the urgent need to address climate change. The interconnectedness of climate change impacts on both local and global scales underscores the necessity of immediate action. As the world faces the consequences of rising temperature and more frequent extreme weather events , the imperative to curb greenhouse gas emissions and implement adaptive measures has never been more critical.

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

Unemployed youth are so disheartened they are turning to drugs, addiction to which is growing across north India and not just in Punjab. National Crime Records Bureau data shows that in 2018, three unemployed youth committed suicide every two hours; in 2022, it increased to two suicides per hour. Yet the claim of a “surge in employment” continues to mount during elections.

“Between 1983 and 2023, there has been no period that has seen jobless growth,” contends a recent piece (rb.gy/qujehy) in Indian Express, forgetting that jobless growth in India or any developing country for that matter is impossible. People must work to survive in all low- and low-middle-income countries, especially if the working age share of population is constantly rising.

Labour force surveys in India use two definitions of employment: principal status (PS) and subsidiary status (SS). PS is defined as work over 182 days in the last 365 days; so even PS work could be part-time, just as SS work (defined as 31-181 days in the past 365 days) will be part-time.

For a developing country characterised by extremely high levels of time related under-employment, it would be bizarre to leave out SS or short-duration employment. So it is a bit rich for the authors to advise labour economists, who have studied India for decades, that only PS employment should be studied. That is a recipe for completely misunderstanding an informalised economy's labour market — 85% of India's enterprises are actually “informal” or unorganised.

We are then informed that the “fastest increase in employment has been from 2017-18 to 2022-23 when about 80 million additional employment was reported”. What is not revealed is that 60 million of this has been in agriculture — a reversal of the process of structural change underway from 2004 to 2019, when the absolute number of workers in agriculture fell.

In an economy where 42% of the workforce was producing 15% of its GDP, agri-productivity is already so low that the last thing the farmers them-

No ‘Surge In Employment’

Santosh Mehrotra & Jajati Parida

selves want is to work in farming. No development economist worth his salt regards the growth of agricultural employment as “employment”. Even less if there is an increase in farm employment from 42% to 45% in just three years (2020-2023), from 200 million to 260 million.

The authors note that “the employment growth has been highest for women during this period, by more than 8% annually”. They dismiss the argument that they returned due to increasing distress. They claim: “With falling fertility rates, improved access to water, energy, etc., they are those involved in care- and home-related work.” However, such work is not employment, they forget.

The authors admit that wages have been stagnant in 2017-18. Second, the piece is devoid of any recognition of the kind of wages available in agriculture. We have shown (rb.gy/ydeaba) that wages have stagnated in real terms in the last 10 years in all sectors.

But the distress is greater than that. We estimated the number of workers with daily wages/salary in agriculture earning up to `100: they were 99.8 million in 2017-18, and had risen to 127.1 million by 2022 (at 2012 constant prices). An additional 63 million were workers in agriculture earning wages of `100-200 in 2017-18, it remained 63 million in 2022. In other words, 190 million of the 247 million workers in agriculture received these kind of wages. If such

wages do not indicate distress, what must they earn to denote presence/absence of distress?

Women (and men) leaving agriculture (with mechanisation gathering momentum) had been a hugely important development in the process of structural transformation since 2004. By contrast between 1996 and 2004, agricultural output had stagnated, and so had incomes. Like earlier, a recent surge of women employment in agriculture/allied activities is purely informal and in precarious forms, characterised by low or no wages, long hours, and little job security. This not only perpetuates gender inequalities but also reinforces the cycle of poverty for women/families.

Girls and women leaving agriculture has historically been seen as a process that accompanies an economy transitioning from low- to low-middle-income status (in accordance with a U-shaped relationship observed [by Goldin and others] between per capita income and female labour force participation, across countries).

Indian enrolments of children in schools, especially of girls, increased sharply between 2004 and 2015. Child labour fell, and female labour force participation rate again fell further.

However, some women returning to agriculture are now taking up livestock rearing as an option; but all this is unpaid family labour. That is causing the so-called “surge in employment”. There has

been a surge of 30 million workers in agriculture as unpaid family labour, and of 5 million in urban areas; a majority are women. Also, there is a sharp increase in own account workers among women in agriculture. By and large, this is due to reduced effective demand as remittances to rural areas fell.

India already had the highest open unemployment in 45 years in 2017-18. Worse, the pandemic-induced economic downturn led to widespread job losses, reducing effective demand. Manufacturing employment, a significant share of it unorganised and in rural areas, fell after the double shocks of demonetisation and unplanned GST. Manufacturing employed 60 million in 2012; it was down to an average 56 million for three years (2017-18 to 2019-20), before recovering above the level prevailing a decade earlier, only after Covid.

Finally, the authors repeat a claim made by many government economists: the government's schemes are also generating jobs since 2015. This segment may benefit from the massive Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana loans that disbursed about `23 lakh crore among 380 million accounts between 2015-16 and 2022.

However, we should know the reality of Mudra before making such claims. First, over 80% of loans given under this scheme have been the smallest Shishu loans, of less than `50,000. Their average is only `27,000 per borrower; how useful is a loan of this size for creating new employment? Second, banks have constantly been complaining about rising non-performing assets under Mudra— hardly surprising given the low demand with limited non-farm job growth, and constant wages.

CSDS April 2024 surveys showed 62% of respondents across India said it was more difficult to get a job now compared to only a third in 2019, regardless of claimed “surges in employment”.

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

Common Man's Comfort Being Free!

Dr Shahid Amin

I reflected on privilege and freedom after attending an event in the bustling city of Delhi. What triggered a deeper contemplation was when I came across a social media post where Virat Kohli mentioned his desire to roam Delhi's markets again without being troubled by his fans. It made me think about the lives of celebrities and people in top positions, both in the public and private sectors. While their achievements are admirable, they often face limitations on their freedom.

We have political figures, judges, and military leaders in the public sector. These individuals hold significant power and responsibility but are constantly under public scrutiny. They must be mindful of security concerns, which restrict their ability to move freely.

The private sector has corporate CEOs, celebrities, sports stars, entrepreneurs, etc. They enjoy fame, wealth, and influence, but they also face their own set of challenges. Constant media attention, paparazzi, and fan frenzy can make it difficult for them to have an everyday life outside their professional obligations.

Researchers and scientists are often deeply engrossed in their work, driven by a passion for discovery and innovation. However, this intense focus on their professional pursuits can sometimes result in limited social connections outside their academic circles. Scientists devote countless hours to conducting experiments, analyzing data, and advancing their research, leaving little time for social interactions. Their commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge is admirable, but it can also lead to a sense of isolation from broader social networks.

For university authorities like Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, Deans, and other leaders, finding



time to unwind can be challenging due to their busy schedules. Juggling administrative duties, educational responsibilities, and the demands of university life leaves little room for personal relaxation. Even amidst their pivotal roles in shaping academic institutions, they often have limited time to enjoy life to the fullest.

Doctors and engineers are not an exception. In today's fast-paced world, doctors and engineers are often consumed by



While success and ambition are significant, true freedom is found in living authentically and pursuing happiness on our own terms. An individual who can effectively manage their professional responsibilities while prioritizing their well-being, relationships, and personal interests sets a positive example for others

their demanding professions, which leaves little time for nurturing friendships and enjoying true freedom. The pressures of modern life and the pursuit of

financial success can create barriers to forming meaningful connections and experiencing life to the fullest.

Amidst these high-profile po-

sitions, we find the power of the common man. Unlike those in the spotlight, the average person has the freedom to navigate their daily lives without the constant

gaze of scrutiny. They can walk the streets without being recognized, pursue their hobbies without fear of judgment, and make personal choices without the weight of public expectation. The common man enjoys life to the fullest, and with ample time for family and friends.

The contrast between privilege and freedom is stark. The lives of those in top professions serve as a reminder of the complexities of success and the value of personal liberty. While those in top positions have achieved success and recognition, they often sacrifice their freedoms. On the other hand, the common man may lack the same level of influence and wealth but enjoys a priceless sense of freedom.

It's crucial to remember that whether you're someone important or just an average person, everyone yearns for freedom. For high-profile individuals, it's vital to take breaks from work and spend quality time with loved ones. Engaging in activities they enjoy can help them unwind. It's equally important to stay grounded. And when the going gets tough, they should never hesitate to seek support from friends and family. While success and ambition are significant, true freedom is found in living authentically and pursuing happiness on our own terms. An individual who can effectively manage their professional responsibilities while prioritizing their well-being, relationships, and personal interests sets a positive example for others. Such individuals serve as role models for achieving success in their careers and leading fulfilling and meaningful lives.

The author is Associate Professor, School of Management and Commerce, ITM University Gwalior and IIM Ahmedabad Alumnus and can be reached at dr.shahidamin15@gmail.com

How Publishing A Book And Becoming An Author Has Become The Latest Fad

Asha Iyer Kumar

At least three people I know are now in the midst of writing their debut novel, and many others, armed with unique life experiences, have serious intentions of documenting them in memoirs. Writing and publishing a book has never been this easy. Anyone who has a tale to tell or skill to share and a language to say it in is jumping on the bandwagon of authors, aided by tools that make publishing books a heady side hustle. And this, even when writing is not anymore a lucrative business.

Books are rolling out in reams regardless of the fact that readership is rapidly shrinking. Writing is not any longer a serious undertaking that took years and profound thinking to materialise. Given this, I wonder what significance modern writing (I hesitate to categorise today's frivolous bookly endeavours as literature) will have for mankind and its future. Is the era of writing for change, to positively influence societies, to impart courage, to reflect the good and denounce the bad and to comfort a deeply wounded global civilisation over? Is literature now turning into mere candy floss with little gains for the reader except satisfying the senses?

We live in a highly sensitive world that takes umbrage at the slightest hint of criticism. Rancour is the foremost sentiment that governs human behaviour, and while compassion and empathy are still values

that are spoken about highly, there is a dearth of these good old qualities in real time. And this dearth probably has begun to show in the kind of writing that is being churned out, making me suspect that we are more easily influenced and shaped by incendiary (and often indecent) works than by narratives of hope. Traditional publishers are now betting on the returns a manuscript would bring than the comfort and message it would give. Literature, like all other forms of art, has fallen into a deep malaise characterised by greed and selfishness.

What prompted many distinguished literary figures of the past to put their thoughts on paper was not fame or the reward it was likely to bring, but an urgent, private need to decode themselves and explore their existential strife. Many including Emily Dickinson, Franz Kafka and John Keats led reclusive lives and did not even have their works published during their lifetimes. Their journals were only discovered after their death and publicised.

Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali is known to have brought comfort to a world torn by war and oppression in the early 20th century. It offered spiritual solace to readers and drew them away from external chaos, inspiring peace and contemplation. Anne Frank's simple yet deeply stirring accounts of war in The Diary of a Young Girl (1946) brought huge respite to populations exposed to the



horrors of World War II. Victor Frankl's memoir Man's Search for Meaning chronicling his experiences as a prisoner in Nazi concentration camps couldn't have come at a better time. It underlined the efficacy of literature in bringing hope and purpose to life even

in dire circumstances.

People who have gone through turmoil write about it not just to expose the pain they endured, but also to shine a torch on the resilient nature of human beings in the face of hardships. They wrote because they wanted to tell the world

that they had survived the worst, and so will we all if we had the will and mindset.

By this, I don't mean that literature has to always have a meditative and philosophical slant, but when writing descends to levels of serving only the senses and not the spirit, it

becomes debauched and meaningless. When people write cookie-cut books with the sole intention of adding the suffix of "author" to their names to fuel their professional lives or to boost their egos, literature falls from grace.

It is to such insufferable

kitsch that we are largely treated to in the new age of shallow writing ably aided by writing tools and thought purveyors. Somewhere in the midst of telling stories that exaggerate human misery, over-simplify man's failings and crank out sleazy fare that will titillate, writers seem to have given the main purpose of literature – to inspire – a massive pass. Books are getting written for the sole purpose of claiming individual glory and not for a combined cause.

There can be fluffy stuff and chick lit that provide temporary escape to readers from the harsh realities of life and to occupy our breezy layovers; but as along as the written word does not bring perspective to our everyday struggles and give us an opportunity for emotional catharsis and empathetic considerations, no writer has done justice to this glorious craft. The power of the written word lies in its ability to find a universal reason for our existence, by navigating through our experiences and recording them for posterity.

Doubtlessly, the demand for juicy pieces of writing and reporting human conditions will only grow, making us all wanton voyeurs. Writing will plumb the depths of mediocrity further unless as readers we seek uplifting themes, and as writers, we delve into our souls before punching each word down.

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

53% - Anantnag

This was the first major election in the Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution by the Centre in August 2019. The high voter turnout in the Anantnag-Rajouri seat was in sharp contrast to the poll percentage of 9 registered in the 2019 election.

Even the militancy-infested Zainapora Assembly segment, which registered a turnout of 2 per cent in 2019, recorded a poll percentage of 41. Addressing reporters in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pandurang Kundbarao Pole said the voter turnout in Anantnag-Rajouri was 53 per cent.

He said the overall voter turnout for the five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir stood at 58 per cent.

"It is the highest turnout for these five seats in the last 40 years. The previous high was 49 per cent recorded in 2014, while the turnout in 1996 was 47.99 per cent," Pole added.

He said the Surankote, Rajouri and Budhal Assembly segments recorded the highest turnout of 68 per cent.

The Kulgam Assembly segment recorded the lowest poll percentage of 32.

Pole said the polling was by and large peaceful, with no violence reported from anywhere.

Officials said barring an isolated incident in Bijbehara, polling was smooth across the Lok Sabha constituency that comprises 18 Assembly segments and is spread over the five districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri.

In a delimitation exercise carried out in Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, Pulwama district and the Shopian Assembly segment were removed from the south Kashmir Lok Sabha seat, while seven Assembly segments from Poonch and Rajouri were added to it.

Earlier in the day, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar told PTI Videos that encouraged by the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir, the EC will "very soon" initiate the process of holding Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

He also said the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve their own government.

"People of Jammu and Kashmir, in the Anantnag-Rajouri polling too, have reposed faith in democracy and proved naysayers wrong," the EC said in a statement.

According to the poll panel, the erstwhile Anantnag seat recorded the lowest turnout of 5.07 per cent in 1989 and 50.2 per cent in 1996.

Due to the delimitation exercise, the voter turnout data from previous elections for the current Anantnag-Rajouri seat may not be directly comparable, the EC noted.

A total of 20 candidates, including two women, were in the fray from Anantnag-Rajouri.

People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti contested the polls from Anantnag-Rajouri. She was up against the National Conference's (NC) Mian Altaf Ahmad. Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Manhas was also among the 20 candidates in the fray.

In the 11 Assembly segments falling in the Kashmir valley, the poll percentage was around 42.

The EC had also enabled the Kashmiri migrant voters residing at various relief camps in Delhi, Jammu and Udhampur to have the option of voting in person at

the designated special polling stations or through postal ballots. A total of 21 special polling stations were set up in Jammu, one in Udhampur and four in Delhi.

Poll Process For

elections for three Valley seats.

With the conclusion of phase 6, polling for 486 of 543 seats across 28 states and UTs is completed. The final phase is scheduled to be held on June 1 and the results of all 7 phases will be declared on June 4.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), seeking a record third term under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has set a target of winning 400 seats this election. The ruling alliance is challenged by the opposition parties led by the Congress under the banner of the INDIA bloc.

South Kashmir

According to details, several villages in south Kashmir, which have a history of boycotting elections, broke the trend and voted in large numbers. These villages include Heff in the Shopian district, Mehand and Arwani in the Anantnag district, and Bugam, Mohamadpora and other areas in the Kulgam district.

Residents from these areas said that they have endured hardships over the past three to four decades and are seeking change this time.

When asked about the change they desire, many pointed to the plight of hundreds of youths languishing in jails outside Kashmir and expressed a strong desire for their release. They highlighted the issue of numerous youths in nearly every village having criminal cases against them, which hampers their ability to obtain character certificates. They want these FIRs to be dropped.

Mubarak Raina, a resident of Bugam, said they voted for change. "There had been no elections in J&K for several years. Today, people came out to vote happily, with good facilities available at the polling stations," he said.

Raina said various issues had previously kept people away from voting, but today they voted for their youth, who have suffered in recent decades. "Bugam, being a central village, has been neglected in terms of development due to its previous lack of participation in the democratic process. Now, we have voted to see development and address issues such as youth employment," he added.

In Mehand, Heff and Arwani, voters echoed similar sentiments, saying they voted for the first time to resolve youth-related issues. They said unemployment, FIRs against youths and the imprisonment of local residents are the primary concerns they hope to address.

Mohammad Ahsan Dar, a voter from Heff, said they want to live peacefully and have voted for peace, development and youth employment. "There is a need for better healthcare facilities and educational institutions in the area," he said.

People from these villages said they will continue participating in the democratic process to ensure development in their respective areas and to resolve issues affecting the youth. (KNO)

Young Voters

their special state has been downgraded to UT, and non-locals can apply for jobs in J&K.

They said that they have voted for restoration of statehood and jobs, and that the land of J&K must be kept for J&K residents only.

They said that the graph of unemployment in J&K is rising with each passing day, and there is a need for an employment package for J&K.

Arshid Ahmad, a first time voter in DH Pora said that he has been voting so that he will get his rights as many things were snatched from us in the last few years and we want it back.

He said that bureaucracy isn't an alternative to the elected government and we want our representative who will raise our voice in concerned quarters.

Arshid said that apart from the restoration of identity there are issues like unemployment, inflation, road connectivity and we hope that the winner will resolve their issues.

Mehrook, another first time voter in Shangus said that it is important for youth to choose the right candidate at this stage as the unemployment rate is rising so that he can work for providing employment opportunities to youth and restoration of statehood.

While applauding the initiatives of ECI like establishing pink polling stations said that this is really good as women don't want to mix up with men.

"Poor people have been suffering due to inflation and frequent increases in electricity tariffs, and whosoever wins must work on lowering the electricity fee," Umair Ahmad a first voter in Anantnag town said.

He said that J&K has numerous issues like unemployment, and he has voted for the first time so that the voice of J&K can reach Parliament.

Similarly, many first time voters said that youth need to understand that their vote has power to resolve all their issues.

They said that if people will be able to choose the right candidate they will get all their rights as voting has the power to get all rights.

Border Villages

making a beeline to exercise their franchise without the fear of cross-border shelling.

Rajouri along with Poonch south of Pir Panjal is part of Anantnag parliamentary constituency where polling is underway in the sixth phase to seal the fate of 20 candidates including PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti. This is the last of the five constituencies in J&K as polling was held in four seats earlier.

Mehbooba faces a major challenge from former minister of National Conference and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf and Apni party's Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas who is backed by BJP. Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader Mohamad Saleem Parray and 10 independents are also trying their luck from the constituency.

"Voting is taking place in a peaceful atmosphere without the fear of the cross-border shelling this time. We have seen worst of the times due to the shelling from Pakistan and our only prayer is continuation of the peaceful atmosphere on the borders," Ved Prakash, a resident of Makri village, which falls near the border fence, told PTI after casting his vote.

A renewed ceasefire between India and Pakistan came into effect on February 25, 2021, providing much needed relief to the border residents.

Authorities have set up 19 border polling stations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch and have also worked out a contingency plan to deal with cross-border shelling.

"We are seeing massive development in our areas which were worst hit by cross-border shelling. The government has also provided us with underground bunkers for our safety in case of shelling from the Pakistan side," Prakash said.

Nowshera assembly segment has recorded 47.31 percent polling till 1 pm.

Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency, having a total of 18.36 eligible voters, recorded 35.22 percent voting till 1 pm. The constituency is spread across 18 segments in Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir and Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region.

Prakash said the fear of Pakistani shelling had faded a long ago and "today we are voting for a government which will address our pending issues like road connectivity and better facilities for our school going children".

"We want a government which will ensure that we live our lives peacefully, without the fear of Pakistani shelling and continue the developmental activities for the upliftment of the border residents," he said.

Corakh Nath, a government teacher who was assigned the job of the Booth Level Officer, said moderate to brisk polling was recorded since this morning and the credit for it goes to the peaceful atmosphere.

"This is one of the unique polling stations, having the facility of underground bunkers as well. People have started queuing up to exercise their vote," he said.

Sunil Choudhary said the village faces water scarcity and wanted the government to address the problem.

Choudhary, a former sarpanch, said the border villages have distinct challenges of their own and need proper government attention.

"You cannot compare our problems with people in other parts of the country. We are boldly standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our jawans guarding the borders of the country which is the beauty of our areas," he said.

Neesha, a student and the first-time voter, expressed happiness for exercising her democratic right and said "I voted for the overall development of my country and strong government."

"Earlier, the frequent cross-border shelling has made our lives a living hell. We were unable to concentrate on our studies but now after the ceasefire, we are studying like any other student," she said.

Dewan Chand said the students had to traverse through the jungle trek to continue their studies after passing class 10.

"We want a higher secondary school and proper road connectivity so that our children do not face any problem in continuing their studies," he said.

Turnout Data

and participative.

The entire exercise of releasing the turnout data from the date of commencement of the Lok Sabha polls on April 19 has been "accurate, consistent and in accordance with election laws and without any discrepancy whatsoever," the EC said.

Explaining the details, it said the final list of

electors is given to the candidates after the list of the contesting candidates is finalised.

"Authorised agents of all candidates will be having form 17C (the document that records the booth-wise data of the votes polled) across the 543 seats distinctively for each of the approximately 10.5 lakh polling stations," it underlined, indicating that there is no scope for fudging the data.

The poll panel further said the total number of votes polled in a constituency, as recorded in form 17C, can never be changed even by anyone's hypothetical mischief, as it is available with all the contesting candidates.

Agents of the candidates are always allowed to accompany the electronic voting machines (EVMs) and statutory papers, including form 17C, from the polling station till those are stored in a strong room in accordance with Rule 49V(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, it noted. The candidates or their agents bring a copy of form 17C to the counting centre and compare it with the result in each round.

"The voter turnout data was always available on the app. The commission underlines that there has been no delay in the release of the voter turnout data," the EC said.

It said the voter turnout data was always available 24x7 on the facilitative Voter Turnout App from 9:30 am on the polling day in each phase.

Different media organisations pick up the data at different points in time in accordance with their convenience to report the next morning, it noted.

"Any alleged delay in the issue of press notes of phase 1 does not mean that the data was not available in the public domain all the time through the voter turnout app," the EC said.

In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court earlier this week, the commission expressed concern that there is a "design, a pattern" that is at play and the petitioners are not approaching courts with clean hands.

They are misusing the forum of the court with an agenda to perpetually keep creating doubts in the minds of the voters based on conspiracy theories, it said.

Mehbooba Accuses

Srinagar-Jammu national highway. The protesters raised slogans against the Jammu and Kashmir administration and demanded that those detained be immediately released.

"Our PDP polling agents are being targeted and arrested. We are asking the reason but they are not saying anything. If they are so afraid of me going to the Parliament, then the Lieutenant Governor should tell me not to fight elections," Mehbooba Mufti told reporters outside the pink polling booth at Bijbihara.

The Anantnag-Rajouri seat is a battleground for a three-way contest in the first election after the abrogation of Article 370 and redrawing of its political map.

Mufti is contesting against Mian Altaf of the National Conference (NC), and Zafar Iqbal Manhas of the Apni Party, making the outcome in the Anantnag-Rajouri seat highly unpredictable.

Mufti said this kind of 'rigging' was witnessed in 1987 which many believe led to the eruption of militancy in Kashmir. Police, however, said only a few people with a "tainted" past record and who can threaten law and order on polling day have been detained.

"LG sahib especially belongs to a party like BJP and one of their great leaders, Vajpayee ji, had assured people of Jammu and Kashmir that free and fair elections would be ensured. However, unfortunately, they haven't learnt anything."

"Ab Unko Mehbooba Mufti Se Bahut Dar Lagta Hai...."

Police and civil officers rushed to the scene and unsuccessfully tried to persuade Mufti for over an hour to lift the blockade, officials said. Police personnel resorted to mild lathi charge to disperse the swelling crowds of onlookers, they said. Mufti left the protest site briefly to cast her vote and returned.

Pertinently on Friday, Mehbooba Mufti had written to the Election Commission claiming that police detained PDP workers and polling agents.

"Those who have been detained are overground workers and have been taken into preventive custody to ensure peaceful polling," a police official said.

Notably, the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary constituency in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir recorded a voter turnout of 52.28 per cent as of 7:45 pm, marking the highest participation in many decades. According to officials, in the ongoing Lok Sabha Elections, the three Parliamentary constituencies in the valley — Srinagar (38.49 per cent), Baramulla (59.1 per cent), and Anantnag-Rajouri (52.28 per cent) — recorded the highest voter turnouts in decades.

Officials said that polling for Anantnag-Rajouri was conducted at 2,338 polling stations, with live webcasting at these stations ensuring transparency. Voting commenced at 7 am across the constituency. The Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, applauded the democratic spirit displayed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir, in the Anantnag-Rajouri PC polling too, have reposed faith in democracy and proved naysayers wrong," they said in a statement.

Process To Hold

The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month.

Following a delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

KP Migrants Vote

creation of a safe homeland in the Valley.

"I have voted for development and security of the nation. We want to strengthen the government. We want to get back to our homeland, and this government should work towards restoring our homeland with the dignity of our community." Sushma Bhat, a voter from erstwhile Kulgam district, told PTI.

Sushma, who travelled from Surat to vote for the first time for her home constituency at the Muthi polling station here, highlighted the need for setting up a big smart city to reconnect the

community with their roots, emphasizing that such initiatives would foster a sense of homeland.

"There are smart cities set up by the Central government in all the states and Union Territories in the country. One or two big smart cities should be set up for our community in the Valley to reconnect us to our roots. It will be a homeland feeling for us. Nobody should have a problem with this," she said.

She urged the political leaders to view the issue as a humanitarian concern, advocating for a secure space for the community to return to the Valley.

Like her, Sandeep Koul, whose father and grandfather were assassinated by the terrorists in the 1990s, called for a safe, singular settlement for Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.

"We want a one place settlement where security and safety are paramount. This will restore the dignity of our community, which has been in exile for the past 35 years. We need justice from the Modi government. It is a test for this government," said Koul, who voted at the Chinore polling station.

Polling, which began at 7 am at all 2,338 polling stations, including 34 special stations for the migrants, saw a 51.88 per cent turnout by 5 pm.

Anil Bhan, the president of the Kashmiri Migrant Camp in Muthi, expressed his satisfaction with the increased voter turnout.

"We are recording a historic 40 to 50 percent turnout this time, compared to previous elections where only two to five per cent of votes were cast. This is our right and we will use it to vote for those who will ensure our bright future. Return and rehabilitation is the first demand of the community," Bhan said.

Most of the displaced voters at different polling stations in Jammu urged the government to facilitate their return and rehabilitation in the Valley.

"People want to go back to their roots but feel unsafe. The government should work in that direction," said Rozy Raina.

75-year old voter and former educationist P N Bhat expressed his satisfaction by voting away from home polling station in Kulgam.

"I have vote for peace and progress of Kashmir besides strengthening of the nation, its unity, integrity and sovereignty," he said.

Long queues were seen at various polling stations in Jammu from the start of polling. Over 26,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandit voters were eligible to vote at 34 polling stations in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag constituency.

Relief Commissioner Dr Arvind Karwani expressed satisfaction over the higher voter turnout.

"There was nearly 40 per cent polling by KPs and there is a huge response and rush at each polling station. It is a higher polling percentage than in previous years," he said.

The Anantnag constituency has sealed the fate of candidates as 51.88 per cent of 18.36 lakh voters, including 9.02 lakh women, voted at 2,338 polling stations.

The main contest is between PDP chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference's Mian Altaf Ahmad. Other notable candidates include Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Manhas and DPAP's Mohammad Saleem Parray.

Over 40% Abstain

Bijbehara, also expressed his disenchantment. He recounted, "I previously voted with the hope of securing employment opportunities, but found myself working at a petrol pump while the relatives of politicians, despite lacking qualifications, secured government jobs."

Ahmad said that politicians assured them of employment before elections but never followed through once in power. This has led to my disinterest in the voting process, he said.

Gulzar Ahmad, another scholar from Pulwama, now working as a chef, echoed similar sentiments. "The false promises of politicians have led me and many other youths to become disengaged from the electoral process. The general public's needs are often ignored by those in power," he said.

It is noteworthy that around 58 percent of voter turnout was recorded in the 2014 Parliament elections in J&K, while about 42 percent of voters still chose to abstain from the polling process—KNO

Only PM Modi

Himachal," Shah said.

Two governments would be formed - one at the Centre and the other in Himachal Pradesh - after the election results are announced on June 4, he said and added that according to his information "Rahul Baba would go to Bangkok on June 6 for relaxation".

Shah said that only a strong government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi can fight terrorism, ensure economic growth and take care of the poor.

"The Congress is trying to frighten us by saying that Pakistan has an atom bomb.... And, today I speak from this land... in Himachal - Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) hamara hai, hamara rahga aur hum ise lekar rahenge (PoK is ours and it will remain ours. We will take it)."

"Today the people of PoK say that we want to be a part of India and this is the charisma of Modi," he said and added the slogan of Modi "is the slogan of a developed and self-sufficient India".

Shah said that even when Article 370 was scrapped in 2019, Congress leaders said it would lead to a bloodbath but not even a single stone was hurled in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the Congress regime, terrorists from Pakistan used to intrude into India, trigger blasts and return, Shah said, adding this completely changed under the Modi government.

"We conducted surgical strikes and wiped out terrorists in their homes which put an end to such tactics," he said, referring to the targeting of terrorist launch pads after the Uri and Pulwama incidents.

Only a leader like PM Modi can put an end to terrorism and Naxalism, he added.

He alleged that the Congress contests elections by "taking cuts" from Himachal and asked the people if their hard-earned money should be spent on the development of the state or election campaign of the Congress.

"Ensure the victory of BJP candidates in six assembly byelections for the formation of a BJP government and see the lotus (BJP's poll symbol) blooming in Himachal," he said.

The BJP has fielded six disqualified Congress MLAs, who had revolted against Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in February, in the

by-elections.

Shah, who addressed rallies at Amb in Una and Dharamshala in Kangra, took a dig at the INDIA bloc for not declaring its prime ministerial candidate.

"God forbid, if they win, who will be their PM... A journalist asked them (who would be your PM), and they said they would take turns," the BJP leader said.

Shah claimed PM Modi has already won 310 seats in the first five phases of the Lok Sabha polls, and the sixth and seventh phases would help the NDA achieve the target of '400-paar' (400-plus seats), while Congress would be restricted to just 40 seats.

Shah referred to the implementation of the 'one rank, one pension' scheme by the Modi government and said the Congress did not accept the demand of ex-servicemen but Modi not only accepted it but has disbursed Rs 1.25 lakh crore to the pensioners so far.

Lauding the achievements of Anurag Thakur, who is seeking a fifth term from the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat, Shah said even if "you search with a lamp, you will not find a towering leader like him".

Shah listed Thakur's achievements like the Rs 10,000-crore Kiratpur-Ner Chowk four-lane project, Rs 1,200-crore worth Hamirpur-Dharampur Highway, Rs 1,000-crore worth Bilaspur-Leh way line and Rs 2,000-crore bulk drug park and Rs 1,500 crore for AIIMS in Himachal Pradesh.

Projects given for Kangra including the Dharamshala smart city project, Chamba Medical Colleges, and Mandi-Pathankot Pathankot-Bharmaur were also mentioned in Shah's speech.

He said while there were scams worth Rs 12 lakh-crore against people associated with the UPA, corruption allegations of not even a single penny have been levelled against PM Modi and that is why the nation wants a third term for him.

4 Punjab Tourists

Hirchand Singh, son of Mukhtar Singh, resident of Attary District Moga, Punjab; Kiran Paul (driver), son of Veer Singh, resident of Attary District Moga, Punjab; and Ashu, son of Vikram Singh, resident of Ferozpora, Punjab.

A police official said that an FIR was registered at Police Post Mir Bazar (Qazigund) and an investigation is underway. (KNO)

Modi Not A

Coward RJD is saying that Pakistan has a nuclear bomb. The terrorists attacked us then because of these coward people. But Modi is not a coward like them. Modi instructed the Army 'Jaao Ghar mein ghuske maaro'."

The Prime Minister's remarks were in reference to senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar who in an interview was heard saying that Pakistan, as a nuclear-armed country, deserves respect. He also advocated the need for India to re-engage with its neighbour

In an interview Mani Shankar Aiyar on April 15 said, "They are also a sovereign country (Pakistan). They are a respected nation. You can talk tough with them (Pakistan). But start the dialogue. You are walking with a gun which yielded you nothing. Tensions are escalating. And if a mad person comes there, what will happen to the nation? They have an atom bomb. We also possess the atomic bomb. But if a mad person detonates our bomb at Lahore station, so within eight seconds, eight moments, its radioactivity will reach Amritsar."

Targeting RJD and Congress for opting to remain silent against DMK and TMC for abusing the people of Bihar, the Prime Minister said that these people do not care about the pride of Bihar. "They are only concerned about their vote bank. A DMK leader, an ally of the INDI alliance, abused Biharis in filthy language, the Congress Chief Minister of Telangana spoke ill of Biharis, West Bengal CM abuses Biharis on a daily basis. But RJD and Congress leaders do not have the courage to speak even a single word against them," he said.

A clip of DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran went viral last year in which he was saying that Hindi speakers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar who come to Tamil Nadu end up doing construction work or cleaning roads and toilets. Praising Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his governance, the Prime Minister said that NDA government brought Bihar out of the 'jungle raj'.

The PM also recalled the poor situation of law and order under RJD's rule. "I want to caution our first-time voters against Jungle Raj Part-2. The youth have not seen those old days when it was difficult to go out after the evening. If someone from outside reached the railway station at night then he had to wait for the morning light. Kidnapping, robbery, murder, these had become the misfortune of Bihar," he said.

LG Condoles

message, the LG said, "I am deeply grieved and saddened to learn about the loss of precious lives in an unfortunate road accident in Kulgam today. My sincere condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the early recovery of the injured. I have directed the District Administration to provide all necessary assistance, as provided in rule, to the affected families".

No Major Weather

them to drink lot of fluid and water.

Meanwhile, night temperature also continued to stay above normal with Srinagar recording a low of 13.8°C against 15.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 10.4°C against 12.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 7.3°C against 8.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 11.1°C against 13.0°C and it was 1.0°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 11.3°C against 12.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.9°C for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 9.0°C against 11.8°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.2°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 22.4°C against 27.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.0°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 13.4°C, Batote 16.7°C and Baderwah 14.6°C, he said.

Border Villages Enjoy Peaceful Voting, Free from Shelling

Agencies

NOWSHERA: Just metres from the Line of Control (LoC), the polling stations set up for Lok Sabha elections at Sehar and Makri, the last Indian villages in this sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, came to life with enthusiastic voters making a beeline to exercise their franchise without the fear of cross-border shelling.

Rajouri along with Poonch south of Pir Panjal is part of Anantnag parliamentary constituency where polling is underway in the sixth phase to seal the fate of 20 candidates including PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti. This is the last of the five constituencies in J&K as polling was held in four seats earlier.

Mehbooba faces a major challenge from former minister of National Conference and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf and Apni party's Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas who is backed by BJP. Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader Mohamad Saleem Par-ray and 10 independents are also trying their luck from the constituency.

"Voting is taking place in a peaceful atmosphere without the fear of the cross-border shelling this time. We have seen worst of the times due to the shelling from Pakistan and our only prayer is continuation



of the peaceful atmosphere on the borders," Ved Prakash, a resident of Makri village, which falls near the border fence, told PTI after casting his vote.

A renewed ceasefire between India and Pakistan came into effect on February 25, 2021, providing much needed relief to the border residents.

Authorities have set up 19 border polling stations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch and have also worked out a contingency plan to deal with cross-border shelling.

"We are seeing massive development in our areas which were worst hit by cross-border shelling. The government has also provided us underground bunkers for our safety in case of shelling from Pakistan side," Prakash said.

Nowshera assembly segment has recorded 47.31 percent polling till 1 pm.

Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency, having a total of 18.36 eligible voters, recorded 35.22 percent voting till 1 pm. The constituency is spread across 18 segments in Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir and Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region.

Prakash said the fear of Pakistani shelling had faded a long ago and "today we are voting for a government which will address our pending issues like road connectivity and better facilities for our school going children".

"We want a government which will ensure that we live our lives peacefully, without the fear of Pakistani shelling and continue the developmental activities for the upliftment of the border residents," he said.

Gorakh Nath, a government teacher who was assigned the job of the Booth Level Officer, said moderate to brisk polling

was recorded since this morning and the credit for it goes to the peaceful atmosphere.

"This is one of the unique polling stations, having the facility of underground bunkers as well. People have started queuing up to exercise their vote," he said.

Sunil Choudhary said the village faces water scarcity and wanted the government to address the problem.

Choudhary, a former sarpanch, said the border villages have distinct challenges of their own and needs proper government attention.

"You cannot compare our problems with people in other parts of the country. We are boldly standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our jawans guarding the borders of the country which is the beauty of our areas," he said.

Neesha, a student and the first-time voter, expressed

Livelihood Can Wait, Voting Cannot

Ponywallahs Cast Vote, Keep Tourists Waiting

Press Trust Of India

PAHALGAM: They are often seen jostling with each other to pick up tourists for pony rides in this south Kashmir resort but on Saturday the ponywallahs decided to make visitors wait.

They had to cast their vote for the polls to the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir in the sixth round of the seven-phase general elections.

"I left my horses to graze and went to cast my vote as it is my right," Muzaffar Ahmed, a ponywallah, said and added that others also took time out to exercise their franchise as it was "very essential in a democracy".

Ponywallahs had queued up at polling booths to exercise their franchise, even though the tourist hub of Pahalgam was brimming with visitors. Some rode on horses to reach booths quickly to vote and get back to business.

"We can earn our livelihood any day but we do not get this

chance (to vote) every day. We should not waste this chance. Earning our livelihood can wait but voting cannot," Ahmed said. Voting is important to ensure development, he added.

"We have to vote to choose our representative who can then work to address our issues and bring development," he said.

Mohammad Rafiq, another ponywallah, said some tourists wanted to pony rides in the morning but "we preferred to vote instead". "Today we could not let this chance go. Tourists will come again and we will earn again but this is our duty (to vote)," he said.

Rafiq said employment was the main issue for the youth in this elections. "We have many other issues, we want tourism to flourish, we want increase in employment opportunities," he said.

"People of Kashmir face many issues... these need to be resolved. We want such a representative who can truly represent us. The poor are always neglected.

We are the face of the people of Kashmir as we directly interact with tourists, so we want someone who can bring a change for the better," Rameez Ahmed, another ponywallah, said.

In Kulgam, there was an elderly man who came to a polling station riding a horse.

"I am barely able to offer prayers but I came on a horse to vote as I did not waste my vote," the man said, proudly displaying his inked finger.

He said that "we have done what was our duty and now it is up to the elected representatives to fulfil their responsibility". People face several issues like lack of development and rising unemployment, the man added. Some also stayed away from the electoral exercise, saying there was no benefit.

"There is no benefit of voting. Those who get elected do not work for the people. They only care about themselves. Our issues remain unaddressed," a local tea vendor in Pahalgam said.

happiness for exercising her democratic right and said "I voted for the overall development of my country and strong government."

"Earlier, the frequent cross-border shelling have made

our lives a living hell. We were unable to concentrate on our studies but now after the ceasefire, we are studying like any other student," she said.

Dewan Chand said the students had to traverse through

the jungle trek to continue their studies after passing class 10.

"We want a higher secondary school and a proper road connectivity so that our children do not face any problem in continuing their studies," he said.

No Plastic: Kulgam Polling Stations Adorned with Crewel Banners



Agencies

KULGAM: In a creative and environmentally conscious move, polling stations in Kulgam embraced traditional artistry by displaying vibrant Crewel work banners advocating against plastic use.

As per the details available with the news agency, the banners for green polling stations were made in crewel hand-made work without use of plastic to give a loud message to general masses about significance of the environment.

The banners were also hand-made crewel work for pink polling stations in the district.

Officials at BK Pora polling station in Kulgam said that this unique initiative aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of plastic pollution while celebrating local craftsmanship.

They said this innovative approach not only beautified the polling venues but also conveyed a powerful message about environmental responsibility.

The initiative received widespread acclaim from residents and visitors alike, who appreciated the fusion of art, culture, and environmental activism.

Many expressed hope that such creative endeavours

would inspire similar initiatives in other regions, fostering a collective commitment to preserving the environment.

Local artisans who crafted the banners expressed pride in their contribution to the electoral process and the broader movement against plastic pollution. For them, it was not just about showcasing their skills but also about making a meaningful impact on society.

As the world grapples with the repercussions of plastic pollution, initiatives like the one in Kulgam serve as a testament to the power of creativity and community collaboration in driving positive change.

By harnessing traditional art forms and leveraging public spaces, such initiatives have the potential to ignite a broader conversation about sustainability and pave the way for a greener future.

Crewel work, known for its elaborate embroidery and vibrant colors, has been a traditional art form in Kashmir for centuries. By incorporating this local craft into the electoral process, authorities aimed to engage voters in a meaningful dialogue about sustainability and the need to reduce plastic waste—(KNO)

Raina Thanks People For 'Strengthening' Democracy

Agencies

RAJOURI: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday exercised his franchise in his home constituency in Rajouri district and thanked the voters for turning up in large numbers to strengthen democracy in the Union Territory.

Rajouri is part of the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency where polling is underway in the sixth phase of elections to decide the fate of 20 candidates, including PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti.

Mufti faces a major challenge from former minister of the National Conference and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf, and Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas who is backed by the BJP. Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader Mohamad Saleem Par-ray and 10 independents are also trying their luck from the constituency.



Anantnag-Rajouri is the last of the five parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir and had so far 44.41 percent polling till 3 pm.

"This is the festival of democracy and we are thankful to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for turning up in record-breaking numbers to exercise their franchise for the election of new government," Raina told reporters after casting his vote at Lamberi east polling station in Rajouri.

Referring to the voter turnout in the past four phases,

especially in Kashmir, the BJP leader said: "I am hopeful that the people in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat will follow suit and vote in a bumper way."

Congratulating the people for strengthening democracy, Raina said, "I am confident that the people in Jammu and Kashmir and rest of the country will vote in the interest of the nation and ensure a third term for Narendra Modi who has worked for the benefit of all sections of the society, especially the poor."

Meanwhile, the BJP supporters missed a party candidate from the constituency but said they have voted for a candidate who is being supported by the national party.

"It would have been better if we had our own candidate from the seat. But since the BJP decided to support a candidate from a regional party, we faced no difficulty in casting our vote," said BJP worker Sham Lal of Nowshera.

In Kulgam, Tarigami Says Votes Are a Protest

Agencies

TARIGAM: In the midst of intense political activities in the Kashmir Valley and despite the presence of Jamaat-e-Islami strongholds in the area, Kulgam stands firm as a bastion of the hammer, sickle and star of the CPI(M).

Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami, the CPI(M) state secretary and a four-time Kulgam MLA, actively campaigned for Mian Altaf -- the candidate for the party's People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) partner the National Conference -- through vibrant roadshows.

Altaf is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, where elections are being held on Saturday.

At 75, Tarigami -- who has kept the CPI(M) flag flying high in the region even through challenging times -- expressed his determination as he cast his ballot in the Tarigam village of south



Kashmir's Kulgam.

"Today, we got an opportunity and people of Kashmir used it in the best way to register their protest against what happened in August 2019," he told PTI after exercising his franchise at a polling station in his ancestral Tarigam village.

"Voting is our constitutional right and we have been doing it all along... People are angry over being deprived of the rights given to them by the Constitution and are thronging the polling stations to register their protest through ballots," Tarigami said.

Drug Peddler Arrested In Pulwama

Agencies

PULWAMA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Pulwama arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

A police party of Police

Station Pulwama under the supervision of SHO PS Pulwama intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK13H-0836 at a checkpoint established at Gangoo Crossing. During search, 7.58 grams of Herion like substance was recovered from the drug peddler identified as Muzamil Gul son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh resident of Samboora,

Pulwama. The drug peddler has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

In this regard, a case FIR number 97/24 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pulwama and investigation has been set into motion.

'LOST: FOUND'

Faheem Abdullah Unveils Musical Masterpiece In Kashmir



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The music label Artiste First, also known for emerging talents, has partnered with well-known Kashmiri singer and storyteller Faheem Abdullah to release his latest album, 'LOST FOUND'.

The collaboration has been anticipated since the release of the hit single 'Ishq' which has captivated audiences globally with its enchanting melody and beautiful lyrics.

As per the details available with the news agency, the launch event, held in Srinagar's INOX multiplex, drew a crowd, including notable personalities from Kashmir and numerous fans.

The excitement was high as attendees gathered to celebrate Abdullah's new album.

"LOST FOUND" features 14 eclectic tracks, including popular hits like "Sajde," "Chak Chuk Blues," and "Waavo." Each song tells a personal story, reflecting Faheem Abdullah's thoughts and experiences.

"The album symbolizes a soul-reviving pause, representing a journey from feeling lost to the joy of being found, and 'Ishq,' a song from the album, has deeply resonated with listeners worldwide, conveying themes of love and longing," said Faheem while speaking to KNO.

He added that it has topped charts on platforms like Spotify and Apple Music and garnered over 25 million views on YouTube. "The song has become

a sensation, uniting listeners across Asia, Europe, Africa, and America with its uplifting message of love and hope, and for that, I am thankful to everyone," he added.

As per a statement shared by the producers of the song, a copy of which lies with KNO, reads Abdullah, celebrated for his expressive lyrics and exceptional voice, shared his excitement about the album's release: "I'm delighted to have had the opportunity to unveil our labor of love in Kashmir, where my journey began. 'LOST: FOUND' is a journey of self-introspection, self-discovery, and self-realization. We are thrilled by the warm reception and eager to present the complete album to the audience."

Rohit Sobti, Co-Founder of Artiste First, also expressed his enthusiasm: "Faheem is a woke new-age artist. His journey from 'Lost' to 'Found' is like the birth of an artist finding their orbit. Faheem's music is mysterious, genre-neutral, and full of depth and emotions. There is something for every kind of listener in this collection, making 'LOST: FOUND' truly special."

"The album 'LOST: FOUND' is now available on all leading music platforms, offering listeners a unique and diverse musical journey. With contributions from various talented artists and producers, the album promises a captivating experience for all music lovers," it said—(KNO)

Six Injured In Clash Outside Polling Station In Poonch

Agencies

MENDHAR: Six persons including four women suffered minor injuries in a clash between supporters of two candidates outside a polling station in Mendhar sub-division in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said.

However, the voting at the polling station in the Shahpur sector continued without any disruption as police intervened and separated the clashing groups, they said.

An FIR was registered by police and further investigation is

on, the officials said.

Poonch is part of the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency where polling is underway in the sixth phase on Saturday.

"It is hereby clarified that a minor scuffle took place outside the polling station causing very minor injuries to a few persons.

"The altercation was stopped in time and an FIR has been lodged in the matter. Polling did not get interrupted at any time and went on smoothly," the office of deputy commissioner, Poonch, said on X.

Forest Fire Erupts In Qazigund

SRINAGAR: A massive forest fire has erupted in Nagras area of Qazigund in South Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a massive fire started this afternoon and spread vast forest area in Nagras village.

He said fire tenders have

been rushed to the spot and efforts to douse off the fire are underway

Notably, J&K Disaster Management Authority had warned about extreme fire risk in forest areas in the next 7 days.

It had requested people to report the incident (if any) on 112 for prompt response.

IPL 2024 Final: KKR Favourites Against SRH, Say Hayden, Pietersen

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Kolkata Knight Riders are better equipped to lift the IPL title on Sunday because of a superior spin attack and a better record against their rivals Sunrisers Hyderabad, reckon experts Matthew Hayden and Kevin Pietersen.

KKR had trumped SRH in league stage matches and it will give them an edge going into Sunday's summit clash, they say.

"I'm very confident that KKR are going to win here, as having a few days off, having the ability to watch this match, and understanding what the strengths and weaknesses of Sunrisers Hyderabad are will be helpful," Hayden said on Star Sports Cricket Live.

"KKR, having defeated SRH, is going to have great momentum. I also just feel that the quality spin of (Sunil) Narine and Varun Chakravarthy on the red clay is going to make a difference."



The 52-year-old former Australia opener believes a strong mentality of players and team is important to win a rigorous tournament like the IPL.

"It's about just getting it right, really as simple as that. You've done all the hard work, traversed the country, been in and out of planes, buses, different hotels, and different beds. It's a really challenging, rigorous tournament, and only the strong-hearted get a chance to lift that trophy at the end."

"Luck will always play a little role in a sportsperson's life, no question, but more than anything, it's about making sure you're committed to your team on the day. What I saw from Rajasthan Royals was that while they were committed on one side of the match, they didn't fully believe when it came to batting (on Friday)," he said.

Former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen too believes KKR are front-runners to win the IPL crown this time.

"I didn't like the way the Sunrisers threw in the towel the other evening in Ahmedabad, and I think it's going to put them on the back foot for the start on Sunday.

"The way they just finished that game off, Pat Cummins gave Travis Head the ball, and Shreyas Iyer just went bang, bang, bang. It'll give KKR a lot of confidence going into the finals knowing that they've already beaten SRH a couple of days ago," Pietersen said.

Short TAKES

KKR's Final Net Session Washed Out

A sharp spell of rain interrupted the final practice session of Kolkata Knight Riders ahead of their marquee IPL final clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

The SRH had an off-day while KKR was scheduled to practice in the evening under lights but heavens opened up just when the players were beginning their customary warm-up game of football, forcing them to remain confined to indoors. While the players ran for cover, the groundsmen covered the fourth strip, which will be used for the final.

Olympic Qualifiers: Abhimanyu Records Win

National championships bronze medallist Abhimanyu Loura displayed his never-say-die attitude to pack off Bulgaria's Kristiyan Nikolov in a thrilling 80kg category first round clash in the Boxing World Qualifiers for Paris Olympics in Bangkok on Saturday.

Loura started slow as the 10-time Bulgarian national champion took an upper hand in the opening round. But the 21-year-old Indian quickly switched gears and went on the offensive, with four of the five judges voting in favour of him.

Wayne Rooney Takes Helm At Plymouth Argyle

Former Manchester United and England forward Wayne Rooney has been appointed manager of Plymouth Argyle, the second-tier Championship club said on Sunday. Rooney replaces Ian Foster, who was sacked in April after just three months in the job. Argyle finished 21st in the Championship standings, avoiding relegation by one point.

Rooney has previously managed Birmingham City, Derby County and Major League Soccer (MLS) side DC United. As a player, Rooney scored 253 goals for United, won five Premier League titles and the Champions League.

Celtic Leave It Late To Beat Rangers And Win Scottish Cup

Celtic beat Rangers 1-0 in a cagey Scottish Cup final at Hampden Park on Saturday with a 90th-minute winner from Adam Idah as Brendan Rodgers' side completed the league and cup double.

Celtic took the lead when Paulo Bernardo dribbled into the final third and took a shot from the edge of the box that was palmed away by Jack Butland, but Idah was in the right place at the right time to fire home the rebound. The victory gave Celtic a record-extending 42nd title.

Leclerc Ends Verstappen's Record Run With Monaco Pole



Ferrari's Charles Leclerc ended Max Verstappen's record-equalling run of Formula One pole positions in style on Saturday to make himself favourite to become the first home winner of the Monaco Grand Prix since 1931. The pole was Leclerc's third in Monaco and 24th of his career, but he has yet to stand on the podium in front of his home crowd.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri will start alongside the 26-year-old on the front row.

Why Hussey Is Averse To Taking Up India Head Coach Job



Press Trust of India

PERTH: Former batter Michael Hussey became the latest Australian to rule himself out of contention to become the next India head coach, saying it is something that he's not keen on right now.

With Rahul Dravid reportedly not wanting to continue in the role of the head coach post T20 World Cup in the Americas, quite a few Australians have been linked to the job, including Ricky Ponting and Justin Langer.

However, all of them have claimed that they have turned down the offer, citing various reasons even as BCCI rejected claims of approaching any former Australian cricketer for the high-profile job.

"Certainly as a full-time international coach, it's not something at this stage of my life that I'm that keen on," Hussey, who is the batting coach of IPL team Chennai Super Kings, was quoted as saying by Sydney Morning Herald.

"Out of playing, and even now, it's not really on my radar, and I'm enjoying the balance of being able to coach as an assistant or head coach and then doing a bit of media as well.

"I love that balance and still spending some time at home. You'd always like more time at home, but the bucket is pretty full at the moment."

Apart from the role in the IPL, Hussey is also the head coach of Welsh Fire in The Hundred. He is also a commentator for Fox Cricket

during the Australia home summer.

"They play more cricket than probably anyone in the world really, they're literally going from tour to tour to tour. So, that would be a pretty challenging sort of role where you'd have to be there, boots on the ground," he said.

"You're probably only getting the IPL off, which is eight to 10 weeks, but then the rest of the year, you're going to be pretty much on the go."

Earlier, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had asserted that they have not approached any Australian cricketer for the role.

"Neither I nor the BCCI have approached any former Australian cricketer with a coaching offer. The reports circulating in certain media sections are completely incorrect.

"Finding the right coach for our national team is a meticulous and thorough process. We are focused on identifying individuals who possess a deep understanding of the Indian cricket structure and have risen through the ranks," Shah had clarified in a statement.

Besides the Aussies, Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara was also asked about the same, and he too firmly turned it down.

"I have not been approached, and I don't have time to commit full-time to an India coaching job. Happy with my stint with Royals, and let's see how it goes," said Sangakkara, who the Director of Cricket role with Rajasthan Royals.

World Para Athletics: India Win Silver, Bronze After Protest

Press Trust of India

KOBE: India ended their World Para Athletics Championships campaign with an unprecedented 17 medals, including six gold, to take the sixth spot in the standings with Delhi sprinter Simran Sharma winning the country's sixth yellow medal in Kobe, Japan, on Saturday.

Simran won the gold medal in women's 200m T12 event with a personal best time of 24.95 seconds on the final day of competitions. She shaved off around one-fifth of a second from her earlier personal best of 25.16 seconds to win the gold.

Darlenys De La Severino (25.08) of Dominica and Lorraine Gomes De Aguiar (25.40) won the silver and bronze respectively.



The T12 category is meant for athletes who have vision impairment.

India finished with 17 medals (6 gold, 5 silver, 6 bronze) to be at sixth place in the standings. This is India's best-ever performance, having surpassed the earlier record medal haul of 10 medals (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) it won in the 2023 edition in Paris.

China ended on top of the pile with 87 medals (33 gold, 30 silver, 24 bronze). Brazil (19 gold, 12 silver, 11 bronze), Uzbekistan (7 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze), Great Britain (7 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze) and United States (6 gold, 13 silver, 5 bronze) were at second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Shaheen Afridi Was Never Offered VC Role: PCB

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday said the national selectors never offered vice-captaincy role to Shaheen Shah Afridi in the run-up to the next month's T20 World Cup in the Americas. Several reports claimed that Afridi was given a chance to be the deputy of Babar Azam when the Pakistan squad for the ICC showpiece was picked on Friday, but the left-arm pacer rejected the proposal.

"The selectors were shocked with this news because when they held their nearly two-hour online meeting on Friday, six out of seven selectors were not in favour of having a



vice-captain to Babar Azam," a source close to one of the national selectors told PTI.

"The minutes of the meeting are on record as per the instructions of the PCB Chairman. So, today's news about Shaheen declining the vice-captaincy came as a big shock to the selectors," he said.

However, it was revealed that in March a selector in his individual capacity had asked

Afridi if he would be interested in the vice-captaincy in future. But the pacer declined the offer outrightly.

It was not surprising either because by that time it was obvious that Babar was going to replace him as the T20 captain after just one series.

On Saturday, several reports suggested that the offer of the vice-captaincy was made to Afridi earlier this week.

The source termed it as an effort by some outside elements to tarnish the image of PCB and selectors.

"Shaheen was obviously not happy when his captaincy term was cut short after he captained in just one series in New Zealand in January," he said.

Man United Wins The FA Cup After Stunning Man City 2-1 In The Final

Associated Press

LONDON: Manchester United won the FA Cup after stunning defending champion Manchester City 2-1 in the final at Wembley on Saturday.

United's first silverware of the season deprived crosstown rival City of the first back-to-back English league-cup doubles. United also qualified for the Europa League next season.

The final was a repeat of last year's which City won 2-1, and Pep Guardiola's team did not give up its trophy without a fight.

Alejandro Garnacho opened the scoring in the 30th minute after mistakes from City defender Josko Gvardiol and goalkeeper Stefan Ortega.

Kobbie Mainoo then added a second goal in the 39th to spark passionate celebrations from manager Erik ten Hag, whose job was under intense scrutiny going into the final.

United was in control at half-time but City piled the pressure on in the second half and eventually got back into the game through substitute Jeremy Doku's long range shot into the bottom corner in the 87th.

By that point Erling Haaland had hit the bar, Kyle Walker had forced goalkeeper Andre Onana into two outstretched saves, and substitute Julian Alvarez missed the target from close range with only the keeper to beat.

It is United's 13th FA Cup, one behind Arsenal's record of 14. And it is Ten Hag's second trophy in as many years at the club after winning the League Cup last year.

Players and staff embraced him on the field after the final whistle as the Dutchman managed to end a troubled campaign on a high.

Watching on were the United co-owners, Americans Joel



and Avram Glazer and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe.

Speculation about Ten Hag's future dominated the buildup and it was widely anticipated he would lose his job regardless of the result after overseeing United's worst league season in 34 years.

"It's not about me, it's about the team and winning the cup," he said before kickoff.

It was a very different story for City. After becoming the first English team to win four titles in a row, it was aiming to set a new benchmark by completing back-to-back doubles. City's parade in Manchester on Monday to celebrate the historic league success will not include the FA Cup.

City dominated possession in the first half but United posed the more threatening attacks and took the lead through Garnacho.

The Argentine winger

sparked panic in City's defense when chasing onto a hopeful punt from Diogo Dalot deep in his half. Gvardiol was quicker to the ball, but his headed back pass went over the onrushing City goalkeeper Ortega to leave Garnacho with an open net to tap home.

If that goal benefited from luck, United's second came from a slick attack, with Garnacho at the heart of it again when cutting in from the right wing and playing in Bruno Fernandes.

The United captain hit a first-time no-look pass to Mainoo, who coolly slotted past Ortega.

"It's been a tough season with ups and downs. This is the only thing we've had to look forward to," Mainoo said.

"We knew we had to come together. The preparation for this game has been amazing. We've shown we can compete and win games."