

COUNTDOWN TO LOK SABHA VERDICT

Modi Eyes Record-equalling Feat, Oppn Hopes For Rebound

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi eyes a record-equalling third straight term in power amid the INDIA opposition bloc's hope of springing a surprise as the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha election is set for Tuesday, bringing an end to a marathon polling exercise stretching over 80 days.

While most experts have long seen the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as the favourite in the polls, a lot is at stake for the ruling combine in terms of the scale of victory it can pull off and new territories it can conquer. The opposition's stakes are higher still amid its reducing national footprint.

Exit polls have been, however, unanimous in their prediction that the NDA is closer to realising Modi's ambitious target of "400 paar" for his alliance than the INDIA bloc is to crossing even the 180 mark, one-third of the total number of seats.

Though electoral verdicts have historically been accepted, even though grudgingly, by all parties, there has been a sharper edge to the questions being raised by opposition parties this time over



the polling process, including the Election Commission (EC).

In the run-up to the counting, the campaign acrimony between the two battling camps has spilled over into the post-poll trading of accusations after the exit polls predicted a massive win for the incumbent alliance, a forecast summarily dismissed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as "Modi media poll".

INDIA bloc leaders, who have been raising doubts over the electronic voting machines (EVMs), have accused the prime

minister of sending a signal to the bureaucracy through these "fantasy" exit polls and marched to the EC, urging the poll watchdog to follow the counting guidelines.

In its counter-attack, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has accused its rivals of trying to undermine the integrity of India's electoral process and asked the EC to prevent any attempt of "violence and unrest" during the counting of votes.

Modi framed the BJP's campaign around [More on P10](#)

All Set For Counting Of Votes In 5 LS Seats In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: All security and administrative arrangements have been put in place for hasle-free counting for five crucial Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir amid multi-layer security cover.

The Election Commission has established 10 counting centers for the five Lok Sabha seats in J&K with one of these centers set up in Delhi to count the votes of Kashmiri migrants living outside Kashmir. The counting of votes for five J&K LS seats will begin simultaneously with the rest of the country.

Among the six Lok Sabha seats of Jammu,

Kashmir, and Ladakh, the results for Udhampur and Ladakh are expected first. The results for the remaining four seats—Jammu, Anantnag-Rajori, Srinagar, and Baramulla—will take longer due to the high number of candidates, which has necessitated the use of two EVMs for each seat.

Key Candidates Await Results



The counting of votes, scheduled for Tuesday, also covering Udhampur and Jammu parliamentary seats in J&K, will decide the fate of 100 candidates, including senior BJP leader and Union minister Jitendra [More on P10](#)

Tight Security Arrangements In Place

Stringent security arrangements have been made for the counting of votes for three Lok Sabha constituencies of Kashmir as additional security personnel have been deployed at key places in the valley, officials said on Monday. A three-tier security blanket has been thrown around the counting centres in Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag to ensure that no unauthorised person enters the premises, [More on P10](#)

Here's How Votes Are Counted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections will be taken up on Tuesday. Here is a brief overview of the counting process.

Under Rule 54 A of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, the counting of postal ballot papers shall be started first at the Returning Officer's (RO) table.

- Only such postal ballot papers shall be taken up for counting which are received by the RO before the hour fixed for the commencement of counting.
- After 30 minutes of the commencement of counting of postal ballots, the counting of votes from EVMs should be started.
- Counting of votes from EVMs can begin on scheduled time if there is no postal ballot paper in the constituency.
- Only Control Unit (CU) of the EVM used in polling station is required for counting of votes along with Form 17C.
- Before ascertaining the result from CUs of EVMs, counting officials shall ensure that the paper seal on them is intact and total votes polled tally with those mentioned in Form 17C.
- The result of the control unit shall be noted in Part-II of Form 17C after showing it to counting supervisor, micro observer and counting agents of candidates.
- In case of non-display of results in the display panel of the control unit, VVPAT slips of the respective VVPAT shall be counted after completion of all CUs count.
- Candidate-wise result of each CU shall be noted in Part II of Form 17C and signed by the counting supervisor and counting agents of candidates present at the counting table. [More on P10](#)

Postal Ballots To Be Counted First: CEC

Citing the Conduct of Election Rules, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Monday said the count of postal ballots will start first across all counting centres and asserted that there was "no doubt about it". Responding to questions at a press conference here, he said after half-an-hour of the start of the postal ballot count, the counting of votes recorded in the electronic voting machines will commence. A delegation of the opposition parties had on Sunday met the Commission to demand that [More on P10](#)

'UPHOLD CONSTITUTION IF RESULTS THROW HUNG PARLIAMENT'

Ex-Judges Write To President Murmu

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Seven former high court judges on Monday wrote an open letter to President Droupadi Murmu urging her to follow the "established democratic precedent" and invite the largest pre-poll alliance to form the government to preempt horse trading if the 2024 general elections lead to a hung Parliament.

The retired judges also urged Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and the chief election commissioner to uphold the Constitution by ensuring a smooth transition of power, if the present ruling dispensation loses people's mandate.



The open letter is signed by six former Madras High Court judges G M Akbar Ali, Aruna Jagadeesan, D Hariharanathan, P R Shivakumar, C T Selvam, S Vimala and former judge of Patna High Court Anjana Prakash.

They said there was "genuine concern" that if the present ruling dispensation [More on P10](#)

Assembly Polls In J&K Very Soon: CEC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) on Monday said it will start the process of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir very soon.

Addressing a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said the EC was very enthused by the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir during the Lok Sabha elections, which showed the eagerness of the people to participate in the democratic process.

"We will very soon start the process of assembly elections in J&K. We are very enthused. It is one of the most satisfying



moments," the CEC said.

The voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir during the Lok Sabha elections was 58.58 per cent, the highest in four decades. The voter turnout

in Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir valley was 51.05 per cent, he said.

While announcing the schedule for the Lok Sabha elections in [More on P10](#)

'64.2 Cr People Voted In LS Polls'

India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Monday. Addressing a press briefing, he said over 68,000 monitoring teams and 1.5 crore polling and security personnel were involved in the world's [More on P10](#)

Encounter In Pulwama, 2 Killed

Agencies

Srinagar: A commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba was among two killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday, police said.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, V K Birdhi said the ultras -- identified as Riyaz Dar and Rayees Dar -- were killed in the exchange of firing during a cordon and search operation in Nihama area of the south Kashmir district.

Riyaz Dar was a "commander" of the banned LeT and was wanted in several terror cases. He had been evading security forces for many years.

Security forces had launched the operation after receiving specific inputs about the presence of terrorists there, a police

official said.

The militants opened fire on members of a search party and the two terrorists were killed in the ensuing encounter, the official said.

"Despite being given the opportunity to surrender, the terrorists declined," the official said, adding that the exchange of fire lasted for several hours, resulting in the deaths of two terrorists.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, termed the killings as a significant development towards achieving a terrorism-free Jammu and Kashmir.

An official said that the Kakapora hamlet in Pulwama was once a hotbed of terrorism, particularly associated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). "With the [More on P10](#)

J&K Deploys Drones For First Time To Combat Raging Forest Fires

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: In a first, the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department is using drones to combat forest fires across the union territory. The department has procured six drones, three allocated to each division (Jammu and Kashmir), to pinpoint the exact location of fires, even in dense forest areas.

This comes amid a spike in forest fires due to an intense heatwave and prolonged dry spell.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) had already issued a warning of an 'extreme forest fire' risk. Amid an intense



heatwave and prolonged dry spell, multiple forest fires have been raging for a week across Kashmir and Jammu divisions,

with authorities struggling to extinguish the flames.

In Jammu, forest fires were reported [More on P10](#)

ILLEGAL MINING IN KAREWAS, DUST POLLUTION & WATER LOGGING NGT Issues Notice To Govt, NHAI

Agencies

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) while taking serious notice of illegal clay mining in Karewas of Budgam has issued a notice to the J&K Government through the Chief Secretary, National Highways Authority of India -NHAI and construction company NKC Projects Pvt Ltd.

The notice was issued by the three member Principal Bench of the NGT headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Chairperson of the tribunal. Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi, Judicial Member and Dr Afroz Ahmad, Expert Member - EM were also present during the case hearing. The application was moved Sharma and Advocate Bijay Kumar

The NGT in its May 27th order reads, "The grievance of the applicants is that on account of construction of

Srinagar Ring Road Passing through Village Wathoora, Tehsil Chadoora in District Budgam in Jammu & Kashmir, the flooding of the apple orchards of the applicant has taken place. Submission of the Counsel for the applicant is that the water channel has been blocked in the process of construction of the road, resultantly, the waterlogging has taken place and flooding has damaged approximately three acres of the orchard land of the applicants. In support of the said plea, the applicant has relied upon the photographs enclosed along with the original application - "OA"

The petitioners further grievance submitted before NGT is that construction of the new highway has been causing dust pollution and the same is adversely affecting the orchards of the applicant and [More on P10](#)

Stray Dog Issue Complicated, Needs Coordinated Action: HC

Says Authorities Can't Leave It Entirely On NGOs, Seeks Compliance Of Various Decisions Taken By Them

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that the issue relating to stray dogs is "complicated", the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has called for "very coordinated action" from various agencies and authorities including NGOs working in the field to deal with it.

However, a division bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal underlined that it cannot entirely be left in the hands of the NGOs to cope with it.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, the Division Bench directed authorities to report to the court as to how effectively various decisions taken can be carried out.

"The issue relating to stray dogs is certainly a complicated

one, which would require very coordinated action from various agencies and authorities including NGOs working in the field and cannot be dealt with in a simple manner," the court said, observing that as far as UT of Jammu and Kashmir was concerned, a State Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee has been constituted to monitor the various issues relating to street dogs and its

3rd Meeting was held on 13 February this year. The committee, comprising commissioners of SMC and JMC, took a number of decisions and were reproduced by the court in its order.

Among others, the committee underlined that compliance with [More on P10](#)

Fire Engulfs Forest, Urban Areas Across 6 Districts

Several fire incidents in the past 24 hours have devastated vast tracts of forest land and urban areas across six districts in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday. No injuries or loss of life occurred during any of the incidents, which were reported in Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Kathua, and Poonch districts, they added. In Poonch district, a blaze, which spread from across the Line of Control (LoC) on Sunday [More on P10](#)



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THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Download of Admit Card / Instructions for Candidates appearing in Common Entrance Test (CET) for B.E./B.Tech.Engg.Courses-2024 at various Government/Private Institutions of UT of J&K.

Reference: - (i) Notification No. 020-BOPEE of 2024 dated 03-05-2024.
(ii) Notice No. 007-BOPEE of 2024 dated 16-05-2024
(iii) Notice No. 010-BOPEE of 2024 dated 24-05-2024

Notification No. 029-BOPEE of 2024
Dated 03-06-2024

All the eligible candidates appearing for Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to B.E./B. Tech. Engg. Courses-2024, at various Government/Private Institutions of UT of J&K are hereby informed that the Online Admit Cards will be available for download from 05th of June, 2024 (11:30 a.m. onwards) on official website of BOPEE www.jkbopee.gov.in. Candidates should take note of the following instructions strictly:

Date of Common Entrance Test for B.E./ B.Tech. Engg. Courses-2024

09th June, 2024 (Sunday),

Time of Examination

10:00 A.M. to 01:00 P.M.

Candidate Identification/Photo ID Proof:

The candidates are required to affix recent passport size photograph on Electronic Admit Card (if not available in Admit Card) downloaded by them from the official website of the BOPEE and they should carry along with them their Aadhar Card / Pan Card / Driving License / Passport / Photo ID issued by concerned College / Employer ID in original positively for their identification.

TENTATIVE TIME SCHUDULE FOR THE COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

TIME	ACTIVITY
08:45 AM	Reporting time at the Examination Centre(s) / College(s).
09:25 AM	Reporting time in the Examination Hall(s).
09:30AM	The Invigilator shall ascertain the identity of each candidate by comparing his/her facial appearance with the photograph given in the admit card and attendance sheet. The centre Supervisor shall also check the identity of the candidates and ensure that only the genuine candidates have been allowed to sit in the examination hall and there is shall be no case of impersonation.
09:45 AM	Candidates will be given OMR Answer Sheet. They will go through the instructions printed on it and fill in their particulars on the OMR Answer Sheet.
09:55 AM	Candidates will be given Question Booklets. The Question Booklet number is to be

entered on the OMR Answer Sheet.

10:00 AM	Candidates will break open the seal of the Question Booklet and start attempting the questions.
01:00 P.M.	Candidates will remain in their seats. They will hand over their original OMR Answer Sheet to the Invigilator, take the Question Booklet and OMR candidate's copy along with them and leave the examination hall only when they are asked to leave.

Note: After distribution of OMR Sheets, no candidate shall be allowed to go out of the Examination Hall under any circumstances.

Important Guidelines

- For their own convenience, candidates are advised to visit the venue of their Exam. Centre any day before start of Entrance Examination.
- The candidates should report in the examination centre in time as per the above time schedule. **No candidate will be allowed to enter the Examination Hall after the prescribed time given above.**
- Tab, Smart Phone, Mobile Phone, Pager, Bluetooth Device, Camera, Calculator or any other communication /electronic device /Tablet is not allowed inside the premises of the Examination Centre. If a candidate is found carrying any one of these devices in the Examination Centre, his/her candidature will be cancelled including ban for future examination/selection. The candidates are advised to keep their electronic gadgets at their residence.
- The present status of the candidates shown on Admit Card or on any other document of the BOPEE is purely provisional and subject to subsequent verification/eligibility by the Board and other Competent Bodies.
- The candidate(s) who has / have submitted wrong/false information and has/have managed to appear in the Common Entrance Test will be disqualified from being considered for admission and if admission is granted on the basis of such information, his / her admission shall be cancelled and departmental action / criminal prosecution, where ever applicable, shall be recommended / initiated against them.
- Mere appearing in the Common Entrance Test cannot be in any way taken as a guarantee for the selection to the course.
- The candidates are advised to go through the instructions given in the Electronic Information Brochure and particularly read instructions for filling up of the OMR answer sheet very carefully.
- The candidates should check their Question Booklets before attempting any question and should ensure that the Booklet contains 180 questions. In case of any missing question / page / blank page or damaged/defaced Question Booklet, it shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate concerned to report it to the Invigilator and get it replaced by the same series, failing which no complaint can be entertained afterwards.
- The candidates are informed that the Answer Key of the Question papers will be uploaded on the BOPEE website either on 09th June-2024 at around 01:00 P.M. or upto 02:00 P.M next day which will remain there for three days (i.e. 10th, 11th & 12th June, 2024) up to 05:00 pm and thereafter it will be removed. The candidates, who have any complaint against any Answer of a Question in the Question Booklet are free to make written representation supported by documentary proof from standard Text Books on the prescribed format available on the official website of the BOPEE and in the BOPEE office at Srinagar / Jammu, which should reach at the BOPEE office (Srinagar/ Jammu) within stipulated time as above and thereafter no representation will be entertained / accepted. The candidates interested in making representation online/offline shall have to pay a fee of Rs 1000/- which can be paid by Debit Card/Credit Card/ATM Card through POS Machines available at the BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar. These representations, in a consolidated form, will be given due consideration by the experts whose decision will be final. On the basis of the decision of these experts, a revised Answer Key, if required, will be uploaded again on the Website of the Board. **No representation will be entertained on the revised Answer Key.**
- The candidate must ensure before handing over his / her OMR Answer Sheet to the concerned Invigilator that the entries made by him / her are correct. The Board shall not be responsible for any mistake committed by the candidate in this regard.
- Any case(s) of impersonation will be dealt with seriously. Any candidate found involved in impersonation will be liable for criminal prosecution for fraud / forgery / impersonation and criminal breach of trust, apart from cancellation of his/her candidature.

DIPK-NB-279/24
dated: 03-06-2024

E & O E

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations,
J&K, BOPEE

Dated: 03-06-2024

No. BOPEE/Exam-16/2024(7467447)

كل نفس ذائقة الموت

Every soul shall taste death, and only on the Day of Judgment will you be paid your full recompense."



إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Ali Mohammad Ronga S/O:-Lt.Ghulam Qadir Ronga R/O:-Tibatain Colony Eidgah Srinagar today 02/06/2024 early morning After Brief illness.

Fateh khawaani will be held on 04/06/24 Time 10:30.am
Tuesday at Wantpora Near kawa Kul Srinagar.

Bereaved Family

Ronga Family

6006612808 | 9906005521

NOTICE

I Mohd Nasir Shamas R/o Nigeen Hazratbal Srinagar 190006 have changed my son's name from (old) Mohsin Mohamad to Mohsin Nasir (new). In future he will be known as (new name) Mohsin Nasir. If anybody is having any objection he / she may contact passport office, Srinagar within seven days. After seven days no objection will be accepted. Media Line

NOTICE

I Mushtaq Ahmad Misger R/o Galaxy School Soura, Srinagar want to change my Electricity Connection bearing Consumer Id 020404005121 that was on the name of Ali Mohammad Misger R/o Galaxy School Soura, Srinagar now I want it to be on my own name. In this Regard, if anybody is having any objection may file his/her objection in the Subdivision office Hawal within a weeks time after that no objection will be entertained.

7006315644

Media Line

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Directorate Of Floriculture. Parks & Gardens Jammu

HAR-KI- POU DI ROAD, BAGH-E-BAHU JAMMU
e-mail floriculturejammu@gmail.com | Tel.2435121

CANCELLATION OF E-NIT

Sub:- Privatization of Entry Ticketing System in Bagh-e-Bahu Garden Jammu.

Ref: This office e-NIT No. 01/2024-25/Floriculture Department Jammu Dated: 03.06.2024 issued under Endtt.

No.DFJ/GS/891-901 Dated: 03.06.2024.

As the Model Code of Conduct is in force, the tender invited vide e-NIT referred above is hereby canceled.

Accounts Officer,
Directorate of Floriculture,
Parks & Gardens, Jammu.

No. DFJ/GS/ 905-08
DIPK-829/24
Dated: 03-06-2024

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

CORRIGENDUM


Sub: Cancellation of e-NIT.

Ref: This office E-NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-104 of 2023-24, S. No. 01

The above referred e-NIT is hereby cancelled as some of the bidders have not accepted the negotiated rates and will be tendered as fresh.
All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/1166-68
DIPK-822/24
Dated: 03-06-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore



NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-18.06.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System	
Open		Works		Single Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
24.05.2024		04.06.2024		18.06.2024/ 15:00 Hrs	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	41-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR	Provision of New RGM/TTM sidings at GJUT, GHA & LKW Misc. Track works and misc work of existing sidings at GNA & JGN stations in the section of ADEN-1/FZR.			
		Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		Rs.2,05,21,364.95/-	Rs.2,52,600/-	60 Days	08 Months
		Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28".			
2.	46-2024-25-SrDEN-HQ/FZR	Improvement and maintenance of protection force station & out post/assault post of protection force at Firozpur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Pathankot, Jalandhar & Faridkot over Firozpur Division.			
		Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		Rs.1,86,03,125.35/-	Rs.2,43,000/-	60 Days	06 Months
		Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".			
3.	47-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR	Replacement of existing early steel girder (Span 1 X 3.20 m) of bridge no. 32 at Km-327/5-6, bridge no. 47 at Km-337/6-7 on BTI-FZR Section under ADEN-1/FZR.			
		Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		Rs.1,43,88,369.58/-	Rs.2,22,000/-	60 Days	10 Months
		Similar nature of work:- "Construction of any Bridge work".			
Note:1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No.: 41 & 47-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR & 46-2024-25-SrDEN-HQ/FZR Dt: 31.05.2024 1648/24					
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Media Line

ادفتر نایب تحصیلدار

عنوان: درخواست از جانب غوثیہ شوکت ولد مرحوم شوکت احمد شاہ ساکنہ عمر کالونی بی لال بازار باغات شورہ نسبت اجرائی لیگل ہیئر سرفیکٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی

معاملہ عنوان السدر میں درخواست سائل ہے کہ اس کا والد متوفی مرحوم شوکت احمد شاہ ساکنہ عمر کالونی باغات شورہ مورخہ 21-05-1990 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اس کی حق میں لیگل ہیئر سرفیکٹ اجراء فرمائی جائے۔ بروے رپورٹ پیوار حلقہ متوفی کسمہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

نام عمر رشتہ پیشہ

شگفتہ بیوہ 54 سال والدہ ریٹائر ملازم

پیرواؤلی شاہ شادی شدہ 34 سال پسر تاجر

غوثیہ شادی شدہ 33 سال سائلہ گھریلو کام

قبل اسکے کردرخواست سائل پزندیکاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ ہر خاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو سرفیکٹیت ہذا اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دفتر بذیل پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے معاو کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نایب تحصیلدار

MEDIA LINE

ادعرا لیکو کیٹیج مجسٹریٹ درجاول نارہ مل ضلع بڈگام

عنوان: درخواست متغائب طارق احمد بٹ ولد غلام رسول بٹ ساکنہ رائیاری بیروہ تحصیل خان صاحب ضلع بڈگام ہمراد عطائی یوم پیدائش سرفیکٹیت بحق

دفتر عائشہ زیر تارخ پیدائش 27-11-2022

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان السدر مندرہ بالا کی نسبت سے درخواست دہندہ سائل نے عائشہ جسکی تاریخ پیدائش 27-11-2022 ہے کی پیدائش سرفیکٹیت کی حصولی کیلئے باجرائیگی آرڈر دفتر بذیل اسپتالی کر دیا ہے جسکی کاروائی دفتر بذیل چل رہی ہے اس سلسلے میں سائل نے بطور ثبوت مندرجہ کاغذات شامل فائیل رکھے ہیں

Birth Certificate Of Hospital,

Discharge Certificate , Court Affidavit

Drops Card ۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذریا اعتراض سات یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل نہیں ہوگا۔

نایب تحصیلدار

pd



Counting Observers For Srinagar PC Review Preparations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A day ahead of Counting for Lok Sabha Elections-2024, Counting Observers nominated for all 18 Assembly Segments of 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency Monday took a detailed review of the preparations and arrangements put in place for Counting of Votes at designated Counting Centres at SKICC-Centaur.

The Returning Officer(RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in detail briefed the Counting Observers about the arrangements made at the designated Counting Halls in SKICC-Centaur for smooth and hassle free counting process viz. Entry of RO staff, ARO staff, Counting Staff, Micro Observers, Counting Agents and Media persons, besides transporting and handling of EVMs, establishment of Media Centre, Control Room, Media Gallery, installation of Public Address System, issuance of ID cards.

The RO informed that 12 Counting Halls have been established at SKICC and 6 Counting Halls at Centaur Complex with 8 Counting Tables in each Hall. The Counting of votes will begin at 8 am with postal ballots, followed by the counting of votes in EVMs starting at 8.30 am as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

Similarly, he also informed about the parking of vehicles, barricading and

parking management,

Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Aashish Mishra who was present in the meeting also briefed the Counting Observers about the security related arrangements made in and around the venue of the Counting Centre's. He also informed the Observers about barricading and parking management, security access and security passes.

On the occasion, the Counting Observers stressed on ensuring error free and seamless arrangements for the smooth counting process in the constituency.

They also emphasized on strict adherence to the laid guidelines of the Election Commission of India during the counting process for free, fair and hassle free counting process.

Pertinent to mention that Counting of votes for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Seat of Lok Sabha is scheduled on (Tuesday) June 4, 2024 at designated Counting Halls at SKICC-Centaur. Assistant Returning Officers of all 18 Assembly Segments of Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat, various Nodal Officers, Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar and other concerned were present in the meeting.

Later, Returning Officer along with designated Counting Observers visited SKICC-Centaur to oversee the arrangements in all Counting Halls designated for each Assembly segment of 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

SANKALP-HEW Srinagar Organizes Self-Defense Training

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) – Mission Shakti Srinagar, Department of Social Welfare took an initiative for Self-Defense Training among the female students of various educational institutions across the district.

In this connection, the SANKALP- HEW prepared a Self-Defense tentative planner for the months of June and July in collaboration with Department of Education, J&K Sports Council, which officially commenced with the first session held today at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothi Bagh Srinagar that will last for three days per educational institution.

The training program was organized to equip girl students with self-defence techniques for their safety

and security in view of the rising number of crimes against girls. Self-Defense training is a life skill that helps girls to be more aware of their surroundings and be prepared for the unexpected at any time.

Through the Self-Defense training, the girls are taught to become psychologically, intellectually and physically strong enough to protect themselves in times of distress. Self-defense training techniques instills self confidence amongst girls and helps to promote girls' education particularly their transition to secondary and higher secondary level and to reduce the dropout rate in schools.

The girls are trained to use everyday articles such as, key chain, dupatta, stole, mufflers, bags, pen/ pencil, notebook etc as weapons of opportunities/ improvised self-defense weapons to their advantage.

Director Agriculture Visits SMF Gangbush, Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited Seed Multiplication Farm (SMF) Gangbush and inspected different blocks of the farm.

He also took stock of different Agriculture activities, crop status of different agriculture crops cultivated for seed purpose.

Speaking to the staff and technical experts of the farm, the Director said that the Department has started an initiative and is endeavoring to optimize the utility of Departmental farms to attain self reliance in the field of seed requirement for Kashmir Division.

He said they have already started many interventions in order to maximize the output from different departmental Farms.

Director said that the department is executing a comprehensive plan to transform all the departmental farms into revenue earning and employment generating assets.

He appreciated the efforts of the concerned technical experts and asked them to work with close coordination, so that the Farm could achieve new heights in the years to come.

Director Agriculture was accompanied by some of the senior officers of the Department during the visit.

Counting For Srinagar LS Seat AT SKICC Today

RO Assures ‘Transparency’

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The Returning Officer (RO) for 02-Srinagar Lok-Sabha constituency, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat Monday assured transparent vote counting in Srinagar, saying Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines specifically address the need for transparent, free, and fair counting.

Addressing media at Sheri Kashmir International Convocation Centre (SKICC), the ECI designated counting centre for Srinagar PC, the RO said that elaborate security arrangements have been put in place in and around the venue to ensure peaceful counting.

A five member ECI team has also arrived here to inspect the arrangements, according to Dr Bilal, who is also the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, adding 18 counting halls have been set up at SKICC and that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) of all eighteen assembly constituencies have been safely stored in a strong room.

As overseers, it is our responsibility to conduct the vote counting in compliance with ECI guidelines and it must be made sure the process ends peacefully. Besides intricate security arrangements, special facilities for polling staff and polling agents have also been made,



the RO said.

He said the counting for 02-Srinagar parliamentary constituency will begin at 8am tomorrow with counting to be started from ETPPS and postal ballot boxes.

“Polling staff consisting of 800 members will oversee the process. 18 halls have been set up at SKICC, each of which has eight counting tables. A micro observer, a counting assistant and a supervisor would be stationed at each table. 800 permits were provided by the administration to the polling agents of the contesting candidates so they could witness the exceptionally transparent table-by-table

counting,” said Dr Bilal.

He said all the preparations necessary for a counting centre as per ECI guidelines, whether from the RO side or security viewpoint, have been completed.

The candidates who contested the just concluded Lok-Sabha elections, he said, were allowed to assign one agent to each counting table, and that agents were required to report to SKICC by 6:30 am.

“We have made elaborate arrangements for them (polling agents) as well. Given the intense heat, a temporary tent has been erected for them. Lunch, juice, and water will also be provided,” the RO said.

Randomization Of Staff Conducted Successfully

SRINAGAR: In connection with Counting of Votes scheduled on June 04, 2024 (Tuesday) for Lok Sabha Elections-2024, the second Randomization of Counting Staff for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC) was successfully conducted as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was held under the supervision of Returning Officer, 02-Srinagar PC, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in presence of General Observer, Mukul Kumar and Counting Observers for all the 18 Assembly Segments of the Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Aashish Mishra was also present on the occasion.

During the Randomization, Counting Halls were allocated to the Counting Staff deployed at SKICC-Centaur for counting of votes for 02-Srinagar PC comprising 18 Assembly segments of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam (Partly) and Pulwama and Shopian (Partly) Districts.

On the occasion, the designated 630 Officials were classified into teams, each comprising Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants, and Counting Micro Observers assigned to their respective Counting Halls.

The third and final Random-

ization of Counting Staff will take place tomorrow morning, during which Counting Tables will be assigned to the Officials designated for Counting of Votes.

The Randomization of Counting Staff was facilitated by dedicated software to ensure transparent, free and fair elections devoid of human interference.

The Randomization process was also video recorded as per the laid guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

Deputy DEO Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Nodal Officer ETPBS, Mujaba Ahmad Bandy and other Officers of District Election Authority were also present on the occasion.

DC Srinagar Inaugurates Inter-Zone Sports Competitions At Indoor Stadium

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Monday inaugurated the Inter Zonal competitions in Chess and



Table-Tennis (TT) at SK Indoor Sports Stadium, here.

Besides Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Ashish Mishra, the event was attended by Joint Director Department of Youth Services and Sports, Mohammad Rashid Kohli, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Ghulam Hassan Lone, large number of participating players and other concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC congratulated the organisers for encouraging participation of youth in games and sports, he hoped that the enthusiasm of young boys and girls towards sports would continue with the same pace and no stone would be left unturned in taking the sports interest of our youngsters to the newer heights.

The DC said that the sport has invaluable importance in the lives of youth and plays a pivotal role in the makeup of a young athlete. Besides instilling values like dis-

cipline, responsibility, self-confidence and mutual brotherhood among the participants it also nurtures physical as well as mental health of the youth, the DC further added.

Dr Bilal also compli-

Capsule Course on 'Atomic and Molecular Physics' Inaugurated At NIT



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Eminent scientist and researcher Prof. Yoshiro Azuma from Sophia University, Japan, who is also a visiting faculty member at IIT Delhi, inaugurated a week-long capsule course on 'Atomic and Molecular Physics' at the PG Department of Physics, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, on Monday.

The event is organized in association with the Laboratory for Multifunctional Materials, NIT Srinagar, funded by the Nano-Mission Sector, DST, Government of India. Prof. Pratima Solanki from the School of Nanoscience at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi was the Chief Guest for the event.

A large number of undergraduate and postgraduate students from neighboring institutions are attending the workshop in both hybrid and offline modes.

Eminent speaker Prof. Yoshiro Azuma, currently a visiting professor at IIT Delhi, shared his vast experience from Sophia University, Japan, and IIT Delhi.

During his talk, he shared invaluable insights from

his career in atomic physics and discussed advanced facilities like the Advanced Photon Source (APS) and the Synchrotron Radiation Facility.

“There is a significant difference between Japanese and Indian students. Indian students excel in mathematics and maintain a focused approach to their studies at IITs and NITs. In contrast, Japanese students tend to be more relaxed and often travel during vacations to gain broader exposure,” he added.

Sanae Azuma also attended the inaugural and was felicitated by HOD Chemistry Prof. Hamida Tun-Nisa Chishti. Dean Alumni and International Affairs, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, Prof. Prince Ganai, Prof. Seemin Rubab among other dignitaries graced the occasion.

In her presidential address, Prof. Pratima Solanki from the School of Nanoscience at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, congratulated the Department of Physics, especially Prof. MA Shah, for taking a lead role in organizing the week-long course on Atomic and Molecular Physics at the NIT campus.

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- BIJBERHA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR 3:37

ZUHR 12:29

ASR 5:28

Magrib 7:41

ISHA 9:21

This Day In History

- 781 BC - Oldest Chinese recording of a solar eclipse
- 1039- Henry III becomes Holy Roman Emperor
- 1070- Roquefort cheese created in a cave near Roquefort, France
- 1647- English Parliamentary army under Cornet George Joyce takes King Charles I as a prisoner during Second Civil War
- 1666- Battle at Dunkirk: English vs Dutch fleet
- 1769 - A transit of Venus is followed five hours later by a total solar eclipse, the shortest such interval in history
- 1783- Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier make 1st public hot-air balloon flight (unmanned), covering 2km and lasting 10 minutes with an estimated altitude of 1,600-2,000m
- 1792- Captain George Vancouver claims Puget Sound for Britain
- 1805- Tripoli forced to conclude peace with US after war over tribute
- 1824- First free press (without government approval) founded in Australia - the Hobart Town Gazette by ex-convict Andrew Bent [1]
- 1850- Self-deodorizing fertilizer patented in England
- 1859- Second Italian War of Independence: Battle of Magenta, results in a French-Sardinian victory under Napoleon III over the Austrians under Marshal Ferencz Gyulai
- 1878- Cyprus ceded by Turkey to Britain for administrative purposes
- 11887 - Pasteur Institute founded by French biologist Louis Pasteur in Paris
- 1899- MLB Boston Beaneaters pitcher John Clarkson 1st to throw an "immaculate inning" (strikes out three batters on nine pitches) against Philadelphia Quakers
- 1912 - Cone of Mount Katmai (Alaska) collapses
- 1916- General Aleksei Brusilov begins a massive Russian offensive on the Eastern Front (WWI)
- 1918- French troops, with the aid of US troops, stop the Germans at Chateau-Thierry as they attempt to cross the Marne
- 1920- Peace of Trianon between Allies & Hungary
- 1928- President of the Republic of China Zhang Zuolin is assassinated by Japanese agents.
- 1940- British complete the "miracle of Dunkirk" by evacuating 300,000 allied troops from France
- 1944- 5th Army enters & liberates Rome from Mussolini's Fascist armies
- 1945- US, Russia, Britain & France agree to split occupied Germany
- 1946- Largest solar prominence (300,000 mi/500,000 km) observed
- 1954- France grants Vietnam independence inside French Union
- 1957- 1st commercial coal pipeline placed in operation
- 1970- Tonga (formerly Friendly Islands) declares independence from UK

From KO Archives

Legislators Ward Off Heat, Head To Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- As temperatures rise across the country, legislators' from several states, including Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, are making a beeline for the cool climate of the Kashmir.

An eight-member team from Jharkhand legislative Assembly is arriving in Srinagar on a Sunday for five-day study tour, official sources said.

The team includes chairman, members and officials of the question and call attention committee of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly they said.

Another team of 30 members is arriving in Srinagar on Tuesday from Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on a study tour for eight days, the sources said.

They said the team comprises members, their spouses and officials on the committee on welfare of Schedules Castes, Schedules Tribes and other backward classes of MP Legislative Assembly.

The Question Reference Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly will join the other team in Leh district of the State from June 6 for a seven-day visit, the sources said.

The 25-member team comprises of the chairman of the committee, members, spouses and officials, they said.

(Kashmir Observer, 04 June, 2007)

Israel Embassy Asks Citizens To Explore Indian Beaches As Maldives Bans Entry

Agencies

New Delhi: After the Maldives announced a ban on the entry of individuals holding Israeli passports into the country, the Israel Embassy in India has asked Israeli citizens to visit India and explore Indian beaches. The embassy noted that Israeli tourists are warmly welcomed in India.

The Israel Embassy in India also recommended some of the Indian places which include Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Kerala. The post included pictures of beaches in Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa and Kerala.

In a post on X, the Israel Embassy in India stated, "Since the Maldives is no longer welcoming Israelis, here are some beautiful and amazing Indian beaches where Israeli tourists are warmly welcomed and treated with utmost hospitality. Check out these recommendations from @IsraelinIndia, based on the places visited by our diplomats."

Israeli consul general in Mumbai, Kobbi Shoshani, even reacted to a January post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi where PM Modi praised the natural beauty of Lakshadweep. In a post on X, Shoshani stated, "Thanks to the Maldives Government's decision Israelis can now explore the beautiful beaches of #Lakshadweep." Israel Embassy in India's statement comes after Maldives on Sunday announced its decision to impose

a ban on the entry of individuals holding Israeli passports into the country.

Maldives Minister of Homeland Security and Technology, Ali Hissaan, announced the decision while addressing a news conference at Maldives President's Office on Sunday.

In a press release, the Maldives President's Office stated, "President Dr Mohamed Muizzu, following a recommendation from the Cabinet, has resolved to impose a ban on Israeli passports."

The press release reads, "The Cabinet decision includes amending necessary laws to prevent Israeli passport holders from entering the Maldives and establishing a Cabinet subcommittee to oversee these efforts."

Furthermore, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has decided to appoint a special envoy to assess the needs of Palestinians. He has also decided to start a fundraising campaign to provide assistance to the people of Palestine, with the help of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

The decision by the Maldives government comes amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The war began when Hamas launched a surprise attack on Hamas on October 7, with terrorists entering Israel and attacking civilian communities and taking civilians as hostages. In response to the October 7 attacks, Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas.



Gaza Conditions 'Unspeakable' As 1 Million Flee Rafah: UN

Agencies

Gaza: The city of Rafah on Gaza's southern border with Egypt had been home to well over a million forcibly displaced by nearly eight months of daily bombardment by the Israeli military, in response to Hamas-led terror attack in southern Israel on 7 October.

"Thousands of families now shelter in damaged and destroyed facilities in Khan Younis, where UNRWA keeps providing essential services, despite increasing challenges. Conditions are unspeakable," the UN agency said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

The development comes three days since US President Joe Biden unveiled a ceasefire proposal based on a phased end to the war, reportedly involving the withdrawal of Israeli forces from built-up areas, the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, along with a plan for Gaza reconstruction.

According to UNRWA, thousands of families have been forced to seek shelter in badly damaged buildings in Khan Younis. The city, which is just north of Rafah, is estimated to be home to some 1.7 million people. All 36 of UNRWA's shelters in Rafah are now empty, it reported.

The UN agency has con-



Thousands of families now shelter in damaged and destroyed facilities in Khan Younis, where UNRWA keeps providing essential services, despite increasing challenges. Conditions are unspeakable

tinued to provide basic humanitarian relief despite the increasingly difficult conditions, illustrated by one photograph of a young girl sitting alone on a rubble-strewn stairwell and another showing huge mounds of rubble and twisted metal next to a largely unscathed building.

Some 690,000 women and girls are believed to lack basic menstrual hygiene kits, privacy and drinking water, UNRWA said.

No Place For A Baby
Highlighting the daily

struggles faced by extremely vulnerable people in Gaza, UNRWA cited the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) estimate that around 18,500 pregnant women have been forced to flee Rafah. "Around 10,000 more remain there in desperate conditions," the UN agency said on X. "Access to healthcare and maternal supplies is minimal. Mothers' and babies' health is at risk."

'Beyond crisis'

Echoing those deep concerns, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) said that there was now "little we can do for the people still in Rafah", where roads are "unsafe, access limited, and most of our partners and other humanitarian agencies have been displaced".

In an alarming update on the exodus from Rafah since the escalation of the Israeli military operation there, a senior WFP official warned that public health concerns were now "beyond crisis levels", while "the sounds, the smells, the everyday life, are horrific and apocalyptic".

People have "fled to areas where clean water, medical supplies and support are insufficient, food supply is limited, and telecommunications have stopped", said Matthew Hollingworth, WFP Country Director in Palestine.

Delhi Sees Temp. Surge To 44.7 Degrees, 5 Notches Above Normal



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: After a marginal dip in the maximum temperature, the mercury again started rising as the capital recorded a high of 44.7 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal, on Monday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). On Sunday, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 42.8 degrees Celsius and was on yellow alert, according to the IMD bulletin.

In Delhi, the other weather stations recorded the following temperatures: Najafgarh 46.9 degrees Celsius, Narela 46.9 degrees Celsius, Aya Nagar

45.1 degrees Celsius, Ridge 44.9 degrees Celsius and Palam 44.8 degrees Celsius. Relative humidity oscillated between 20 per cent and 39 per cent on Monday. The maximum and minimum temperatures on Monday are likely to reach 44 and 31 degrees Celsius, respectively. The weather office has predicted a partly cloudy sky with heatwave conditions in many places, the possibility of a thunderstorm or dust storm with very light rain, accompanied by strong surface winds with speed of 25 to 35 kmph on Tuesday. The capital will be on orange alert on Tuesday.

UN Experts Urge All Countries To Recognize Palestinian Statehood

Agencies

GENEVA: A group of United Nations experts called on Monday for all countries to recognize a Palestinian state to ensure peace in the Middle East.

The call came less than a week after Spain, Ireland and Norway officially recognized a Palestinian state, prompting anger from Israel, which has found itself increasingly isolated after nearly eight months of war in Gaza.

The experts, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories, said recognition of a Palestinian state was an important acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people and

their struggle toward freedom and independence.

"This is a pre-condition for lasting peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East - beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah," they said.

"A two-state solution remains the only internationally agreed path to peace and security for both Palestine and Israel and a way out of generational cycles of violence and resentment."

Israel's Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

With their recognition of a Palestinian state, Spain, Ireland and Norway said they sought to accelerate efforts to secure a ceasefire in Israel's

war with Hamas in Gaza.

The three countries say they hope their decision will spur other European Union states to follow suit. Denmark's parliament later rejected a proposal to recognize a Palestinian state.

Israel has repeatedly condemned moves to recognize a Palestinian state, saying they bolster Hamas, the militant Islamist group that led the deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel which sparked the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The conflict has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry. Israel says the Oct. 7 attack, the worst in its 75-year history, killed 1,200 people, with more than 250 hostages taken.

Iran's Hard-line Parliament Speaker Mohammad Qalibaf Registers As A Presidential Candidate

Agencies

DUBAI: Iran's hard-line parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, registered Monday for country's June 28 presidential election.

Monday marked the last day of registration for the competition. Other politicians have been rumored as potential candidates in the vote to replace Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash with seven others on May 19.

Qalibaf initially became speaker following a string of failed presidential bids and 12 years as the leader of Iran's capital city, during which he built onto Tehran's subway and supported the construction of modern high-rises. He was recently re-elected as speaker.

Many, however, know Qalibaf for his support, as a Revolutionary Guard general, for a violent crackdown on Iranian university students in 1999. He also reportedly ordered live gunfire to be used against Ira-



Qalibaf initially became speaker following a string of failed presidential bids and 12 years as the leader of Iran's capital city, during which he built onto Tehran's subway and supported the construction of modern high-rises

nian students in 2003 while serving as the country's police chief.

Ex-BrahMos Engineer Gets Life Imprisonment For Spying For Pak's ISI



Press Trust Of India

Nagpur: The Nagpur district court on Monday handed life imprisonment to former BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd engineer Nishant Agarwal under the Official Secrets Act for spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI.

Agarwal will also have to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for 14 years and was also fined 3,000.

Additional sessions court judge MV Deshpande stated in the order that Agarwal was convicted under section 235 of the Criminal Procedure Code for an offence punishable under section 66 (f) of the IT Act and various sections of the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

"The court sentenced Agarwal to life imprisonment and RI for 14 years under the Official Secrets Act and fined him 3,000," said Special Public Prosecutor Jyoti Vajani.

Agarwal, employed in the technical research section of the company's missile centre in Nagpur, was arrested in a joint operation by the military intelligence and Anti-terrorism squads (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in 2018.

The former BrahMos Aerospace engineer was booked under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the stringent OSA.

He had worked at the Brahmos facility for four years and was accused of leaking sensitive technical information to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the military Industrial Consortium (NPO Mashinostroyeniya) of Russia.

Agarwal was granted bail by the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court last April.

The court sentenced Agarwal to life imprisonment and RI for 14 years under the Official Secrets Act and fined him 3,000

NEWS MAKERS

"We Were Always Here": Poll Body Chief On "Laapata Gentlemen" Memes

New Delhi: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Monday referred to various memes doing rounds on social media, describing the Election Commission as 'laapata gentlemen', asserting that he and fellow commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were "never out" and were "always here". Social media users had targeted the Commission for allegedly being absent amid the model code violations by top leaders during campaign for the Lok Sabha elections. The memes were based on a recent drama titled 'Laapa-



ta Ladies'. Addressing a press conference here on the eve of the counting of votes on Tuesday, Mr Kumar said in a lighter vein that now people will see

memes on the social media with a tag line that 'laapata gentlemen' are back. "We were never out, we were always here. We chose to interact with you through our

press notes. This was the first time we issued close to a 100 press notes and advisories all put together," he said. CEC Kumar, flanked by the two Election Commissioners, said the poll authority has been interacting from behind the scene and on Monday they decided to hold a press meet. He said that questions were raised on flaws in the electoral rolls, on the efficacy of the EVMs and the alleged fudging of voter turnout figures. The CEC said while the one making allegations was present in the court (kachahari), there was no "gavah" or witness.

Telugu Actor Hema Arrested In Connection With Bengaluru Rave Party Case

Bengaluru: The Central Crime Branch probing the Bengaluru rave party case arrested Telugu film actress Hema following interrogation on Monday. The rave party was organised on May 19 at a farmhouse near Electronic City. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) had summoned Hema to its office on Monday. Sources said she deposed before her interrogators wearing a burqa to hide her identity. As her replies were not satisfactory, she was arrested. The rave party was organised on the pretext of a birthday party where most of the people



had come from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, according to CCB sources. There were a few people from

Bengaluru as well, they added. Based on a tip-off, the CCB raided the location and collected the blood samples of those who attended the party. The blood test reports later confirmed that 86 people, including Hema, had tested positive for narcotics, police sources had said.

According to sources, a total of 103 people participated in the party. The participants included 73 men and 30 women. Police seized MDMA (Ecstasy) pills, MDMA crystals, hydro cannabis, cocaine, high-end cars, DJ equipment including sound and lighting worth 1.5 crore during the raid

Imam Khomeini Remembered On 35th Anniversary

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: To commemorate the 35th anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini, founder of the Islamic revolution of Iran, a number of functions were held in Kashmir and Ladakh.

Majlis Ulama-e-Jammu Kashmir organized an educational conference with the theme "Imam Khomeini the torch bearer of humanity" at Gund Hasi Bhat Lawaypora, in the city outskirts.

The conference commenced with the recitation of Holy Quran by Qari Aijaz Hussain Sofi followed by sermons by scholars. Maulana Amjad Hussain, Maulana Muzaffar Hussain, Maulana Hakim Sajad, Maulana Nazir Ahmad and Maulana Sheikh Ghulam Rasool Noori spoke on the occasion.

Speakers described Imam Khomeini as the charismatic leader of the century who abolished monarchy and established an Islamic system of government despite the opposition of imperialist powers.

"The purpose of the Iranian Revolution and Imam Khomeini was divine, the values of humanity were upheld by the late Imam and the revolution was brought by a popular uprising," said Maulana Ghulam Rasool.

Mourning ceremonies were



also held at different places across Kashmir including Mir Behri Dal, Zadibal, Odina Sonawari, Zainageer Sopore to pay tributes to the late founder of the Islamic Republic.

"Imam Khomeini is a popular figure in this part of the world. Every year his anniversary is commemorated and mourned as a way of paying respect to him," Imran Renu, who attended a Majlis at Mir Behri Dal, said.

The anniversary was also commemorated in Ladakh. In district Kargil, Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust, paid rich tributes to Imam Khomeini at Hussaini Park.

Speakers said the revolution led by Imam Khomeini was not just a change of government but it was a revolution of values and Imam Khomeini brought morality and ethics into politics and redefined politics forever.

On the occasion, the participants also voiced their support to the Palestinians who are battling the Israeli war on Gaza and chanted pro-Palestine slogans.

Sericulture Deptt issues Advisory for Silkworm Rearers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The rise in day temperatures has raised concerns about potential outbreaks of diseases affecting silkworm larvae in various areas of the Kashmir Division.

As silkworm rearing is at its peak stage, extra care is essential until cocoon formation. In response, an advisory has been issued for silkworm rearers, providing critical recommendations for successful silkworm rearing and cocoon production.

As per the statement issued here, rearers are advised to avoid overcrowding the silkworm larvae and ensure adequate spacing for healthy growth. It is crucial to feed the larvae with fresh, quality mulberry leaves while avoiding soiled, over-stored, or dirty leaves. Additionally, insecticide-sprayed leaves should not be fed to the silkworms. Harvesting or picking of mulberry leaves from plants in and around orchards is also discouraged.

Diseased larvae should be picked and buried in separate pits to prevent the spread of disease. Adequate ventilation is necessary, achieved by keeping doors and windows open. Larvae should be reared on the floor or shelves in the ground or middle floor of the dwelling house. To control secondary contamination, dusting lime powder and Vijetha on the silkworm larvae is recommended.

In case of disease incidence,



AVOID OVERCROWDING THE SILKWORM LARVAE AND ENSURE ADEQUATE SPACING FOR HEALTHY GROWTH. It is crucial to feed the larvae with fresh, quality mulberry leaves while avoiding soiled, over-stored, or dirty leaves.

rearers are encouraged to contact their respective District Sericulture Officers at the provided contact numbers for further assistance: District Sericulture Officer Anantnag - 7006094954, District Sericulture Officer Kulgam - 7006094954, District Sericulture Officer Budgam - 9797780231, District Sericulture Officer Baramulla - 6005166504, District Sericulture Officer Bandipora - 9797123217, District Sericulture Officer Kupwara - 6005166504, District Sericulture Officer Ganderbal - 9682555762, District Sericulture Officer Pulwama - 9149823623, District Sericulture Officer Shopian - 9149823623 and District Sericulture Officer Srinagar - 9797780231.

The statement reads that the advisory aims to mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks and ensure the successful rearing of silkworms, ultimately leading to high-quality cocoon production. (KNS)

NHAI's Revised Toll Rates Come To Effect Across Highways



NEW DELHI: The revised toll charges for motorists on national highways across the country have come to effect from Monday, an official said.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has hiked the toll charges by an average of 5 per cent.

The hike is part of NHAI's annual exercise where the state-owned body calculates new rates factoring in several parameters, the senior NHAI official told PTL.

Every year, it is implemented from April 1 but this year the implementation was deferred due to general elections. The average hike this time was 5 per cent. The revised user fee has been implemented from today, the official said.

From Monday, motorists using

national highways/expressways will have to shell out more money for their road journeys.

"The fuel costs were already high. The increased toll rates will make road journeys costlier for people," said Ankur Saxena, an advertising professional who frequently travels through Delhi-Lucknow route.

The toll fee is revised annually, taking into accounts the changes in the wholesale price index (CPI)-based inflation.

There are around 855 user fee plazas on the national highway network on which user fee is levied as per the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.

Out of these, around 675 are public-funded fee plazas and 180 are operated by concessionaires.

Valley's Total Vehicle Population Nears 9 Lac: Officials

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The total vehicle population in Kashmir has surged nearly to 9 Lac with 73,000 fresh registrations recorded during the past year, bringing a substantial revenue increase of Rs 277 crore, said an official.

According to the transport Department Kashmir, they have achieved a notable digital transformation, propelling its revenue collection to an impressive Rs 421 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24.

A top official from the transport department told the news agency that the achievement was highlighted during a recent annual meeting chaired by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) and attended by Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) and other key officials from the transport department of Kashmir division.

"There has been a significant revenue increase, up from Rs 314 crore in the previous year, to Rs 421 crore during 2023-24, marking a growth of over 33%, and that is driven by the department's digital initiatives and improved service delivery," the official said.

He said that among the key contributors to this revenue surge included road usage tax, the primary source of revenue, bringing in Rs 277 crore, stating that this substantial collection increased due to the registration of new vehicles, with 73,000 new registrations re-



"THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT REVENUE INCREASE, UP FROM RS 314 CRORE IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, TO RS 421 CRORE DURING 2023-24, marking a growth of over 33%, and that is driven by the department's digital initiatives and improved service delivery," the official said.

corded in the past year, bringing the total vehicle population to nearly 9 lacs.

Under the "Green Tax", the official said that as a part of their effort to promote environmentally friendly practices, green tax collection brought in Rs 28 crore, stating that this tax is part of the MVD's initiative to encourage

sustainable transport solutions, including the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).

Under the fresh permit fees, the official said that the issuance of fresh permits contributed Rs 61 crore to the revenue, as a total of 6,024 new permits were issued, with an additional 22,050 permits renewed, reflecting the department's streamlined and efficient online permit processing system.

He said, despite being a relatively smaller component, the passenger tax added nearly Rs 6 crore to the revenue, stressing the district officers to focus on improving passenger tax collection further.

"The implementation of a fully online Challans system and strengthened enforcement measures led to the recovery of over Rs 5 crore through compound challans. This system has improved fine recovery and ensured timely disposal of service applications, with 98% of applications processed promptly," he said—(KNO)

CS Reviews Preparations For Amarnath Yatra

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday chaired sub-committee meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) attended by the senior functionaries of civil administration and police to review the preparations being made for a safe and hassle-free Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY), 2024.

Dulloo reviewed in detail the facilities for safe, smooth and secure movement of pilgrims particularly along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway besides both the axis leading to holy Cave from Baltal and Chandanwari. He directed the concerned to suitably augment all the requisite facilities to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The annual pilgrimage is a 52 day long Yatra commencing on 29th June, 2024 with culmination on 19th August, 2024.

Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB, Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, made a detailed presentation on various aspects of SASB-2024, including registration for Yatra, service providers, Yatra camps, langar services, provision for various facilities among other things.

It was informed in the meeting that registration of Pilgrims for the Yatra has commenced from 15th April 2024 through both offline (banks) and online mode. Besides, the RFID cards will be issued to each Yatri only after successful e-KYC and no yatri shall be allowed to embark on Yatra without a valid RFID card.

The Chief Secretary asked for completion of all the pending



works with various departments before beginning of the annual yatra without compromising on the quality. He exhorted upon the concerned officers to visit the ongoing sites regularly to ensure timely completion of ongoing development projects.

He also reviewed the status of up-gradation of yatra tracks including Rangamoh- Baltal / Domel to Holy Cave and Chandanwari to Holy Cave. He directed for ensuring widening of the walking tracks/passages besides raising the railing and retaining walls.

He directed the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to make adequate provision of basic facilities like public conveniences, water and electricity supply, langars, registration and medical care enroute National Highways in their respective divisions.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the operation of works to ensure that all quality parameters are being adhered to. He further asked them to oversee the arrangements being put in place in the transit camps along the Yatra route particularly at Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Ramban, Baltal and Chandanwari. He

also stressed on the divisional administration to ensure augmentation of lodgement centres commensurate to their optimum carrying capacity right from Lakanpur to Baltal/Nunwan well before start of Yatra.

Regarding the provision of sanitary and environmentally safe facilities for scientific waste disposal, RDD along with H&UDD were directed to ensure adequate arrangements for sanitation during the Yatra. Jal Shakti department shall ensure that requisite provisions for adequate water supply at various camps and enroute Holy Cave Shrine is in place well ahead of onset of the yatra.

The Chief Secretary directed the Health and Medical Education department to ensure that adequate healthcare facilities and requisite upgradation thereof at various camps and enroute is made in line with directions issued in this regard from time to time. He asked the Power Development Department to ensure adequate provisioning of electricity at all Yatra camps and enroute Yatra 2024 with optimum wattage along with arrangements for installation of lightening conductors at upper camps, LED lights, illuminating towers at various locations.

Three Year Jail Term For Misuse Of Water: Jal Shakti Dept

Agencies

GANDERBAL : Authorities in the Jal Shakti Department announced on Wednesday that individuals misusing water supply will face up to three years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000.

Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti Ganderbal, Er Samiullah Beigh told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that while there is no water scarcity in the district, complaints have been received regarding the use

of drinking water for irrigation, car washing, house cleaning and other non-essential purposes.

"I have met the officials of Ganderbal, who emphasised that strict action must be taken against those misusing water," Beigh said, urging residents to avoid using drinking water for non-domestic purposes.

He warned that individuals using water boosters and motors on supply lines will face a fine of Rs 10,000 and a three-year jail term. Additionally, using plastic pipes will result in Rs 5,000 fine

and one year of imprisonment.

To enforce these regulations, a squad comprising officials from Police, including both male and female officers, and the Jal Shakti Department has been established.

This squad will conduct random checks on households. "Attaching a motor directly to the main water supply line is a serious offense. Any household found engaging in such activities will face strict legal action without exemption or pardon," Beigh warned—(KNO)

Jal Shakti Deptt Rebuts Scarcity Of Irrigation Supplies In Ganderbal & Sumbal

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jal Shakti Department Kashmir Monday rebutted the news item published by a local Urdu daily on 03 June, 2024 regarding scarcity of irrigation supplies at some places in District Ganderbal and Sumbal.

The said local Urdu daily had published a news item with the headline "Scarcity of irrigation Water in many villages of Bandipora and Ganderbal, paddy fields have dried up, locals blame authorities for not cleaning irrigation canals".

In this regard, the Jal Shakti department has issued an official communiqué wherein it

supplied through gravity channels. The said channel was maintained by the zamindars by themselves till date.

However, this year due to the temperature rise and lack of rain, the water level in the Ahansar Lake decreased resulting in slight water scarcity in the said area. The issue is being resolved by lifting water from Ahansar Lake through Mechanical means by installing a diesel pump to meet the water deficiency in the said area.

Also, in connection with Bachpora B/O Padshahi Canal at Ahmad Nagar regarding growth of Weed at the said Spot (District Ganderbal), it has been given out that in the said area,



has given detailed clarification area wise.

As per the official handout, regarding irrigation water scarcity in Dangerpora, Tulmullah of District Ganderbal it has been given out that the CCA of the said area is irrigated from Maryab Canal through Tulmullah Dangerpora. The usual practice is that the land at the head portion is irrigated first and that at the tail portion is irrigated only once the irrigation requirement of the head portion is complete. However, this season the zamindars at both head and tail started cultivation simultaneously resulting in insufficient water at the tail portion of the canal.

However, the matter has been sorted and necessary irrigation demand as required at the tail portion has been met through warabandi.

Similarly, regarding irrigation water scarcity in Gund Nesbal in District Ganderbal, the CCA of the said area is dependent on the Ahansar lake Gund, Nesbal where water is

the entire command has been urbanised and irrigation channels are now being used as drains by the residents which has resulted in excessive weed growth. As a temporary relief, the weed is being cleared

However, for permanent resolution of the grievance the maintenance of the drains is to be carried by City Drainage, ULB and SMC.

Regarding Bahaman irrigation water scarcity (District Ganderbal), after visiting the site, Ex. Engineer IFC Ganderbal has reported that there is no such problem of water scarcity as far as irrigation is concerned in the said area.

In connection with Sumbal, Markanda area irrigation water scarcity (District Bandipora), the irrigation facilities in the said area are being provided through Lift Schemes dependent on power supply. Due to frequent power cuts, irrigation facilities get disrupted.

The issue has been taken up with KPDCI for uninterrupted power supply.

Traffic Suspended On Jammu-Srinagar Highway For Urgent Repairs



Agencies

JAMMU: The traffic on 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained suspended between Ramban and Banihal stretch on Monday night for urgent repairs, a traffic department official said.

The vehicular traffic from both sides on the highway, the only all weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, will remain suspended from 6 pm Monday till the completion of the repair work, the official said.

He said the decision was taken on the intimation of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) which is carrying out urgent repair and maintenance work between Ramban and Banihal during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

"All type of vehicular movement will remain suspended tonight. No movement of any kind of vehicle, including those carrying perishable items or livestock will be allowed on NH-44 after 6 pm from Qazigund towards Ramban," the official said.

"Similarly, no vehicular movement shall be allowed from Nagrota (Jammu) after 5 pm and Udhampur at 6 pm. Commuters are advised to avoid journey on NH-44 till the work is completed," he added.

A high-level combined team of officers from the NHAI, traffic, police and Ramban district administration recently inspected the highway and identified 17 vulnerable points between Nashri and Banihal for urgent repairs to ensure free flow of traffic.

On May 30, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo set deadline of June 10 for streamlining of riding surface and ensuring two way traffic movement on the highway in view of the upcoming annual Amarnath yatra and fruit season in the Union Territory.

The chief secretary took cognizance of the time being taken, at present, by both the Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMTVs) to reach from one capital city to another.

He inquired about the condition of the road and the bottlenecks impeding smooth movement of traffic.

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Tuesday | 04-06-2024

PM Modi's Third Term?

As the 2024 Lok Sabha elections come to a close, with exit polls predicting a third consecutive term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-led NDA, it is time to reflect on the significance of this democratic exercise.

Since gaining independence in 1947, India has held regular elections, reinforcing the country's commitment to democracy. The Election Commission of India (ECI), an autonomous constitutional authority, plays a critical role in ensuring that elections are conducted impartially and transparently. Its efforts in implementing stringent measures, from voter registration to the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, have been instrumental in safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process. The introduction of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) has further enhanced the credibility of the electoral system, minimizing the risk of electoral fraud and ensuring that every vote counts.

The significance of free and fair elections extends beyond the mere act of voting. They represent the voice of the people, offering them a platform to express their will and hold their leaders accountable. This democratic process ensures that power is derived from the consent of the governed, a principle enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Despite occasional challenges such as allegations of electoral malpractice or violence, the overall integrity of India's electoral framework has remained steadfast.

The tradition of a smooth transition of power is another hallmark of Indian democracy. Since the first general election in 1951-52, India has witnessed numerous transitions of power between different political parties and leaders, often across diverse ideological spectrums. These transitions have been remarkably peaceful, reflecting the maturity and stability of the Indian political system. For instance, the seamless transfer of power from the Congress party to the BJP in 2014 demonstrated the country's commitment to democratic norms, irrespective of political rivalries.

The upcoming results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, as anticipated by various exit polls, suggest a continued mandate for the NDA. If these predictions hold true, Prime Minister Modi will equal the record of Jawaharlal Nehru by securing a third consecutive term.

However, the true strength of Indian democracy lies not in the victory of any single party but in the inclusiveness of the democratic process itself. As the country prepares for the counting of votes, it is a testament to the collective faith in democratic institutions and the rule of law.



Understanding Inflation and Investment Strategies for Indian Investors

Did You Know?

Irshad Mushtaq

Inflation, the gradual increase in the prices of goods and services over time, is an economic concept often misunderstood by the general public. Essentially, it means the purchasing power of currency decreases as prices rise, leading to a reduction in the value of money. In India, managing inflation is critical for preserving one's financial health.

Inflation in India: The Scenario

India experiences inflation due to various factors like supply chain issues, rising costs of raw materials, and economic policies. For Indian investors, inflation can erode the value of their savings and fixed income returns. For instance, if inflation averages 6% annually (a realistic figure considering India's past trends), the value of your 1,000 today may substantially reduce in a few years.

Why Investment is Essential to Combat Inflation

Savings accounts and fixed deposits (FDs), although secure, often offer returns below or just at par with inflation; this means your money might not grow sufficiently to maintain its purchasing power. Thus, investing becomes necessary to ensure that your wealth outpaces inflation over time.

Investment Avenues for Beating Inflation

1. Equity Markets: Investing in a diversified portfolio of stocks can yield higher returns. Historically, the Indian stock market has provided returns ranging from 12%-25% annually over the long term, well above the average inflation rate.

2. Mutual Funds: These are investment vehicles combining the benefits of diversification and professional management. Equity mutual funds, particularly, have the potential to offer inflation-beating returns.

3. Real Estate: Property investments in India tend to appreciate over time, often surpassing inflation rates. However, liquidity and large capital requirements are considerations.

4. Gold: Traditionally considered a hedge against inflation, gold can preserve value during inflationary pressures. Options include physical gold, Sovereign Gold Bonds, and Gold ETFs.

5. Government Bonds and PPF: These provide relatively lower returns compared to equities but offer safety and tax benefits. The Public Provident Fund (PPF), for instance, offers a moderate yet tax-efficient return.

Example Scenario

Consider an individual with 1,00,000 in a savings account earning 3.5% interest annually when inflation is 6%. In a year, their real purchasing power diminishes. But if that money is invested in a diversified equity mutual fund earning an average of 12%, the investment grows to 1,12,000, effectively providing a solid real return after inflation.

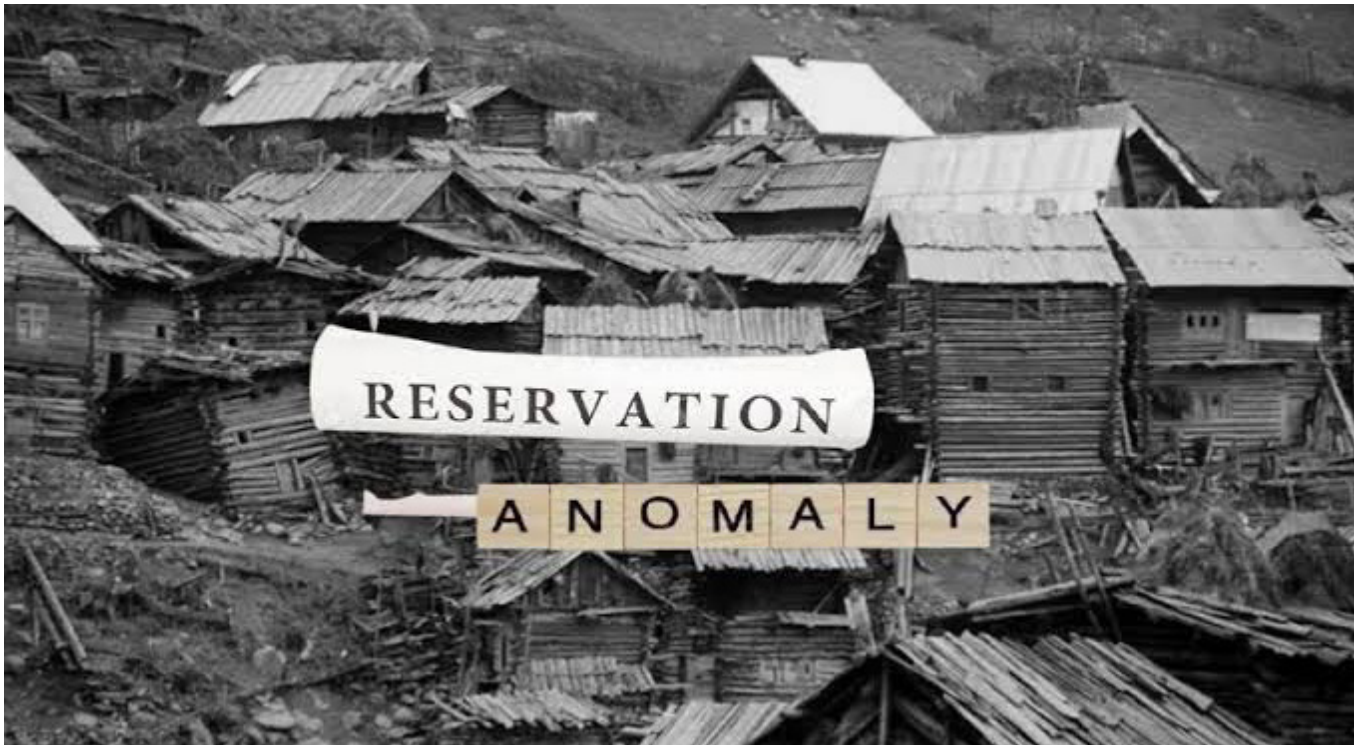
Conclusion

Inflation is a natural part of the economic cycle, yet it demands strategic financial planning to mitigate its detrimental effects. Indian investors must carefully choose investment avenues that offer higher returns than the inflation rate. By doing so, they not only preserve but also enhance the purchasing power of their money over time. Investing wisely can indeed secure a financially strong future.

Learn from the insights of writer and investor, founder of MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan! Reach out to him at Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com for valuable knowledge on financial matters

Renewed RBA Categorisation?

On Justice GD Sharma Commission's newly proposed
RBA Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria



Shakir Malik

“

An exhaustive review of all socio-economic parameters is necessary to realize the objective of renewed categorization, which is to extend a hand-up to backward communities and be an enabling mechanism rather than a mere yardstick to assess the available infrastructure

Recently, several media reports confirmed that Justice GD Sharma commission is about to finalize the process of inclusion and exclusion of villages into socially and economically backward categories, colloquially known as the RBA category. Pertinently, RBA, a unique reservation category exclusive to Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (JKSEBC) reached out to the Government seeking information regarding the development of villages previously deemed as backward, which were given 20 percent reservation under the Residents of Backward Areas (RBA) category.

In this respect, it has sought details from authorities about parameters such as the construction of roads, distance of villages from colleges, higher secondary schools and other schools, Primary Health Centre or any other hospital, Wi-Fi facilities and other modes of communication about erstwhile RBA-categorized villages.

While re-categorization on the basis of objective criteria will certainly bring fairness in the RBA category, the details sought out to determine its parameters are not exhaustive. For instance, the mere availability of educational institutions, roads, hospitals, internet access among other facilities cannot give a complete picture about the “backwardness” of a village.

If the reservation for is seen as an enabling provision that facilitates socio-economic betterment of backward villages, then in my view, the commission disregards several other parameters such as selling price of agricultural land in these villages, per capita income, employability,

resource availability, human development index, etc. that can actually give a holistic assessment of backwardness. If the commission intends to assess backwardness only in terms of availability of infrastructure, even the most backward areas in terms of per capita income and employability will miss out and in turn will face further disempowerment.

Let's assume a certain village is well-connected with the urban center and it has the entire infrastructure that the commission has sought details about. If the same village has historically been disadvantaged because of scarcity of facilities, based on current details that commission is seeking, the current disadvantageous position of its inhabitants (poverty, destitution, etc.) would not reflect in its final report. With the criteria devised, the report will then treat the villages presently falling under RBA category with robust socio-economic development and also those villages which only possess infrastructure but are devoid of socio-economic development because of historical disadvantages at par. So, an exhaustive review of all socio-economic parameters is necessary to realize the objective of renewed categorization, which is to extend a hand-up to backward communities and be an enabling mechanism rather than a mere yardstick to assess the available infrastructure.

It is pertinent to mention here that, in J&K, almost 75% of the population lives in rural areas. Some of these areas suffer from specific structural handicaps including remoteness from towns and villages, retrograde roads and connectivity, minimal economic activity and absence of jobs. The traditional

job-creating sectors like agriculture and handicraft industry are already in disarray there. On top of that, the fragmentation of land-holdings generation by generation and climate crisis has made agriculture unsustainable for the farmer community. If a farmer owned 5 kanals of land, their 4 children would inherit mere 1.25 kanals each. Over the years, even the cottage industry (carpet-weaving, etc.) has completely disappeared.

The basic purpose of RBA category is to provide succor against such handicaps. But, mere infrastructure availability won't necessarily mean the village has changed into a dreamland overnight.

The commission should also seek details about the selling price of land-holdings to get a sense of the village's economic value, per-capita income and overall human development index to measure economic development, employability and resource-availability to check resilience of villages.

The information about the commission's proposed criteria is sourced from some recent news reports. However, if the commission does seek details such as per capita income, human development index, employability and economic value of land already, then the criteria will definitely separate chaff from grain and bring fairness in the renewed RBA category.

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

The author can be reached at malikshakir9@gmail.com



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Reflecting on the World No-Tobacco Day

The World No Tobacco Day, which was observed on May 31, emphasizes the need for governments and tobacco companies world over to take strong actions to reduce tobacco use and to promote a smoke-free lifestyle. It is a day to reflect on the devastating impact of tobacco use on individuals, families, and communities and to highlight the importance of invest-

ing in tobacco control measures. For long, tobacco has been one of the leading causes of deaths worldwide. As for India, there has been a consistent demand from sections of the society for a higher tax burden on tobacco manufacturers, since a lot of revenue is generated from the sale of tobacco products. Increasing excise duty on all tobacco products can be an effective policy measure, which will not

only help the central government to generate more revenue, but at the same time will enable curb tobacco use to a large extent. Reports reveal that tobacco use claims the lives of 13-lakh Indians every year. Therefore, it is more critical than ever before to keep tobacco products out of the reach of our youth. Maybe catchy slogans like, “Quitters always win – winners always quit” and “desist

from running the white train in your lips” can help in the fight against cigarette smoking. Cigarette smoking, no doubt, is a clear social menace, and if the smokers are unconcerned of their own health, let them at least not harm the health of non-smokers.

*Ranganathan Sivakumar
siva19kumar@gmail.com*

IMAM KHOMEINI AND ISLAMIC UNITY

Syed Iliyas Ali Rizvi

One of the great divine blessings and favours of mankind is the subject of *'Human Unity and Solidarity'*. Unity and solidarity are intrinsic, rational, religious, political and social necessities that are of the most critical factors for the survival of a society, and the human civilization. It is difficult to write about the subject of great importance – Imam Khomeini and Islamic Unity - as it is very hard to judge the conduct of those who change the course of history. The ones who climb to the roof of the world's history and usher marvellous events that affect the destiny of millions of people at their era and beyond. They thus not only rid themselves of the dark and tiring of a Boring Life, but lead their societies to *'peaks of pride and dignity'*.

Very often the reality of great men remains undiscovered, either amid the extreme light of hollow praise and admiration of their devotees, or lost in the deep and frightening darkness of their so worn enemies' poisonous propagation and even curses. One among them is the Imam Khomeini. There are scores of manuscripts and priceless works of the late Imam Khomeini written on subjects like Ethics, Mysticism, Asuol, Philosophy, Politics, Social Sciences and Islamic Jurisprudence. Most of these works are still in the different phases of publication. Unfortunately, many of the invaluable treatises and writings of Imam Khomeini were lost during his exile and during the Shah's oppressive crackdowns on his literature. But that did not stop Imam to write on different issues.

The depth of the souls of multifaceted personalities, like Imam Khomeini, who became founder of consequential evolutions in the course of the development of human thought and Islamic Unity remains concealed. At a time when the world is full of fake information spread through the web, there is another side which can introduce concealed personalities like Imam Khomeini to the world. Recent misinformation and even disrespect by an academic publication towards this historical figure of the 20th Century needs thorough research and correction by academia. Calling Imam Khomeini an "evil" itself speaks a lot about how truth is concealed or *presented with distortion* to the larger masses of the globe.

Imam Khomeini repeatedly emphasized on the rational and spiritual need for unity and solidarity among humans in general and Muslims and Islamic societies in particular and at times referred to unity as *"Divine Obligation"*. In his view, discord and disunity is considered to be among the most important factors for deviation, defeat, weakness and backwardness of society. This issue can be proven and analysed both from historic as well as the theoretical aspects. In the present globalised world too, the Islamic world has suffered from profound and suicidal differences as a result of the *'Alien Conspiracies'* and numerous other factors which facilitated the circumstances for their influence on Muslim Societies.

In the last few centuries, efforts towards unifying Muslims were begun by ideologies such as Sayyed Jamalludin Asadabadi and Muhammad Abduh and various other prominent personalities from across the Is-

lamic societies rose in support of these two men and chanted the slogan of *'Unity'*. As a great theoretician, philosopher, theologian as well as the leader of the oppressed, Imam Khomeini has analysed this issue on various dimensions from a unique perspective and has taken practical steps towards realization of unity in Islamic societies.

Among the steps and efforts made by Imam Khomeini on the subject of Islamic Unity, one can mention various verdicts on this issue, especially the Treatise on Solidarity with other Sects, Revival of the Joint Friday Congregational Prayer, and Declaration of the Global Al-Quds Day.

Meaning of Unity

While defining unity, Imam Khomeini considers:

"Unity and Unanimity as gathering, becoming One, moving in One Single Direction, possessing Unified Objective together on a Single Issue".

He regards Muslims to have a mission to establish friendship, ties of kinship and to do well to one another as well as establish camaraderie and fraternity.

Essence of Unity

In order to analyse the essence of unity, one must take note of its characteristics and special features from the viewpoint of Imam Khomeini. Let's simply point some general characteristics of unity from his point of view:

1. Gripping at the rope of God.
2. Unity of Expression and Faith.
3. Unity of Action.

Levels of Unity

From the viewpoint of Imam Khomeini, Islamic Unity can be achieved under different levels:

1. Unity at the Global level or Unity of Mankind.
2. Unity of the followers of the Divine religions or Unity of the Faithful.
3. Unity of the Weaker and the Oppressed Classes of the Society.
4. Unity at the level of the Centre of Islam or Unity of Muslims in Islamic World.
5. Unity at the Country Level or Unity of Nationality.

Divine and Religious Obligation of the 'Sanctity of Unity'

Observance of Unity becomes a 'Religious Obligation' – especially in places where the more general interests are in danger. In special and critical circumstances, Imam Khomeini considers absence of unity to be a kind of *'Self-annihilation'* and *'Mass Suicide'*. At times, he also regards disunity and discord to be among the *'Cardinal Sins'* and as betrayal of Islam because it creates a *'void of power of Islam'* that will result in the defeat of Islam and Muslims. Present situation in Palestine is the best example of the contemporary world.

Islamic Brotherhood

Based on the Islamic viewpoint, the relationship that is established between the faithful pious is known as *'Fraternity'* or

'Brotherhood'. By referring to Brotherhood, Imam Khomeini also stresses that, path to gain *"liberation of mind"* lies in the existence of such a brotherhood and fraternity. The path to preservation and perpetuation of civilization and the protection of the nation lies in the *'bond between brotherhood and real unity based on affinity among the individuals of the society'*, and this itself is a *'Socio-canonical Duty'*. According to Imam Khomeini, the main foundation of Islamic Brotherhood is: *'General Expedience of the Islamic Nation'*.

CONCLUSION.

Shunning weak and baseless differences that destroy the foundations, are rejected by every healthy mind and indeed, are one of *'the great sins of social and civic life'* and are a factor of defeat and corruption in society. The world torn with disunity and discord needs healing. Based on what has been mentioned earlier, the essence of unity from the point of view of Imam Khomeini constitutes *'Unity that is essential for safeguarding the Human Values'*. As Imam Khomeini says: *"Muslim nations should come together and compel their governments to stop sowing discord and stop safeguarding the interests of the foreign invaders. They should attain the path of honour and dignity, happiness, uniformity and brotherhood and above all Eternal Happiness"*.

The author is a Consultant for Creative Arts and Crafts; Researcher on Cultures and Heritage, and has worked at the ICPIK (Institute for Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini's Works), Tehran, Iran

Empathy is Complex

Luca Hargitai

How do people successfully interact with those who are completely different from them? And can these differences create social barriers? Social scientists are struggling with these questions because the mental processes underlying social interactions are not well understood.

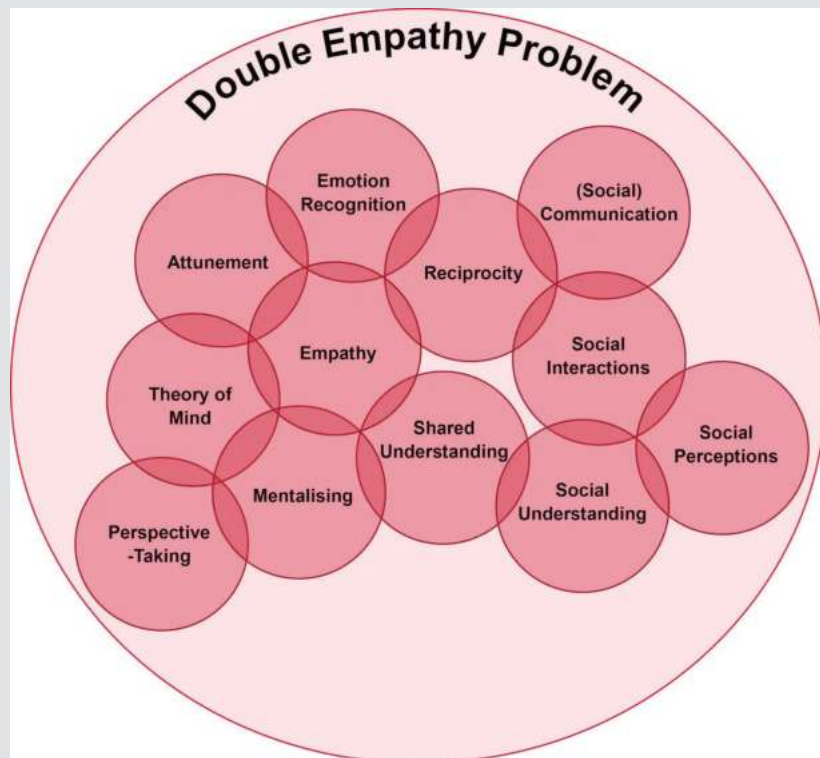
One recent concept that has become increasingly popular is the "double-empathy problem". This draws on research looking at people who are known to experience social difficulties, such as autistic people.

The theory proposes that people who have very different identities and communication styles from each other – which is often the case for autistic and non-autistic people – can find it harder to empathise with one another. This two-way difficulty is what they mean by the double-empathy problem.

This idea is getting a lot of attention. Research on the double-empathy problem has rapidly grown over the past decade. This is because it has the potential to explain why different people in society might struggle to empathise with one another, potentially leading to personal and societal problems; from poor mental health to inter-group tensions and systemic racism.

But is this idea accurate? Our recent paper suggests that things might be much more complicated than that.

Our analysis suggests that the double-empathy theory has many shortcomings. It highlights that there is widespread confusion surrounding the very fuzzy concept of double empathy. The research has also narrowly focused on social difficulties in autism without considering other



social identity factors that affect empathy between different groups, such as gender.

The theory also fails to incorporate the psychological neuroscience of empathy. Instead, it confuses the concept of empathy – that is, psychologically feeling the emotions that other people are feeling – with similar but different phenomena, such as "mentalising" (understanding what people are thinking from a different perspective).

Because the double-empathy theory is not well developed, most experiments

testing it are muddled. Many researchers claim to be studying double empathy when they do not measure empathy. Meanwhile, other studies are being used as evidence of double empathy despite never having set out to test this theory.

Double-empathy research has also heavily relied on subjective reports of people's experiences (rather than evaluation by experts), which may not tell the whole story.

Altogether, the analysis of existing research indicates that the central claim of

the double-empathy theory is not well supported. That is, being similar in identity to other people does not necessarily mean that you have more empathy for them.

This is an important issue that needs urgent attention. There are already signs that the double-empathy theory is being put into practice, despite lacking evidence. Certain researchers and doctors have started claiming that, because there is a double-empathy problem, healthcare professionals are generally unable to understand their patients with social difficulties. But there is no reliable evidence for this.

Looking ahead, there is a need for more neuroscientific research on social interaction. We expect that brain imaging technologies, such as "hyperscanning" – scanning multiple human brains at the same time – will help shed light on how different people's brains interact with each other. For example, this technique can be used to test how similarity between people who interact may influence their brain activity.

To make breakthroughs in this area, this technique could be used alongside artificial intelligence. Exploring whether machines can truly empathise with humans by seeing if they accurately interpret our brain waves will be of great interest.

The benefits of diversity

It is thought that people living in more socially diverse places, such as large cities, tend to be more tolerant of those who are different from them than people who live in socially homogeneous places. They ultimately perceive themselves and others as belonging to the same local communi-

ty despite ethnic and cultural differences and appear to be better at considering the perspective of others.

This suggests that spending time with people who are different to us can perhaps boost our empathy – something that the double-empathy theory does not predict. Ultimately, empathy is not just down to our ability to understand someone through their similarity. Spending time with those from other social and cultural backgrounds may make us place less emphasis on differences – and discover common ground in other areas.

Human experience is vast and complex. Just because two people come from different cultures or have different communication styles does not mean they cannot be very similar in other ways. Perhaps their values align or they have similar interests. This insight could have the potential to remove some barriers that may otherwise make it difficult to understand and empathise with others.

And, sometimes, people from similar backgrounds struggle to understand each other, yet can have great empathy for people who are completely different from them (for example, refugees fleeing war-torn countries). Why? The double-empathy theory may not be the best way to make progress, but it might serve as a springboard for future research to answer this and other questions.

We could really harness the social science of empathy to understand these incredibly complex social issues. This might ultimately reduce societal conflict and improve social cohesion – but we must get research on the right track to achieve this potential.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Cancer Patients Often Do Better With Less Intensive Treatment, New Research Finds

Associated Press

Scaling back treatment for three kinds of cancer can make life easier for patients without compromising outcomes, doctors reported at the world's largest cancer conference.

It's part of a long-term trend toward studying whether doing less — less surgery, less chemotherapy or less radiation — can help patients live longer and feel better. The latest studies involved ovarian and esophageal cancer and Hodgkin lymphoma.

Thirty years ago, cancer research was about doing more, not less. In one sobering example, women with advanced breast cancer were pushed to the brink of death with massive doses of chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants. The approach didn't work any better than chemotherapy and patients suffered.

Now, in a quest to optimise cancer care, researchers are asking: "Do we need all that treatment that we have used in the past?"

It's a question, "that should be asked over and over again," said Dr. Tatjana Kolevska, medical director for the Kaiser



Permanente National Cancer Excellence Programme, who was not involved in the new research.

Often, doing less works because of improved drugs. "The good news is that cancer treatment is not only becoming more effective, it's becoming easier to tolerate and associ-

ated with less short-term and long-term complications," said Dr. William G. Nelson of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, who was also not involved in the new research.

Studies demonstrating the trend were discussed over the weekend at an American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago. Here are the highlights:

OVARIAN CANCER

French researchers found that it's safe to avoid removing lymph nodes that appear healthy during surgery for advanced ovarian cancer. The study compared the results for 379 patients — half had their lymph nodes removed and half did not. After nine years, there was no difference in how long the patients lived and those with less-extreme surgery had fewer complications, such as the need for blood transfusions. The research was funded by the National Institute of Cancer in France.

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER

This German study looked at 438 people with a type of cancer of the esophagus that can be treated with surgery. Half received a common treatment plan that included chemotherapy and surgery on the esophagus,

the tube that carries food from the throat to the stomach. Half got another approach that includes radiation too. Both techniques are considered standard. Which one patients get can depend on where they get treatment.

After three years, 57 per cent of those who got chemo and surgery were alive, compared to 51 per cent of those who got chemo, surgery and radiation. The German Research Foundation funded the study.

HODGKIN LYMPHOMA

A comparison of two chemotherapy regimens for advanced Hodgkin lymphoma found the less intensive treatment was more effective for the blood cancer and caused fewer side effects.

After four years, the less harsh chemo kept the disease in check in 94 per cent of people, compared to 91 per cent of those who had the more intense treatment. The trial included 1,482 people in nine countries — Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Australia and New Zealand — and was funded by Takeda Oncology, the maker of one of the drugs used in the gentler chemo that was studied.

Google Meet Now Lets You Use Features Like Polls, Q&A During Live Streams On Mobile



IANS

New Delhi, June 2: To make it easier for users to interact with people during a live stream, Google has rolled out features like "polls, Q&A, and reactions" on its video conferencing app Meet for mobile devices.

According to the tech giant, if users join a live stream from the Google Meet Android or iOS app, they can use these features "when they're available".

In addition, the company noted that this update is applicable for "ultra-low latency live streams" only, the standard live streaming experience remains the same.

According to the tech giant, the 'Q&A' feature in Meet will offer an easy way to better engage audiences and help them get their questions answered, both at work and in school, whereas 'polls' can be used to identify topics that need more discussion or test understanding of the meeting content.

Meanwhile, Google has introduced new artificial intelligence (AI)-powered features for its Chromebook Plus laptops that will allow users to chat with Gemini, reimagine photos and others.

Starting at \$350, Chromebook Plus devices provide additional AI features such as industry-leading security, Google apps, and extended battery life.

The 'Q&A' feature in Meet will offer an easy way to better engage audiences and help them get their questions answered, both at work and in school, whereas 'polls' can be used to identify topics that need more discussion or test understanding of the meeting content.

Fateh Khawani

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Mr Mohammad Abbass Akhoun S/O Late Mohammad Asgar Akhoun R/O Ashai Bagh, Saida Kadal, Srinagar who left for heavenly abode on 3th June, 2024 after a brief illness. May Almighty Allah grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul. The Congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on Wednesday, 05th June, 2024 at 6: AM at their ancestral graveyard at Hussanabad, Rainawari, Srinagar followed by Majlis Fateh Khawani at his residence, Ashia Bagh, Saida Kadal, Srinagar.



Bereaved
Mohammad Maqbool Akhoun (Son)
Mobile No. 9622911703

inf

Cut Marks On 4,000-Yr-Old Skulls Show Ancient Egyptians Tried To Treat Cancer

IANS

Ancient Egyptians attempted to operate on excessive tissue growth or learn more about cancerous disorders after a patient's death, revealed a study on two 4,000-year-old skulls.

Known to be the place of one of the early civilisations, ancient Egyptians have been known to identify, describe, and treat diseases and traumatic injuries, build prostheses, and put in dental fillings.

To understand their further prowess, an international team of researchers studied two human skulls—male and female and each thousands of years old.

The cut marks on the

skulls revealed the extent of traumatological and oncological treatments practised by the ancient Egyptians, they said in the paper published in the journal *Frontiers in Medicine*.

Edgard Camaros, a paleopathologist at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain called the discovery "unique and extraordinary" evidence of how ancient Egyptian medicine would have tried to deal with or explore cancer more than 4,000 years ago.

The two skulls—Skull and Mandible 236, dating from between 2687 and 2345 BCE, belonged to a male individual aged 30 to 35, while Skull E270, dating from between 663 and 343 BCE, belonged to



a female individual who was older than 50 years.

Microscopic observation of skull 236 showed a big-sized lesion consistent with excessive tissue destruction,

known as neoplasm.

Further, there were also 30 or so small and round metastasised lesions scattered across the skull, with cut marks probably made by a

sharp object such as a metal instrument.

"When we first observed the cut marks under the microscope, we could not believe what was in front of us," said Tatiana Tondini, a researcher at the University of Tübingen in Germany.

Analysis of Skull E270 also showed a big lesion consistent with a cancerous tumour that led to bone destruction, and two lesions from traumatic injuries that received treatment.

"This may indicate that although today's lifestyle and cancer-causing substances in the environment increase cancer risk, it was also a common pathology in the past," the team said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my mother namely Mr's Haleema has expired on 17/06/2022. I want to apply for his Death Certificate if any body have any objection he/she can file the same in the office of the BDO Office Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mohammad Syed Wani
S/o Late Gh Mohi-ud-Din Wani
R/o Batapora Shopian

FKO

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ

درخواست از جانب سید اشرف رضوی ولد سید باقر ساکنہ باگر پورہ بودی بک تحصیل سنگھ پورہ پٹن بارہمولہ برادری D.O.B بر تفکیک بحق سید رشیدی

اشہار ہمارا داد گاہی خاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت رپورٹ بنیابت سکری ڈیوہ دار ہوسچوکیدار علاقہ و آشا میڈیم سے موصول ہوئی مطابق رپورٹ عملہ فیملی سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کے پسر سید رشیدی رضوی کی پیدائش مورخہ 25-06-2012 کو ہوئی ہے اور سائل مذکور نے تاحال کوئی بھی سند D.O.B حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔ سائل مذکور اپنے پسر کے حق میں D.O.B حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشہار منتشر کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سر تفکیک ہو تو دفتر خذ میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کریری / کلترہ

درخواست منجانب وحید اختر دفتر غلام محمد نجار ساکنہ شیخ پورہ برادری OBC سر تفکیک بحق تحت SRO 126/294

اشہار ہمارا داد گاہی ہر خاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذریعہ زبردکار رہی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ فتاویٰ ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع شیخ پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ سائل بحق تجارزات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے کہ سائل سالہ آدمی 240,000 روپے تک ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

- 1 غلام محمد نجار ولد غلام نبی نجار سربرہ 65 سال ترکھان
- 2 امینہ بیگم زوجہ 60 سال گھر یلو کام
- 3 زبیر احمد نجار پسر 22 سال زر تعلیم
- 4 وحیدہ اختر دختر 20 سال --
- 5 روبینہ -- 25 سال --

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کنبہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سر تفکیک زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی مذریعہ اعتراض ہو تو وہ پانچ دن بعد مذریعہ اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی مذریعہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار kre_r

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but.... did I clean it enough? ?Wash it again? Is it clean now?

It's not just
RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING
BUT
UNSEEN PAIN
distress
myths and stigma
associated with OCD

KASHMER (Kashmir American Society of Healthcare)
Medical Education & Research
in collaboration with
HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust)
is initiating a free 8 weeks Group therapy for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral , simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Dareshe Kadal Chowk, Srinagar
9070806160

FSSAI Asks Food Biz To Remove Claim Of 100% Fruit Juice From Ads, Packaging Labels

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Food regulator FSSAI has asked food business operators to immediately remove claims of 100 per cent fruit juices in advertisements as well as labels on packaged products.

According to an official statement, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a "directive mandating all Food Business Operators (FBOs) to remove any claim of '100% fruit juices' from the labels and advertisements of re-constituted fruit juices with an immediate effect.

All the FBOs have also been instructed to exhaust all existing pre-printed packaging materials before 1st September 2024. "It has come to the attention of FSSAI that several FBOs have been inaccurately marketing various types of re-constituted fruit juices by claiming them to be 100 per cent fruit juices," the statement said.

Upon thorough examination, FSSAI has concluded that, according to the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018, there is no provision for making a '100%' claim.

"Such claims are misleading, particularly under conditions where the major ingredient of the fruit juice is water and the primary ingredient, for which the claim is made, is present only in limited concentrations, or when the fruit juice is reconstituted using water and fruit



concentrates or pulp," FSSAI said.

FBOs have been told to comply with the standards for fruit juices as specified under sub-regulation 2.3.6 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards & Food Additives) Regulation, 2011.

"This regulation states that products covered by this standard must be labelled in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020," the statement said.

Specifically, in the ingredient list, the word "reconstituted" must be mentioned against the name of the juice that is reconstituted from the concentrate.

"Additionally, if added nutritive sweeteners exceed 15 gm/kg, the product must be labelled as 'Sweetened juice'," the regulator said.

FSSAI said it is dedicated to protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety standards across the country.

Govt Asks Advertisers To Submit Self-Declaration Certificate From June 18

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday asked all advertisers and advertising agencies to submit a self-declaration certificate making it clear that the advertisement does not contain misleading claims and adheres to regulatory guidelines.

The self-declaration has to be submitted for all new print, digital, television and radio advertisements as required by a Supreme Court directive issued last month.

The Supreme Court directive is a step towards ensuring transparency, consumer protection, and responsible advertising practices, a statement by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said.

The self-declaration certificate has to be uploaded on the Broadcast Seva Portal in case of TV and radio advertisements, and on the Press Council of India website for print, digital and internet advertisements, it added.

The certificate has to be signed by an authorised representative of the advertiser/advertising agency.

The certificate is required to be obtained by all advertisers and advertising agencies for all new advertisements that will be issued/telecast/aired/published on or after June 18, 2024.



A buffer period of two weeks has been kept for providing sufficient time to all stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the process of self-certification. Ongoing advertisements do not require the self-certification currently, the statement said.

The document should certify that the advertisement does not contain misleading claims, and complies with all relevant regulatory guidelines, including those stipulated in Rule 7 of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 and the Norms of Journalistic Conduct of Press Council of India.

The advertiser must provide proof of uploading the self-declaration certificate to the relevant broadcaster, printer, publisher, or electronic media platform for their records.

As per the Supreme Court's directive, no advertisement will be permitted to run on television, print media, or internet without a valid self-declaration certificate.

Sensex, Nifty Log Biggest Single-Day Gain In 3 Yrs As Exit Polls Predict 3rd Term For Modi Govt

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: After the exit polls predicted the return of the Modi government for the third straight term, benchmark Sensex and Nifty zoomed more than 3 per cent on Monday, recording their biggest single-day gain in three years and closing at lifetime highs.

The 30-share BSE Sensex soared by 2,507.47 points or 3.39 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,468.78 points with 25 of its constituents ending in the green and five in the red. During the day, the barometer jumped 2,777.58 points or 3.75 per cent to hit a record intra-day peak of 76,738.89.

The NSE Nifty climbed 733.20 points or 3.25 per cent to finish at 23,263.90. During the day, it soared 808 points or 3.58 per cent to hit a fresh intra-day all-time high of 23,338.70.

Sensex and Nifty logged their biggest single-day gains since February 1, 2021, when indices had jumped nearly 5% after the budget presentation. Interestingly, Sensex and Nifty had spurred more than 3 per cent on May 20, 2019, after the exit polls predicted a major win BJP-led NDA in the 2019 general elections.

Among sectors, PSUs, Power, Utilities, Oil, Energy, Capital Goods, and Realty indices soared up to 8 per cent.

A sharp rally in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and State Bank of India propelled the indices to lifetime high levels. Strong GDP data also added to the buoyancy in equity markets.

Shares of all Adani Group



“EXIT POLLS ON SATURDAY PREDICTED THAT PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI WILL RETAIN POWER FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT TERM, WITH THE BJP-LED NDA EXPECTED TO WIN A BIG MAJORITY IN THE LOK SABHA POLLS. THE COUNTING OF VOTES WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 4.

companies continued their rally on Monday, taking their combined market valuation to Rs 19.42 lakh crore. Adani Power surged nearly 16 per cent, Adani Ports by 10 per cent and flagship Adani Enterprises by over 6 per cent.

Exit polls on Saturday predicted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will retain power for the third straight term, with the BJP-led NDA expected to win a big majority in the Lok Sabha polls. The counting of votes will take place on June 4.

"Nifty logged its best session in over three years, as

investors cheered exit polls, along with better-than-expected India Q4 GDP," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

"The markets opened at new highs today largely because of exit polls predicting landslide victory for the BJP-led NDA. This will result in a positive surprise of policy continuity with higher seats for the NDA government," SAMCO MF Fund Manager & Head of Equity Research Paras Matalia said.

Among the 30-Sensex companies, NTPC, State Bank of India and Power Grid jumped over 9 per cent each. Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the other big gainers.

Sun Pharma, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Nestle and Infosys were the laggards.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, "Exit poll has activated the optimism of a memorable win for the ongoing government, PSUs had a humongous rally, in anticipation of continuation of the reform gains, triggering further re-rate."

Sebi Launches SaaṛThi 2.0 Mobile App On Personal Finance For Investors

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Monday launched mobile app 'SaaṛThi 2.0' on personal finance for investors with comprehensive tools aimed at simplifying complex financial concepts. "The updated 'SaaṛThi' app introduces a user-friendly interface with comprehensive tools aimed at simplifying complex financial concepts," Sebi said in a statement.

The app includes financial calculators and has modules that introduce and explain KYC procedures, mutual funds, ETFs, buying and selling shares on stock exchanges, investor grievances redressal mechanism, and the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform.

Additionally, the app features a range of videos designed to assist investors in their personal finance planning.

"In today's era, where social media sometimes provides biased or misleading informa-



tion, there is a significant need for an unbiased, objective, and trusted source of investment information," Ananth Narayan G, Whole Time Member, said during the launch.

"The SaaṛThi app serves this purpose by empowering investors with reliable and essential insights into the securities market. This tool can be especially useful for young investors who are at the begin-

ning of their financial journey.

"The content within the app is dynamic, allowing us to keep pace with the rapidly evolving market conditions. We actively seek public suggestions to further refine and enhance the SaaṛThi app, ensuring it continues to serve our investors," he said.

The 'SaaṛThi' app is available for download on Google Play Store and the iOS AppStore.

₹2,000 Notes Worth ₹7,755 Crore Still With Public: RBI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said 97.82 per cent of the ₹2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only ₹7,755 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public.

On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of ₹2000 denomina-



tion banknotes from circulation.

The total value of ₹2000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, has declined to ₹7,755 crore at the close of business on May 31, 2024.

"Thus, 97.82 per cent of the ₹2000

banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," the central bank said in a statement.

The facility for deposit and/or exchange of the ₹2000 banknotes was available at all bank branches in the country till October 7, 2023.

The facility for the exchange of the ₹2000 banknotes has been available at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank since May 19, 2023.

From October 9, 2023, RBI issue offices are also accepting ₹2000 banknotes from individuals and entities for deposit into their bank accounts.

Further, members of the public are sending ₹2000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country to any of the RBI issue offices for credit to their bank accounts.

The 19 RBI offices depositing/exchanging the banknotes are in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Belapur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram.

The ₹2000 banknotes were introduced in November 2016, following the demonetisation of the then-prevailing ₹1000 and ₹500 banknotes.

Director JKEDI E-Inaugurates 10-Day EDP At Ramban

28 women registered under Tejaswini self-employment scheme



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Rajinder Kumar Sharma on Monday e-inaugurated a 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) in Ramban under the Tejaswini initiative of Mission Youth, J&K.

Addressing participants after inauguration, Director JKEDI emphasized the importance of empowering women through entrepreneurship and providing them with the necessary skills and resources to succeed in the business world. He highlighted JKEDI's role in nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship and facilitating economic self-reliance among women across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders, including the Government



of Jammu and Kashmir and partner organizations, for their unwavering support and commitment to the Tejaswini initiative. He reiterated JKEDI's commitment to empower women entrepreneurs and drive socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

A total of 28 applicants have registered for the 10-day long EDP at DECC, Ramban. Tejaswini-the radiant, is a self-employment initiative of the government of Jammu and Kashmir under Mission Youth, J&K aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs of the UT of J&K, has been making significant strides in fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth. The e-inauguration of the EDP in Ramban underscores JKEDI's commitment to imparting necessary training and capacity building skills to the potential entrepreneurs among women in Jammu and Kashmir.



J&K Bank Commissions Cash Recycling Machine at Shopian Fruit Mandi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In line with its policy to enhance customer convenience, J&K Bank Monday commissioned a Cash Recycling Machine (CRM) at Fruit Mandi in Aglar, Shopian.

Zonal Head (Pulwama) Tariq Ali inaugurated the CRM in presence of President Fruit Growers Association (Shopian) Peer Mohammad Amin and Cluster Head (Pulwama) Bashir Ahmad Bhat amid a large gathering of fruit growers and traders.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head encouraged the local community to take full advantage of the various schemes the bank offers for the horticulture sector, including the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Apple Advance Scheme, High Density Plantation Scheme and Schemes for Agriculture Infrastructure Development.

Tariq Ali further said, "The new CRM will provide immense convenience to fruit growers, traders, and the local population, enabling them to withdraw and deposit cash beyond regular banking hours. This initiative underscores J&K Bank's commitment to leveraging technology for improving customer service and supporting the economic growth of the region."

He urged the participants to utilize the CRM services and explore other digital banking channels for a seamless banking experience.

While acknowledging that the commissioning of the CRM fulfils a long-standing demand of the Fruit Growers Association, he also said that the Bank shall explore the possibility of establishing a full-fledged branch in Aglar Fruit Mandi to further support the different financial needs of the fruit growers/traders.

India's Manufacturing Sector Growth Eases In May: PMI Survey

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's manufacturing sector saw a slower growth rate for the second straight month in May but stayed firmly in expansion mode with global sales increasing to the greatest extent in over 13 years, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 58.8 in April to 57.5 in May, signalling a slower but substantial improvement in the health of the sector.

The index had climbed to a 16-year high of 59.1 in March.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

According to HSBC Global Economist Maitreyi Das, "The manufacturing sector remained in expansionary territory in May, albeit the pace... slowed, led by a softer rise in new orders and output."

The slowdown was attributed to reduced working hours amid intensive heatwave and rising production costs.

"Panelists cited heatwaves as a reason for lower work hours in May, which may have affected production volumes," Das said.

The headline figure was nearly four points higher than



its long-run average.

May data showed a further upturn in Indian factory production, which stretched the current sequence of expansion to nearly three years.

Despite easing to a three-month low, the rate of increase remained sharp. Growth was supported by new business gains, demand strength and successful marketing efforts, the report said. New orders rose at a substantial pace that was nonetheless the slowest in three months. The rise was associated with marketing efforts, demand strength and favourable economic conditions, as per the report.

Growth was reportedly stymied by competitions and election-related disruptions, it said, adding that in contrast to the trend for total sales, new export orders rose at a faster pace in May.

The upturn in international sales was the strongest in over 13 years as manufacturers witnessed gains from customers across several countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE PULWAMA/ BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (JR. DIVISION)/ MUNSIFF AT PAMPORE

IN THE MATTER OF:-

Abdul Hameed Bhat S/o Mohd Sultan Bhat R/O Kadlbal Pampore

VERSUSCAVEATOR

Public At Large

... NON-CAVEATOR

IN THE MATTER OF : Caveat Petition of the Caveators above named under Section 148-A of the Code of Civil Procedure.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

- That the Caveators are filing the instant caveat application before this Hon'ble court as a matter of right guaranteed to them under the statute.
- That the Caveator apprehends that a false and fabricated suit/appeal may be filed by anyone on false and fabricated grounds since the caveator is raising construction at lethpora pampore Under Khasara no 6516 khata no 834 khata no 103 in land measuring 3 kanal and 10 marlas.
- That the Caveator has apprehension that the Civil Suit or any other proceeding might be filed against him without any reason and rhyme in order to hamper the rights of the Caveator.
- That in case the non Caveators filed any suit or proceeding before this Hon'ble court and succeeds in getting ex-parte against the Caveator, the Caveator shall be put to an irreparable loss and injury.
- That in compliance with the requirements of valid Caveat, copy of the Caveat Petition has been put in the course of transmission published in newspaper with acknowledgement due, for service on the Proposed Plaintiffs. Filed herewith and marked as Annexure-A is the copy of Publication in newspaper evidencing the fact as proof of Service.

PRAYER

In the premises, it is therefore, prayed that in case if any one file any suit, proceedings or any other action against the Caveator, in that eventuality the Caveator be given an opportunity of being heard before any ex-parte orders are passed against the Caveator.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE APPLICANT AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.

Caveator Through
Counsel

Syed Waris
& ASSOCIATES

DATE: 04-06-2024
PLACE: PULWAMA

Modi Eyes Record

the opposition's "appeasement politics", accusing the Congress and its allies of hand-over a chunk of the reservation meant for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) to Muslims and allegedly eying people's family assets to further its "redistribution of wealth" agenda. The issues of national and cultural pride, the government's welfare schemes and the overall political stability and economic growth also figured prominently in the speeches of BJP leaders, even though they were accused by the opposition of running a divisive and communal campaign to polarise votes.

The EC has dismissed the opposition's attack on its conduct of polls, with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar daring it on Monday to share evidence of attempts to influence the polling process.

The results will show if the Congress has it in its organisation and leadership to challenge the BJP amid its reducing footprint across the country since 2014. It has failed to get even the main opposition party status in two consecutive Lok Sabha polls and has been reduced to a pale shadow of itself in a number of states, especially in the Hindi heartland.

Its leaders, including president Mallikarjun Kharge and principal campaigner Rahul Gandhi, have claimed that their alliance will get 295 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, marking an end of the Modi era.

INDIA bloc leaders believe that their alliance has been able to shape the poll narrative around its planks of welfarism and an alleged threat to the Constitution from an all-powerful saffron onslaught, and will get popular support.

Modi will equal the country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's record of leading his party to three straight electoral victories if the BJP retains power.

An uncertain future also hangs over the fate of the Left, besides many regional parties including the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and YSR Congress, which are in power in West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh respectively.

Modi has spearheaded a concerted BJP push to gain further in strength in the two eastern states, where the party surprised everyone by emerging as the powerful second force in 2019, and the exit polls have suggested that it may topple the two regional parties from the top position in these polls.

Assembly polls were held in Odisha alongside the national election and the BJP and the BJD, which has been in power in the state since 2000 under Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's leadership, are locked in a fierce battle for power. Assembly polls were also held simultaneously in the YSRCP-ruled Andhra Pradesh.

Another issue that has drawn the limelight is whether the BJP will be able to emerge as a strong force in Tamil Nadu and the Left-ruled Kerala, two states where it has currently no seats but is predicted to win a few this time.

A poor show by the Left will further darken its prospects nationwide as Kerala is the only state where it remains a strong force after being knocked of reckoning in its former strongholds of Bengal and Tripura.

Always confident of his return to power, Modi has already penned an article about his vision for the country, posted on X about people's support to the NDA and rejection of the opposition, and held a meeting with top officials on the "new government's agenda" for the first 100 days.

The results are also expected to spell out the people's verdict on the fate of regional stalwarts like Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, whose parties have joined hands with the BJP and who have run an intense campaign to win over people's support for their factions.

The verdict will also be out on a number of Union ministers, including Piyush Goyal, Bhupender Yadav, Sarbananda Sonowal and Dharmendra Pradhan, all Rajya Sabha members asked by the BJP to contest the polls, and former chief ministers, such as the BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Basavaraj Bommai, Trivendra Singh Rawat and the Congress's Digvijay Singh and Bhupesh Baghel.

Besides Modi, who contested the election from Varanasi for a third straight term, senior members of his cabinet, such as Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, are in the fray, and the margins of their win will be watched out for as well.

Postal Ballots

postal ballot count should start first and the results of postal ballots should be announced first.

"Rules clearly state (Rule 54A) that postal ballot count will start first. In all centres in the country it will start first, no doubt about it. After half-an-hour we start the EVM count. So, there are three countings which are happening simultaneously -- it happened in the 2019 elections, it happened in all the assembly polls held thereafter. It happened yesterday also in the case of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim assembly (vote count). We can't change anything mid course. Why can't we change, because it is compliant with the rules," he said.

He said the postal ballot count and then the EVM count and finally the marching of VVPT slips with EVM results will continue.

In majority of the booths, the number of postal ballot is less. It will automatically end first, he pointed out.

Since 2019, VVPAT (paper-trail machine) slips from five randomly selected polling stations per assembly constituency (or segment in cases of Lok Sabha seats) are matched with the EVM count for greater transparency.

All Set For Counting

Singh, two former chief ministers – Omar Abdullah of National Conference (NC) and Mehbooba Mufti of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The other bigwigs include former ministers Raman Bhalla and Choudhary Lal Singh of Congress, GM Saroori of DPAP, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and Mian Altaf of NC, Ashraf Mir of Apni Party, Sajad Lone of Peoples Conference.

Former MLA Engineer Rashid is fighting from Tihar Jail.

Section 144 has been imposed outside the counting centers, which will remain in effect until June 5. The district administration has issued I-cards to personnel on counting duty, and around 1,000 agents have been given access cards. Approximately 2,000 to 2,500 personnel have been deployed for vote counting. A meeting was held between District Deputy Commissioners Sachin Kumar and the election candidates and their agents to ensure smooth vote counting. Counting will be held at SKICC Srinagar. For Baramulla Seat, counting will be held in Degree College Baramulla. On the other hand, counting of votes for Anantnag- Rajouri seat will be held in Degree College Anantnag. Jammu parliamentary seat will take place at MAM College Jammu and Polytechnic Vikram Chowk. Talking to reporters in Jammu on Saturday, Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain had said that each counting centre is under the 24x7 surveillance of the CCTVs while there are at least two companies of security forces deployed for securing the counting centre. The DGP had stated that there will be multi-layer security cover at every counting centre.

Tight Security

they said.

A tight vigil has been maintained around the strong rooms where electronic voting machines have been kept since the close of polling in respective constituencies.

Polls for the five parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were held in as many phases -- April 19, April 26, May 13, May 20 and May 25.

Ahead of the counting of votes, the Returning Officers of the constituencies have held meetings with contesting candidates, election agents and representatives of political parties contesting in each of the Lok Sabha seats to familiarise them with the standard procedure of counting process prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The returning officer informed the participants about the sequence and procedures of the counting, including handling of EVMs, VVPATs, and the process of the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).

An official spokesman said regular announcements would be made through the public address system at the counting hall on the counting day.

There are 66 candidates in the fray for the three Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir valley. Among the key candidates for the three seats are president of PDP Mehbooba Mufti, vice president of National Conference Omar Abdullah, separatist turned mainstream politician Sajad Gani Lone and former MLA Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail in a UAPA case.

While Mufti is up against prominent Gujjar and National Conference leader Mian Altaf Ahmad in Anantnag-Rajouri seat, Abdullah, Lone and Rashid are locked in a virtual triangular contest for the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat.

In the prestigious Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, both National Conference and the PDP have fielded young faces in Aga Roohullah and Waheed Para respectively.

Kashmir valley has witnessed record turnout in these Lok Sabha polls with more than 50 per cent of the electorate exercising their franchise.

Three-tier Security Deployed

A day ahead of the counting of votes for the Jammu and Udhampur Lok Sabha constituencies along with rest of the country, three-tier security has been activated in and around the counting centres in the two districts.

The counting of over 23.94 lakh votes in these constituencies, scheduled for Tuesday, will determine the fate of 34 candidates, including senior BJP leader and Union Minister Jitendra Singh, current Jammu MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and former ministers Choudhary Lal Singh and Raman Bhalla of the Congress.

"All arrangements are in place for the June 4 vote counting. Three-tier security has been implemented," said Returning Officer and Jammu District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

Vaishya, who reviewed the security measures, logistics and essential amenities at the counting venues, said the counting process will take place in the Polytechnic College and M A M College.

"Votes from the seven assembly constituencies will be counted at M A M College, while 11 constituencies will be tallied at Polytechnic College," he added.

The administration has fully trained the staff and sensitized all polling agents for the counting process. This includes a detailed examination of the deployment of paramilitary and police personnel as well as the set up for counting staff and agents.

"All counting staff are fully trained and all political parties and their agents have been briefed and issued I-cards. The arrangements are comprehensive, covering traffic and security," Vaishya said.

CCTV cameras have been installed and videography arrangements are in place at the counting centres.

Over 12.86 lakh votes (72.22 per cent) will be counted in the Jammu constituency, where BJP's sitting MP Jugal Kishore Sharma aims for a third consecutive victory against Raman Bhalla, the working president of the J&K Congress unit, among 22 other candidates.

Both BJP and Congress have expressed confidence of winning the seat.

"We are very confident that BJP will win this seat. It was predicted by the exit polls as well," Sharma said.

In Kathua, three-tier security is also in place for the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency counting scheduled for Tuesday.

Kathua Superintendent of Police Anayat Ali Choudhary, who took a review visit of the area, said that elaborate security arrangements have been made.

"Three tier security has been deployed here. We urge everyone to coordinate with the security forces and police. If there is any

problem on the security front, it should be immediately brought to our knowledge," he told reporters.

Choudhary said that enhanced security has been deployed along the International Border (IB) and inter-district checkpoints to monitor and prevent any anti-social or anti-national activities.

The counting center for Udhampur Lok Sabha seat is set up at the Government Degree College Kathua, equipped with multi-tier security and 24x7 CCTV surveillance.

"Votes from 18 assembly segments, including Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar, will be counted in designated halls. Three halls are designated for counting Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) votes," said Returning Officer Dr Rakesh Minhas.

A total of 225 tables, each staffed by three personnel, will facilitate the counting process. Sixty tables are designated for ETPBS votes, each with a counting agent, a micro observer, a supervisor and an Assistant Returning Officer (ARO), the officials said.

The CCTV footage of the EVM strong rooms has been shared with the political parties' representatives. Nearly 10,000 staff members will handle the entire counting process, including transferring Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from strong rooms to counting halls, they added.

The Udhampur-Doda parliamentary constituency recorded a 68.23 per cent voter turnout on April 19, with 16,23,195 eligible voters casting their ballots. Over 11.08 lakh votes will determine the fate of 12 candidates, including Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who seeks a third consecutive win, competing against former minister and two-time MP Choudhary Lal Singh of the Congress.

Here's How Votes

- Form 17C of each polling station should be sent to the officer who is compiling the final result sheet in Form 20.

- Counting of VVPAT slips shall start only after completion of counting of votes from CUS.

- Mandatory verification of VVPAT slips of randomly selected five polling stations per assembly constituency/each assembly segment of a parliamentary constituency shall be done only after the completion of counting of votes.

- When the margin of victory is less than the number of postal ballot papers rejected, all such rejected postal ballot papers shall be mandatorily re-verified before declaration of the result.

- If two candidates get equal number of high-est votes, the result will be declared by draw of lots.

Ex-Judges Write

loses people's mandate, the transition of power may not be smooth and there could be a constitutional crisis.

Concurring with the May 25 open statement of Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG) of former civil servants, the former judges said, "We are constrained to agree with the scenario envisaged in the above statement: 'In the event of a hung parliament, onerous responsibilities will be placed upon the shoulders of the President of India.

"We are sure that she will follow the established democratic precedent of first inviting the pre-poll alliance that garnered the largest number of seats. Also, that she would endeavour to preempt the possibilities of horse-trading,..."

It also urged the CJI and the CEC to uphold the Constitution in such an eventuality and ensure smooth transition of power.

"We, former high court judges, having no affiliation to any political party, but strongly committed to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution, and to the values of electoral democracy, write this open letter from a deep anguish at the recent and present goings-on with regard to the parliamentary elections of 2024," the letter, issued to media on June 3, said.

"Several events over the past weeks are making for a very grim storyline; one that may possibly end in a violent conclusion. These are genuine apprehensions in the minds of the vast majority of our people. Reputed civil and human rights organisations and activists have also echoed the same apprehension," it said.

It said the Election Commission's refusal to disclose the exact number of votes cast in each booth of every constituency and to make form 17(C) of conduct of election rules available to the public, along with the minimal action taken against hate speech targeting minorities and opposition parties by senior leaders of the ruling party, are major concerns.

The letter said the Supreme Court, being the final authority to defend and protect the Constitution and democracy, should be ready to take "proactive action to prevent any potential catastrophe or to address any monstrous situations that may arise during counting and declaration of results."

"We, the people of India as citizens of a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic hereby call upon the Supreme Court to ensure the presence and attendance of the top five esteemed justices of the Supreme Court even during the period of the ongoing summer vacation and be available to respond in the event of any constitutional crisis that might emerge in the present situation," the letter said.

It said the former judges hoped that their apprehensions were wrong and the elections would end smoothly but they believed that prevention is better than cure.

"We therefore, seek in humility to remind each of the authorities and institutions charged with the integrity of the process of democratic government formation of their paramount duty to abide by and uphold the Constitution," it added.

Assembly Polls

March, Kumar had said that 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 the erstwhile state into two union territories.

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

Following a delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats in the union territory has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In December, the Supreme Court had directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

'64.2 Cr People

largest electoral exercise.

"India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year," said Kumar.

On social media memes calling election commissioners 'Laapataa Gentlemen', Kumar said, "We were always here, never went missing."

"Now memes can say the 'Laapataa Gentlemen' are back," he said.

Kumar said that nearly four lakh vehicles, 135 special trains and 1,692 air sorties were used for conducting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"Only 39 repolls took place in the 2024 general elections as against 540 repolls in 2019," he said.

The CEC further said that Jammu and Kashmir recorded its highest turnout in four decades at 58.58 per cent overall and 51.05 per cent in the Valley.

"Seizures of Rs 10,000 crore, including cash, freebies, drugs and liquor, were made during the 2024 polls as compared to Rs 3,500 crore in 2019," he said.

Encounter In

elimination of these two active terrorists, the area of Kakapora no longer has any active terrorists," he said.

J&K Deploys Drones

from Udhampur, Poonch, Rajouri, and Samba districts while in Kashmir forest fires were reported from Ganderbal and other districts of the valley.

An official told Kashmir Observer that the department has procured a number of modern gadgets due to a spike in forest fires across.

In a recent incident in the Nowshera subdivision of Rajouri district, the department used drones to monitor a fire in the Chingus block and other forest areas, which was later extinguished within an hour. A massive fire also broke out on June 3rd in the Ramnagar forest of Jammu division and the Gangera hills in Udhampur district.

"With drones, we can easily pinpoint the exact location of the fire, even in dense forest areas," an official from the department said.

The official added that it used to be challenging to extinguish fires in hilly terrains. "Now the extinguishing process is easy and we get the locations quickly."

The modus operandi, according to the official, is to identify the fire through the drone images and then give a ring around the fire.

"This restricts forest fire to a particular area," said the official.

When asked whether the departement is thinking of procuring drones that can extinguish the fire, he said, "the load carrying drones in the region are prohibited now due to its sensitivity."

He further added that the traditional way of dosing off the fire is the best method that the department has been using since decades.

"There is only one standard technique to doze off the fire, which is the traditional method. We now use blowers as well to clear the litter around," he added.

Pertinent to mention here that Jammu and Kashmir is a forest rich region having 20,230 sq km of forest cover, accounting for about 10% of its geographical area. The vulnerability of forest fire increases during the Autumn season if it remains dry for a long period.

Fire Engulfs Forest,

night, triggered multiple mine explosions along the Salotri forward area, the officials said.

Despite the high intensity, the fire was controlled without any loss of life, they added.

Reasi district witnessed three separate forest fires in the Ardhkuwari, Bidda, and Mardi areas, which have now been extinguished, they said.

The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine was briefly halted due to the fire incident in the Lambi Keri-Ardhkuwari belt.

In Rajouri district, extensive forest areas such as Dungi, Grati, Bungaie, Tatapani, Kalakote, and Dhanore were affected in fire, resulting in significant forest damage, the officials said.

A school shed in the Jallas area also suffered damage. Fire and emergency services responded promptly, mobilising teams to contain and extinguish the blazes, they said.

In Kathua district, forest fires were reported in the Ramkote and Basholi areas. Massive flames also erupted in the Ramnagar forest division of Udhampur district, which has since been controlled without any casualties, they said.

A large fire erupted in the Ragoora forest area near the outskirts of Jammu city, spreading across vast tracts of land. The fire has been doused, they said. No casualties have been reported so far.

NGT Issues Notice

other farmers spread over a large area in the villages of Khanda Suthsoo, Gowherpora, Wathora Bugam, Lalgam, Ganjibagh, Lal Gund, Gudsathoo, Wulnu, Ichgam and Dharmunad. The apple orchards, fruit plant nurseries and crops like oats , peas and mustard have been impacted a lot.

The order further reads, "It is also the grievance of the applicant that during the construction process, reckless excavation of clay from Karewas, a unique geological formation in Kashmir has impacted the ecology. The original application -OA raises substantial issues relating to compliance of environmental norms. Issue notice to the respondents for filing their response at least one week before the next date of hearing by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF" the order further reads

The locals of Wathoora and other villages of Chadoora Budgam have expressed happiness over the NGTs intervention. We hope to get justice from this court as local administration has failed to address our grievance

" We had approached many Govt officers including SDM Chadoora , Chief Horticulture Officer and the construction company but they didn't act at all. Even Chairman DDC Budgam has written an official letter to Chairman NHAI but there was no action at all and we were forced to seek judicial intervention from NGT," said Dr Raja Muzaffar, an RTI activist who has been highlighting this issue and motivated the locals to take this matter to NGT.

Stray Dog Issue

Animal Birth Control Rules 2023 must be ensured for running any ABC programme.

It said ABC Monitoring Committees be constituted at Local authority levels in accordance with Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, schedule II rule 3.

Commissioner JMC/SMC and Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu and Kashmir shall frame ABC Camps calendar and circulate among District Administrations for necessary support and action, it said.

The ABC Program must be halted in the months when minimum temperature goes below 6 degrees Celsius and Corporations shall cross-verify that the agencies engaged for sterilization and implementation of the programme are recognized by the Animal Welfare Board of India and have obtained Project Recognition in accordance with the ABC Rules 2023.

If found non-compliant, the committee said the contract with the agency shall be terminated and a report to be submitted within 15 days.

Director ULBK and ULBJ have been asked to identify land or abandoned buildings in each district for operationalization of the ABC programme. "They shall run Mobile Hospitals in collaboration with District Administrations and Animal Husbandry Department for immediate stop-gap arrangement." They shall also send proposal for procuring subsidized mobile hospitals under the Government of India scheme immediately, it said.

JMC/SMC/DULBJ/DULBK,the committee said, shall submit a Monthly Progress Report to the State ABC Committee.

Also, IEC activities, Awareness Programmes to be carried out on regular basis and hoardings shall be put by Corporations for adoption of Stray animals, the committee said

JMC Commissioner shall prepare a roadmap for creation of an SPV for conducting ABC program throughout the J&K and submit the same within one month, the Committee said.

The Committee said a handbook for Animal Management, for ULBs of Jammu and Kashmir, must be drafted for circulation, which would cover all statutory duties of the local bodies with regard to animal management.

Assistance may be taken from AWBI and subject matter experts to prepare it, the committee said.

A nodal officer shall be nominated for the State ABC Monitoring Committee to coordinate with all ULBs regarding implementation of the recommendations of the committee, it said.

The committee also called for a comprehensive policy to be made for working animals in urban areas, keeping in mind the Draught and Pack Animals Rules 1965, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 and advisories of the AWBI.

Keeping in mind that equines carry zoonotic diseases and are used widely across the UT, the committee said the policy must include a registration regime which is granted after health examination.

An updated dairy policy to be made for all dairies in urban areas, to prevent abandoned and free roaming cattle in the cities, it said. The policy, the committee said, shall be compliant with Guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board, mandated by the NGT.

"We are of the view that since certain decisions were taken, which appear to be in the right direction to deal with the issue, it would be more appropriate that the authorities concerned implement the same in its true spirit," the court said.

The court said while both the JMC and SMC have engaged the services of NGOs, but it would require sustained participation of the authorities "rather than leaving the issue entirely in the hands of the NGOs."

"Inasmuch as, from the decision taken by the Committee, it appears that it cannot be left entirely to the NGOs concerned to deal with the issue arising out of stray dogs and accordingly, we reproduced the decision taken by the Committee and direct the respondents authorities to report this court as to how effectively the aforesaid decisions can be carried out," the court said.

The court said that it has also been apprised that constitution of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) within the Urban Development Department would also go a long way in dealing with the various issues arising out of stray dogs in terms of Rules 10(5), 10(6) and 10(7) of the Animal Birth Control Rules 2023.

"Certain suggestions have also been made, which have been placed on record vide Annexure -XI and XII in the form of Strategic Framework for Establishing a Dedicated Animal Birth Control Entity in J&K's Urban Local Bodies, the authorities will examine the same and take into consideration the suggestions so made," the court added.

Party In The USA' But Pakistan And India Await For Co-Hosts

Agencies

DALLAS: "Cricket? Erm, is it a team game?" asked the slightly puzzled Uber driver taking his passenger towards the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Texas on Saturday.

Had the driver been one of the curious American-born spectators who ventured inside the venue and witnessed the USA's first ever T20 World Cup game — a pulsating seven-wicket victory over Canada — he would have had the answer.

Yes, team game it is, but in the shortest form it is also one that can be largely won by the brilliance of an individual.

For the USA's maiden victory, in front of a passionate crowd inside the purpose built, 7,000 capacity home of Major League Cricket, that individual was Aaron Jones.

Jones' unbeaten 94 of 40 balls, featuring 14 boundaries, 10 of them sixes, with the stadium PA blasting out Miley Cyrus' "Party in the USA" after

the biggest hits, transformed what could have been a very low key American debut in elite cricket into a spectacular celebration.

"Especially because America is not really a 'cricketing country'. I wanted to win the first game of the tournament for our fans and we did that," a smiling Jones said after the game.

Now the USA must prepare for a much bigger test of their credentials in the sport's elite, when they take on Pakistan, at the same venue, on Thursday.

CONVERTING AMERICANS?

But there is a bigger context to this tournament for the co-hosts because as much as organisers' play down the attempt to convert American sports fans to the pleasures of the old game, part of the whole idea of holding the biennial tournament in the USA is to establish some firmer roots for the sport here.

There were two things to note about the crowd at



Grand Prairie — as expected the majority of spectators were drawn from the Indian community in Texas but as they showed throughout, they are fervent backers of the national team of their adopted country.

Every one of New York born but Barbados-raised

Jones' sixes was greeted with a massive roar and the final one, to seal victory, set off wild celebrations in the stands.

The second element was that, scattered among those Indian-heritage fans were local Americans who have, to a greater or lesser degree, been

won over by the game.

Sean Fortner, who drove three hours from Houston with his family and friends, was attending his first ever match but said he had watched many games on television after studying Indian society and culture at University.

"I watched it for a long time, trying to figure it all out," he told AFP. "Finally I got one of my Indian friends to explain all the rules to me and I just got hooked on it".

So much so that Fortner even made a seven-minute video explainer that he shared with his companions before they made the trip to the game.

Another Texan first-time fan Ryan Ubl from Dallas, was also at his first game.

"I got into it really during the ODI World Cup in India. I worked with a bunch of people from India and they were very enthusiastic about it all and so I watched a bit of it and tickets weren't so expensive, so here I am," he said.

Ubl is a baseball fan and knows there are limits to how far cricket could go in the USA but thinks there is a future beyond this tournament.

"Obviously I don't think it'll ever eclipse baseball but it could carve out its own little niche," he said.

Fortner agrees even if he

knows the sporting mainstream remains far away.

"Just watching how hard it has been for soccer to get a (foothold) when half the people that live here love soccer already, it's a hard hill to climb.

But it can catch on, we know fandom and we get loyal," he said.

"We're not going to get a lot of fans but we'll get loyal fans," he said.

Jones, still buzzing from his spectacular innings was understandably in no mood for measured considerations even with Pakistan and top-ranked India to come.

His accent may be Bajan but the attitude and rhetoric was all-American.

"We want to play fearless cricket. We want to play hard cricket. We want to play smart cricket and I think we're going to go into the Pakistan game with the same mindset. We want to play fearless cricket regardless of who we play against," he said.

ICC T20 World Cup: Gritty Papua New Guinea Beaten By Superior West Indies

Agencies

Two-time champions West Indies were put under extreme pressure by a brave Papua New Guinea in their T20 World Cup opener in Guyana on Sunday, but the home side managed a five-wicket win thanks to their superior firepower.

Left-hander Sese Bau (50 off 43) made a fine half-century to take PNG to 136 for eight after the associate nation lost their first four wickets for 50 runs.

A power-packed West Indies should have chased down the below-par total comfortably but PNG made them work hard for the win despite their limitations.

Papua New Guinea's spinners as well medium pacers did not allow the hard-hitting West Indies batters to cut loose on a slow surface. The tournament co-hosts eventually got home in 19 overs thanks to rearguard action from Roston Chase (42 not out off 27 balls) and Andre Russell (15 off 9).

The West Indies' innings was halted for 20 minutes due to rain but there was no loss of overs. The passing shower arrived with the home team at 8 for one in the second over and it would have been two down at the same score had right-arm pacer Alei Nao won a lbw review for the dangerous Nicholas Pooran.

After trapping Johnson Charles off his very first ball, Nao got another one to seam back in from short of length to leave Pooran



stranded but luck was on the latter's side. However, his scratchy effort ended when he was caught in the deep off left-arm spinner John Kariko.

PNG skipper Assad Vala made it 63 for three inside 10 overs when he deceived opener Brandon King (34) in flight and had him caught at deep midwicket.

Nerves increased in the West Indies dressing room when it became 97 for five in 16 overs before Chase and Russell got hold of the proceedings.

After PNG were sent in to bat, Bau made instant impact on the big stage with his spirited effort.

PNG, playing their second T20 World Cup, were reeling at 50 for

four before Bau shared a 44-run stand with Charles Amini (12) to save them the blushes.

Expecting the pitch to turn, the West Indies picked three spinners and put the opposition in after winning the toss.

The help for the spinners was visible as early as the first over bowled by Akeal Hosein.

However, it was pacer Romario Shepherd who picked the first wicket by having Tony Ura caught behind in the second over of the game. The ball seamed away, inducing a thick edge from the batter.

Hosein got rid of number three Lega Siaka with an arm ball before Alzarri Joseph sent back Vala

(21 off 22 balls). Vala came up with a couple of crisp hits in the cover region before being caught brilliantly by Roston Chase at backward point.

Vala's six over extra cover off-spinner Chase in the previous over was one of the highlights of PNG's innings.

Bau then ensured that the odd boundary kept coming as PNG tried to consolidate their innings.

Bau, a leftie like Vala, smashed left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie for a six and a couple of fours to give the innings much-needed momentum.

After his departure, the associate nation did rather well to get close to the 140-run mark.

Afghanistan Confident Of Chasing Big Totals, Not Over-Reliant On Bowlers: Rashid Khan

Press Trust of India

GEORGETOWN (GUYANA): Afghanistan batters have developed skills and confidence of chasing down big totals and the team has ceased to rely on their bowlers for pulling off favourable results, captain Rashid Khan expressed on Monday.

Afghanistan, who have relied on their world-class spinners more often than not, have been bolstered with the rise of the explosive Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran and Azmatullah Omarzai.

"That is something in the past. We were struggling a little bit in the batting area. Earlier, the bowlers would do a lot more and help us win the games," Rashid said on the eve of Afghanistan's T20 World Cup opener here against Uganda.

"Later on, we got those youngsters — especially from Under-19 — the way they came up to the national side, the way they have worked hard and got the opportunity to play for Afghanistan at a very young age, and then start exploring all around the world (while) playing the leagues, where they got better and better," he added.

Rashid feels with a mix of talent, skills and the right mindset, anything is possible. "We have that kind of batting line-up where we can



say, it's fine if there is 200 as well on the wicket," he said.

"We have that kind of ability, skills and talent where we can express (all) that on the ground and chase. T20 cricket is all about the mindset. As long as you have the right mindset and belief in there that we can do, anything is possible." Afghanistan had their best-ever outing at the ODI World Cup in India last year when they trumped former champions Pakistan, England and Sri Lanka while running close eventual champions Australia.

"We're just focusing on one game at a time and making sure we do the right things and take the right decisions at the right time. That's something I think is going to help us, and (we) don't (need to) think about the next round a lot. That's

something which is an extra pressure I feel like to be as a player." With slow pitches expected in the West Indies, many have picked Afghanistan to make the semifinal given their arsenal of high-class spinners.

Rashid is delighted that Afghanistan are not considered minnows anymore.

"They have mentioned Afghanistan is going to be there for semis. We take that as a very positive sign. Before, it used to be hard for us to qualify. Now, to be (in the) nomination, to be there in the top four, it's big for us. But for us, we don't look to those things a lot. It's all about how we're going to be there in the ground, delivering.

"We were very near in the last World Cup as well (that we wanted) to be in the semis," he added.

Australian Cricket Team Faces Tumultuous Arrival In Barbados For T20 World Cup

Press Trust of India

BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS): Lost luggage, flight delays and gusty winds on landing here summed up the Australian cricket team's rather tumultuous arrival here for the T20 World Cup but all-rounder Ashton Agar said a cruise along the city's stunning coastline was all it needed to calm the players.

Australia will open their campaign against Oman on June 5 (June 6 at 6am IST).

Pace spearhead Pat Cummins and fellow fast bowler Mitchell Starc had come back to Australia after the IPL for a short break and while heading to the West Indies, the former lost his luggage which eventually did reach him, according to a report in 'cricket.com.au'.

"Flight delays also affected Starc and Maxwell, as the pair had to spend a night in Los Angeles and



cruise on Saturday has managed to bring in a sense of calm for the side, which had to put support staff on ground during its practice games due to lack of first-choice players at

that time.

"A lot of the boys are coming off a long time in India in the IPL, maybe 48 hours at home for a couple of them, so to do something like that is so refreshing," Agar told reporters.

"I think mentally once you've done that, you go into the sessions ready to

actually mentioned that, 'I don't know if many other teams would be like this,'" he added.

Agar said one of the memorable moments was watching the sunset.

"You've got all the boys sitting on the roof watching the sun go down, having a drink together, having a genuinely good time and enjoying each other's company.

"It was pretty easy to forget you're here for a World Cup," he quipped.

Agar did show up for an optional training session though.

"Before a tournament where you're not going to train too much when the matches come thick and fast, you want to get all your drills in," said Agar.

"You want to make sure you're good to go, your mechanics are working well, nailing that four-to-six metre length, getting my shoulder on the right path," he asserted.

go, because you've already enjoyed what the Caribbean has to offer.

"We were sitting on the roof of the catamaran as we were coming back last night and 'Stoin' (Stoinis)

T20 World Cup: Two Players From Oman Play With Kashmir Willow Bat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a remarkable achievement, Cricket bat made of Kashmir Willow by GR8 Sports India Private Ltd. featured in the third consecutive T20 World Cup today when two professional international cricketers from Oman played with the blades handcrafted in Kashmir.

Managing Director, GR8 Sports, Fawzul Kabir said that there are around 400 bat manufacturing units in the industrial area from Sangam to Awantipora in southern Kashmir and it is an honour that our product line is representing the entire bat industry bringing a sense of achievement among one and all.

Two players of Oman, Mehran Khan and Bilal Khan today played with our Cricket Bats and other



gear in the T20 World Cup match against Namibia. In addition to this, may other players representing different countries in the World Cup will also be seen playing with our equipment, Kabir informed.

Highlighting the commitment towards the global cricketing arena,

Kabir said that we are proud to create best-in-class niche in the cricket bat industry, and we remain dedicated to providing cricketers worldwide with the finest equipment that enhances their game.

It isn't only the wood, handle or sticker that makes a professional

Cricket Bat but craftsmanship, expertise, adherence to ICC Standards, understanding batters' needs, playing conditions, Batting order and our Innovative Patented Techniques and Technologies that makes a Professional Cricket Bat.

It took us 14 years of R&D to craft the Kashmir Willow Wood into a Professional Cricket Bat. Our relentless hardwork and persistent efforts motivated us to make the major breakthrough in this area. We could finally innovate a product that belongs to our indigenous industry that has a huge scope to uplift this entire industry of Kashmir, India. It will make us self-sufficient and less reliant on the English Willow imports thereby bringing an impetus to the economy of our Country, stated Kabir.

Bats Fall Dead Due To Extreme Heat In Chhattisgarh Village



Agenceis

Korba: At least 24 bats died in a village allegedly due to extreme heat in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, a forest official said on Monday.

The carcasses were found near a pond in Parsada village in the Pali forest range on Sunday, Katghora divisional forest officer Kumar Nishant said.

Samples of the carcass have been sent for tests to ascertain the cause of the deaths, he said.

Forest personnel and a team of veterinarians reached the spot to examine the carcasses, the official said.

"Prima facie, it appears that the mammals have died of heat stroke, but the exact reason will be ascertained after the post-mortem", he said.

32 Wild Monkeys Drown In Irrigation Well While Quenching Thirst In Jharkhand



Agenceis

Medininagar (Jharkhand): As many as 32 wild monkeys were suspected to have drowned in an irrigation well in Jharkhand's Palamu district during their bid to quench their thirst, a forest official said on Monday.

It took place in Sorath village in Panki block and the corpses were found on Sunday, but officials were yet to ascertain the exact date of the incident.

"A total of 32 wild monkeys were found dead in an irrigation well in Sorath.. the corpses were fished out," Medininagar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kumar Ashish told PTI.

The entire area is reeling under heatwave conditions, with temperatures hovering around 44-45 degrees Celsius.

"Sources of water in the area have almost dried up... wild animals are coming to villages to quench their thirst... these monkeys apparently drowned during their bid to quench their thirst," Ashish said.

The well in which the monkeys died had ample water, he said, adding autopsy was conducted but the reports were yet to be received. A few days ago, three jackals wandering in search of water in Chainpur forest died in a well, he said.

Last week, four persons died of sunstroke in Jharkhand while 1,326 others were admitted to the hospital amid sweltering heat in most parts of the eastern state.

All district hospitals and other medical facilities have been asked to set aside air-conditioned rooms and empty beds for heat-stroke patients, officials said.

New Blood Test Can Predict Breast Cancer Return Much Before Scans



London: In a step that can ensure earlier detection and treatment of breast cancer and help improve survival rates, British researchers have developed an "ultra-sensitive" new blood test which can predict if the cancer will return years before it shows up on scans.

The test works by detecting traces of the DNA of the tumour before the full relapse and was found to be 100 per cent accurate at predicting which patients would see their cancer return, the BBC reported.

While experts have termed the development "incredibly exciting", it is still in its early stages.

Breast cancer is the most common form of the disease worldwide, with 2.26 million women diagnosed in 2020 and 685,000 deaths in the same year, according to Breast Cancer UK.

A team of researchers from the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) London conducted the trial on 78 patients with different types of early breast cancer, with the test searching for 1,800 mutations in the patient's blood which are released by cancer cells.

These circulating tumour DNA were found in 11 women, who all saw their cancer relapse. No other women saw their cancer return.

On average, the blood test detected cancer 15 months before symptoms appeared or the illness showed up on scans, according to results presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago on Sunday.

The earliest detection was 41 months.

Lead researcher Dr Isaac Garcia-Murillas, from the ICR, said: "Breast cancer cells can remain in the body after surgery and other treatments but there can be so few of these cells that they are undetectable on follow-up scans." However, they can cause patients to relapse many years after their initial treatment.

The study, which tested blood samples at the point of diagnosis, then again following surgery and chemotherapy, and repeated the process every three months for the next year and every six months for the next five years, lays the groundwork for better post-treatment monitoring and potentially life-extending treatment, he added.

Researchers Dr Simon Vincent, director of research, support and influencing at Breast Cancer Now - which part-funded the study - said: "Early detection is one of our greatest weapons against breast cancer and these initial findings, which suggests new tests could be able to detect signs of breast cancer recurrence over a year before symptoms emerge, are incredibly exciting."

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Though acknowledging that the research was still in its early stages, he said catching breast cancer recurrence earlier means treatment is much more likely to destroy the cancer and stop it spreading to other parts of the body and becoming incurable.

UP Thief Falls Asleep During Robbery, Arrested Next Morning

Agenceis

Lucknow: In a bizarre turn of events, a thief who broke into a doctor's residence in Lucknow, dozed off due to extreme intoxication.

When he woke up the following morning, he was shocked to find policemen around.

The incident was reported in Sector-20 of Indira Nagar, within the jurisdiction of the Ghazipur police station.

According to reports, the targeted house belongs to Sunil Pandey, in Indira Nagar Sector-20 of Lucknow. Mr Pandey, who works at Balrampur Hospital, is currently stationed in Varanasi, leaving the house unoccupied.

Neighbours became suspicious of finding Mr Pandey's door ajar in the morning. They peeped in to see the house ransacked,

with items strewn around.

The Ghazipur police were called in and the cops found the thief, identified as Kapil, sleeping. They arrested him and booked him under IPC section 379 A for theft.

Ghazipur Station House Officer (SHO), Vikas Rai, said that further legal proceedings were underway.

According to the official, the intruder even tampered with the water pump before attempting to remove the house battery, but he succumbed to drowsiness.

"The cupboards were broken into. Everything, including cash, was taken. The thief even attempted to steal the washbasin, gas cylinder, and water pump," said the official.

"It appeared he collapsed from intoxication while attempting to remove the battery and fell asleep," the official added.



Woman Felt Drunk Without Drinking. Doctors Find Her Gut Produced Alcohol

Agenceis

New Delhi: In a rare case, doctors in Canada treated a 50-year-old woman with a syndrome that makes her gut produce alcohol, and feel intoxicated without getting drunk, according to a case report published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal on Monday.

Doctors at the University of Toronto and Mount Sinai diagnosed the woman with auto-brewery syndrome -- a rare condition in which gut fungi create alcohol through fermentation.

For two years the woman suffered from extreme daytime sleepiness and slurred speech and, despite not drinking alcohol, had elevated blood alcohol levels and alcohol on her breath.

However, every time doctors dismissed her case with a diagnosis of being drunk -- despite saying she had not been drinking.

In the last 5 years, she had recurrent Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), which required frequent courses of proton pump inhibitors ciprofloxacin and nitrofurantoin, as well as gastrointestinal reflux disease, treated with dexlansoprazole.

In the past, she would drink a glass of wine on holidays; however, in recent years, she had stopped drinking altogether because of her religious beliefs.



Along with her husband and children, she visited the emergency department seven times before the correct diagnosis could be made, displaying a lack of awareness of the syndrome among physicians.

"Auto-brewery syndrome

carries substantial social, legal, and medical consequences for patients and their loved ones," said Dr. Rahel Zewude, University of Toronto, with co-authors.

The doctors "suspect recurrent antibiotics for UTI and dexlansoprazole use led to gut dysbiosis with potential contribution of genetics" resulting in the rare syndrome.

The woman was treated with antifungal medication and low-carbohydrate diets.

Auto-brewery syndrome occurs when microorganisms capable of fermenting alcohol from carbohydrates outgrow normal gut flora.

It is rare because it requires several host factors to interact with a substantial overpopulation of fermenting microorganisms and high carbohydrate consumption.



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