

## NEET Exam Row

### Grace Marks To Be Reviewed: NTA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Amid allegations of inflation of marks in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Saturday that the education ministry has set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates.

The NTA also denied any irregularities and said the changes made in the NCERT textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks.

The issue also took political turn with several parties raising concerns about the authenticity of the national exam for medical courses. The AAP demanded a Supreme Court-monitored SIT probe while the Congress alleged that paper leaks, rigging and corruption have become an integral part of many examinations. The party also accused the BJP of cheating youngsters and playing with their futures.

The Maharashtra government sought immediate cancellation of the exam, alleging that its results have caused injustice to the students from the state. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing affiliated to the RSS, demanded a CBI inquiry.

In the coaching hub of Kota in Rajasthan, a large number of NEET aspirants | [More on P6](#)

## Modi Set To Take Oath As PM For 3rd Term Today

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi is set to take oath on Sunday for a third straight term, equalling the feat of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, as the head of a coalition government after two full tenures in which the BJP enjoyed a majority on its own.

Hectic parleys involving BJP leadership and allies were on over the share of berths of different constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the new government.

Senior BJP leaders such as Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh besides party president J P Nadda have been consulting the allies, including Telugu Desam Party's N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar and Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde, to finalise their share of representation in the government.

There is a view that heavy-weight portfolios like home,



finance, defence and external affairs besides education and culture, two ministries with strong ideological hues, will be kept by the BJP, while its allies can get anywhere between five to eight cabinet berths.

While leaders like Shah and Singh are seen within the party as a certainty in the new Cabinet, former chief

ministers who have won the Lok Sabha polls like Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Basavaraj Bommai, Manohar Lal Khattar and Sarbananda Sonowal are strong contenders for joining the government.

Ram Mohan Naidu of the TDP, Lalan Singh, Sanjay Jha and Ram Nath Thakur of the JD(U), and Chirag | [More on P6](#)

### Foreign Delegates To Attend Ceremony

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean Region are among the dignitaries and special invitees who will be attending the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi and his council of ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday evening, officials said.

Surekha Yadav, the pilot of the Chhatrapati

Shivaji Maharaj Terminus-Solapur Vande Bharat train in Maharashtra, is among 10 loco pilots of the Indian Railways who have also been invited to the ceremony.

Necessary arrangements have been made for the guests, including designated enclosures for the council of ministers to be sworn in and the VVIPs, the officials said on Saturday.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan shared | [More on P6](#)



## Eid-ul-Azha

### 60 Trucks Of Sheep Enter Kashmir Daily

Agencies

Srinagar: With Eid-ul-Azha approaching, the Kashmir Valley is witnessing a substantial arrival of sacrificial animals, with daily truckloads of sheep making their way into the region. This inflow began days ago and is expected to continue until two days before the festival.

Merajuddin, General Secretary of Mutton Dealers Association Kashmir, said, "This year, we have a variety of high-quality breeds from outside the state, including Rajasthani, Marwadi, Kaju Walla, Jaisalmiri among others. Currently, these out-of-state varieties are known for providing the best quality meat for buyers."

Sharing details about live-stock arrival in the valley, he said that on average, 50 to 60 trucks loaded with sheep are arriving in the valley daily. The supply from outside the state remains strong and will continue up to two days before Eid.

Regarding market conditions, Mehraj said there is a discrepancy between supply and sales. "Sales have not met our expectations so far, but the true level of consumption will become clear after Eid," he said.

As the festival approaches, both mutton dealers and consumers are closely observing market trends, anticipating a potential rise in demand days before Eid.(KNO)

## Tourists Filmed Drinking Alcohol In Dal Cause Stir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A video circulating on social media that shows tourists consuming alcohol while taking a ride on a shikara in the iconic Dal Lake has sparked controversy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Netizens and religious scholars have condemned the act and are demanding action from the authorities.

"Permitting alcohol inside Dal Lake is a blatant disregard for the cultural and religious principles of Kashmiri people. This is not acceptable at all," a user posted on X.

The Muttahida Majlise-e-Ulama, an amalgam of religious scholars headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, on Saturday

urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to strictly implement laws banning drinking in public places.

The group asserted that the people of Kashmir are hospitable and respect tourists, but any "un-Islamic" or "unethical" act will not be tolerated.

"The MMU expresses serious concern over a viral video on social media, in which a group of tourists are openly drinking alcohol on a shikara in the Dal Lake. The MMU strongly condemns this act and the fact that it has been allowed to take place in Kashmir," the amalgam said in a statement. It questioned why such acts were being allowed given the prohibition in place. | [More on P6](#)

## Er Rashid Will Decide Whether To Join NDA Or INDIA Bloc: AIP

Says He Won By Public Support & Not Vote Of Compassion

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), led by the incarcerated Er Rashid, today said that it is for the party chief to choose between joining the Congress-led Indian Bloc or the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) upon his release from prison.

Addressing a maiden press conference here, following its resounding victory in the Baramulla Lok-Sabha constituency, the party said their current priority is to get Er Rashid out on bail so he could participate in the swearing-in ceremony, if it takes place before



the next date of hearing at the Patiala House Court on June 18.

Firdous Baba, the party spokesman said they have moved an interim bail application with the Patiala House Court through their counsel and are hoping that Er Rashid

will be freed and swear an oath in the Parliament as and when the event takes place.

Er Rashid, he claimed, did not win elections by a vote of compassion but rather by the overwhelming support of the public. He thanked everyone, especially youth for their overwhelming support in the just concluded Lok-Sabha elections.

"Our special thanks to the youth, who voted in big numbers for Er Rashid. We also express our gratitude to the women folk who, in face of strong opposition from their male counterparts, not only supported Er Rashid by voting, but also encouraged | [More on P6](#)

## Govt Employees Sacked For 'Terror Links'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Government Saturday dismissed four employees including two cops, a teacher and an assistant lineman in Jal Shakti department over anti-national activities.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that the activities of these employees had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and

intelligence agencies, as they found them involved in activities prejudicial to the interests of the State, such as involvement in terror related activities.

The statement reads that Abdul Rehman Dar, selection grade constable in police department was involved only in carrying illegal arms and ammunition from one place to another for terrorists, but also providing | [More on P6](#)

### Teacher Suspended For Criticising Govt Policies

A teacher was placed under suspension for disseminating confidential information and criticising government policies in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said on | [More on P6](#)

## Tough Action Against Those Disrupting Peace:DGP

Says We Are Moving From Resident To Foreign Terrorism

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Law enforcing agencies have to act tough against some unscrupulous elements to ensure that the atmosphere of peace in Jammu and Kashmir is not disturbed, Director General of Police RR Swain said on Saturday.

"When there will be peace, elections can take place and, when there is no fear, then only people can vote without fear. That's the atmosphere we want to maintain. Sometimes, we have to face brickbats as well (while doing so)," Swain told reporters after holding a public darbar in Pulwama district.

"To ensure that the streets remain peaceful, please accept that we have to be tough against some people. Police, by definition, is law



enforcement," he added.

Swain said everyone was satisfied that the recent Lok Sabha elections were held peacefully and witnessed a high voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We all are satisfied that the elections were peaceful and the turnout was high. It is a good

beginning and we would like to see this trigger a positive change by pushing forward a security cycle where everyone is free and without fear," he added.

Asked about terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir, the police chief said while the number of local terrorists is dropping, there are 70 to 80 foreign terrorists operating in the Union Territory.

"We are moving from resident terrorism to foreign terrorism. Resident terrorism means when local boys join the ranks. Their number has come down. Our effort has been to ensure, with the help of the community, that no local boy joins the terrorists ... due to these efforts, the number of local terrorists has dropped, resulting in lives | [More on P6](#)

## KIRU HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

### J&K Govt Grants 40 Yr Land Lease

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, J&K approved grant of 40 Year lease with mortgage rights of 1750 Kanal 17 Marla (87.54 Ha) of land acquired by Collector Land Acquisition, Kishtwar for Kiru Hydroelectric Project in village Galhar Bhata Tehsil Nagseni District Kishtwar to Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (CVPPPL) under Rule 13 (ii) read with Rule 16 of J&K Land Grants Rules, 2022.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar,

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

Kiru HE Project is presently under construction by Chenab Valley Power Project Private Limited (CVPPPL) which is a Joint Venture of NHPC Limited & JKSPDC. The work on the project allotted on EPC mode is currently in full swing and is scheduled to be completed by March-2026.

The process has been initiated by CVPPPL for arranging commercial loan for 70% debt component. The lending agencies have made | [More on P6](#)

## "Security Of State" No Longer Valid Ground For Preventive Detention: HC

KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has nullified a preventive detention order, deeming it flawed and invalid for citing "security of the State," a term that is no longer applicable following the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory.

The court determined that when the petitioner was informed of his detention, he was led to believe it was to

prevent actions threatening the security of the former State of Jammu & Kashmir. However, since this state no longer exists, using its security as a basis for detention under the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978, is erroneous.

The court declared the preventive detention of the petitioner to be highly questionable. It pointed out that the District Magistrate of Baramulla (respondent No. 2) made a critical mistake by relying on | [More on P6](#)



## S H O R T T A K E S

### 2 Minor Girls Raped In Udhampur

Two minor girls were allegedly raped by two men in a forest area in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday. The police identified the accused as Dalip Kumar and Ravinder Kumar, both residents of Panchound. According to the police, the girls aged 16 and 17, were on their way home from a school picnic when they were accosted by the accused who allegedly | [More on P6](#)

### SOG Jawan Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

A special operation group personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police died of cardiac arrest in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday evening. A police officer told a Srinagar based news agency that one police personnel of sog Baramulla died due to cardiac arrest. He has been identified as Ab Rasheed from Delina Baramulla. | [More on P6](#)

### SIA Raids Timber Dealer's House

The State Investigation Agency on Saturday raided the residence of a timber dealer in the old city here in connection with an 11-year-old terror attack in Sopore which left four policemen dead, officials said. The SIA sleuths carried out the searches at the residence of Ahmadullah Malla in the Nawab Bazar area of the city in the early hours and seized some material and | [More on P6](#)

### Properties Of 2 Pak-Based Handlers Seized

Jammu and Kashmir Police attached properties worth crores of rupees belonging to two Pakistan-based handlers hailing from Baramulla district on Saturday. According to officials, terror handlers Jaleel Ahmad Rather and Mohammad Ashraf Mir, both residents of Baramulla's Tilgam, have been operating from Pakistan for some time now. After obtaining an | [More on P6](#)

### 26 Yr Killed In Suspected Firing Along IB

A 26-year-old man was killed after being shot in the chest near the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Vasudeva, a resident of Akhnour area of Jammu district, they said. The officials said that the deceased was working as a cook in a company engaged in some construction work | [More on P6](#)

### Interim Bail Granted To Cop In Bribery Case

A special anti-corruption court in Srinagar Saturday granted interim bail to a police officer in a bribery case. After hearing prosecution and defence counsel the court granted the officer 20 days interim bail. In May, ACB trapped and arrested SHO police station Pantha Chowk Azim Iqbal Khan and his tout Mushtaq Ahmad Abassi for demanding bribe of Rs 8 lakh. As per | [More on P6](#)





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# 'High Salt Intake Could Raise Chances Of Skin Inflammation'

Press Trust Of India

High levels of sodium, commonly consumed through salt, could increase the risk of eczema, an inflammatory condition of skin marked by dry and itchy patches, a new study has found.

Previous studies have found the sodium present in skin to be linked with autoimmune and chronic inflammatory conditions, including eczema. They have also showed that consuming fast food, known to contain excessive dietary sodium, is associated with increasing chances of eczema, including its severity, among teenagers.

Also Read: Limit salt & sugar; avoid ultra-processed foods & protein supplements: What ICMR's new nutrition guidelines prescribe

The new study found that eating even one extra gram of sodium than the daily recommendation could increase the chances of eczema flares by 22 per cent. One gram of sodium is roughly the amount present in half a teaspoon of table salt or in a Big Mac, a hamburger sold by McDonald's, the international fast food chain.

While the World Health Organization recommends less than two grams of sodium intake in a day, according to the UK's National Health Service, the recommended sodium intake is 2.3 grams a day.

The study's researchers of the



University of California San Francisco (UCSF), US, said the chronic skin condition has become more common in recent years, especially in industrialised countries, implying that environmental and lifestyle factors such as diet had a role to play.

Limiting sodium intake could, therefore, be an easy way for eczema patients to manage their disease, they said. The findings are published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Dermatology.

"Eczema flares can be difficult for patients to cope with, especially when they are unable to anticipate them and don't have recommendations on what they can do to avoid them," said the study's corresponding author Katrina Abuabara, an associate professor of

dermatology at UCSF.

For the research, the team used data of more than 2 lakh people aged 30-70 years old from the UK Biobank, including urine samples and electronic medical records.

The team analysed the urine samples to find out each participant's sodium intake. From the medical records, they could see if the participant was diagnosed with eczema, or atopic dermatitis, along with its severity.

The researchers found that consuming one gram of sodium more than that recommended raised the chances of developing the skin condition by 22 per cent.

Future research could look at restricting sodium in daily diet as an intervention for eczema, they added.

## SCHOLARSHIPS This Week

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



### SCHOLARSHIP NAME 1 Kotak Junior Scholarship 2024-25

Description: Under the CSR initiative on Education & Livelihood by the Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Junior Scholarship 2024-25 from Class 10 passed students within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Eligibility: Applicants must have obtained over 85% marks in their Class 10 board examination (SSC/CBSE/ICSE) in 2024.

They must have secured admission in Class 11 at junior colleges/schools for Arts, Commerce or Science streams in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) for the academic year 2024-25.

The annual family income of applicants must be INR 3,20,000 or below.

Students must reside within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

- Prizes & Rewards:
- Scholarship of INR 3,500 per month along with mentorship support, academic assistance, career guidance, and exposure visits.
- Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/KJSP2](http://www.b4s.in/observer/KJSP2)

### SCHOLARSHIP NAME 2 Mirae Asset Foundation Scholarship Program 2024-25

Description: Mirae Asset Foundation invites applications from students who are currently pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate courses across India.

Eligibility: Open to students who are currently pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate courses across India. Applicants must have scored at least 60% in the previous academic year. The annual family income of the applicants must not exceed INR 8,00,000.

- Prizes & Rewards: Scholarships up to INR 50,000
- Last Date to Apply: 26-06-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/MAFS1](http://www.b4s.in/observer/MAFS1)

### SCHOLARSHIP NAME 3 Aspire Leaders Program 2024

Description: The global Aspire Leaders Program is a fully funded 14-week online leadership program offered by the Aspire Institute. It has been designed to help students unlock their potential and become well-rounded professionals.

Eligibility: This program is open for students within the age group of 18-29 years. The annual household income of the applicants should be less than 8,00,000. Only first-generation learners are eligible to apply for the program. Participants who have enrolled in or completed an undergraduate program in the last three years can apply. Applicants must have an intermediate level of proficiency in English.

- Prizes & Rewards: Free access to training modules, live sessions by Harvard faculty, and much more
- Last Date to Apply: 03-07-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: [www.b4s.in/observer/ALPS1](http://www.b4s.in/observer/ALPS1)

### GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT) Office Of The Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Zainapora

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No: - R&B/ZNP/DIV/ 956-64

Date: 06-06-2024

#### TENDER CANCELLATION

It is for the information of all concerned that the Tender invited vide this office NIT No.: 32/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2023-24 Dated: 16-03-2024 for the works figuring at S. No. 1,2,3 and 4 are hereby cancelled due to technical reasons.

DIPK-1082/24  
dated: 08-06-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Zainapora



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Prices quoted should be inclusive of all taxes and charges. The quotations will be opened on the next day at 11.A.M in presence of agencies or their authorised representatives, if any. The detailed information of the specifications of Gold Medals and other terms and conditions can be had from Office of the Procurement & Stores, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora or can be downloaded from the University website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in).

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بھ

### از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب شائستہ اختر دختر شریف الدین تیلی ساکنہ پٹن ضلع بارہمولہ  
برادر اجرائی OBC بچن خود

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نائب تحصیلدار FKO

### از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب حبیب اللہ ہنگر ولد محمد اکبر ہنگر ساکنہ بانچی ویرہ تحصیل پٹن ضلع بارہمولہ برادر اجرائی OBC بچن معراج الدین ہنگر و محمد اشرف ہنگر

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عائشہ بنت شوکت دختر شوکت احمد شیر خوار 1 1/2 سال

ساکن مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہانت آمدنی

9800 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کد اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریہ اعراض ہو تو وجہ مشترکہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر آئے عذریہ اعراض وراثت حذا کو فٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عیاد کو بی عذریہ اعراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO





## Eid-Al-Azha Arrangements Finalized In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Eid-Al-Azha celebrations in the District, a meeting of all Sectoral/ Zonal Officers was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review the arrangements made by different Departments for auspicious religious festival.

At the outset, DC reviewed the basic amenities of line departments at the important religious places including Masjids and Shrines where huge congregations of people offer prayers.

He stressed on orchestrating the arrangements up to the expectations of the general public in consonance with good governance. He underlined the requirement of a proactive approach to facilitate the devotees.

While reviewing the availability of sacrificial animals and poultry birds in the District, the DC directed concerned Officers of Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry to ensure availability of sufficient quantities of lambs and poultry birds to cater to the local demand on the religious occasion.

Regarding the proper and scientific disposal of hides, he directed SMC Officers to publicize the collection centre's of hides in every ward of the city and adequate deployment of vehicles for collection of fleeces.

Meanwhile, DC also directed registration of butchers and Nanwais of Srinagar for regulation of their services.

To address the issue of dog menace at prime Religious Places, DC directed SMC to conduct dog catching drives to ensure safety of devotees and cleanliness of surrounding areas.

He also directed to expedite the process of dog sterilization to slump the canine population in the city.

To ensure availability of good quality of essentials and to curb malpractice of overcharging and overpricing in the

### DC Reviews Implementation Of PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Srinagar: In order to review the implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme in District Srinagar, a meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at DC Office Srinagar.

The meeting deliberated on 8359 cases of applications for registration under PM Vishwakarma Scheme for District Srinagar, out of which 6698 cases were approved.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal emphasized the participants to encourage people to undergo the training program under the scheme. He instructed them to make more strenuous efforts so that the benefits shall reach the deserving individuals.

market, DC directed ADC, Srinagar to constitute joint market checking teams of Police, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, Sheep Husbandry and Tehsildars.

Besides, he also directed concerned officers from PHE & KPDCL to provide uninterrupted supply of drinking water and electricity to the consumers especially at Shrines and Masjids.

Similarly, CMO Srinagar was instructed to ensure availability of ambulances and medical staff at Dargah Hazratbal Shrine and other places.

For smooth riding surfaces of approach roads of prominent religious places, Dr Bilal exhorted SE, R&B to fill up all the potholes by June 15 and submit the action taken report.

To celebrate the Eid ul Adha with religious fervor and gaiety, the DC directed deployment of magistrates at the sites.



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

### Naqsh-i-Dawaam

## City Hosts Exhibition On Architectural Epigraphy

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A week long exhibition "Naqsh-i-Dawaam" focusing on the historical writings found on buildings in Kashmir commenced at the Kashmir Arts Emporium in Srinagar on Saturday. Organisers said the event is an organized effort to document, translate, and map these writings on Kashmir's religious structures.

The inaugural ceremony saw prominent figures including Islamic University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Shakil Romshoo, who pledged collaboration for future initiatives in architectural epigraphy.

The exhibition shows detailed drawings, photos, and translations of the carvings, engravings, and paintings. Dr. Hakim Sameer Hamdani, who led the project, said he was happy about the exhibition of these calligraphic inscriptions in Kashmir.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Dr Sameer Hamdani said the exhibition is based on the work that has been done over the period of one year, the grant came from the grant from the Barakat Trust in London, which looks into the art, architecture and history of Islamic world.

"This is a project based on the time period from 14th to 19th century and it looks into the texts, calligraphy on Khanqas, Imambaras, Mosques Overall it gives you an idea about Kashmir. I am delighted to present the first open exhibition of calligraphic inscriptions on historic buildings in Kashmir."

The project is led by principal investigator Mehran Qureshi, the project highlights important inscriptions from the 14th century Sultanate rule to the present. These inscriptions, spanning over four centuries, offer deep insights into

Kashmir's rich heritage.

"The exhibition is an attempt to bring to light the hidden masterpieces of Kashmir history writings that are otherwise ignored by larger academia and masses. Studying such inscriptions lead to clarification in history. I foresee a lot more of such unique undocumented work happening in coming years that needs institutional and academic support to recreate pages of the otherwise lost Heritage," said Ilyas Rizvi, an oral historian and participant in the exhibition.

Organisers say the exhibition aspires to resuscitate these manuscripts, many of which succumbed to the ravages of time. The exposition also exhibits chronicled locales, erudite translations, photographic evidence and reconstituted illustrations, thereby offering an exceedingly rarefied glimpse into the rich heritage of Kashmir.

## Female Burglar Held With 24.46L Stolen Cash

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have solved a case of burglary by arresting a woman alleged to have carried out the offense. Stolen cash to the tune of Rs 23.46 lakhs was also recovered from the accused.

The arrest was made, following a complaint by one Parvaiz Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Khaliq Wani of Chinar Colony, Baghat Srinagar, claiming that some unidentified burglars broke into his home between May 25 and May 27 and stole money.

A formal case under relevant section of Indian Penal

Code (IPC) was registered at police station Saddar in this regard and investigation set into motion. A police spokesman said during the course of investigation, technical evidence was thoroughly analyzed, leading to the arrest of the accused.

He identified the accused as Nusrat Nisar, wife of Nisar Ahmad Kuchay, a resident of Barsoo Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

"Upon her disclosure, a stolen amount to the tune of Rs 23, 46, 000 was recovered from her house in Barsoo Awantipora," he said, adding further investigation into the instant case is on.

## Max Super Specialty Hospital Launches Cardiology OPD In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket today announced the launch of its exclusive OPD services for cardiology, at the Max Med Centre in Srinagar. The OPD launch is yet another patient-centric step taken by the hospital to empower patients with accessibility and quality healthcare services without the inconvenience of travelling to another city.

The OPD Services were launched in the presence of Dr. Balbir Singh, Group Chairman - Cardiac Sciences, Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket who will be available for primary consultations at Max Med Centre on 2nd Saturday of every month from 10 AM to 1 PM. The aim of

this OPD launch is to redefine the healthcare landscape by bringing together exceptional medical professionals and cutting-edge technologies to offer specialised care. During the launch, Dr. Balbir Singh, Group Chairman - Cardiac Sciences, Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket, said "Patients often overlook the early signs of Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), which may include chest pain, pressure, or heaviness (indicating angina), pain in the jaw, left shoulder, arms, elbows, or back, shortness of breath (dyspnoea), cold sweat, nausea, fatigue, lightheadedness, or fainting. These symptoms can vary from person to person and patients may present at different stages of the disease. Many patients who experience multiple heart attacks or have dilated cardiomyopathy eventually develop advanced heart failure."

# OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

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• PAMPORE: 01933-294132  
• PATTAN: 01954-293507  
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**  
• Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )  
• Mughal Road - (Open)  
• Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

<div></div> <div>HIJRI CALENDAR</div> <div>02 Zil-Hajj 1445</div>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3 : 34
	ZUHR	12:30
	ASR	5: 30
	Magrib	7:44
	ISHA	9: 25

### This Day In History

- 641 - Arabic/Islamic army contrasts with the Hippo over Alexandria
- 1898 - China leases Hong Kong's new territories to the United Kingdom for 99 years
- 1915 - US President Woodrow Wilson sends 2nd Lusitania note to Germany protesting sinking of the Lusitania and refuting German claim British blockade illegal
- 1931 - First rocket-powered aircraft design patented by Robert Goddard
- 1940 - General Charles de Gaulle's 1st meeting with Winston Churchill
- 1946 - Bhumibol Adulyadej becomes King of Thailand after the death of his brother King Ananda Mahidol
- 1956 - Heavy earthquake strikes Afghanistan, 400 killed
- 1957 - First ascent of Broad Peak (the world's 12th highest mountain).
- 1964 - Lal Bahadur Shastri becomes Prime Minister of India after being selected by the ruling Congress Party after Jawaharlal Nehru passed away
- 1967 - Israeli troops reach Suez Canal

### From KO Archives

## 5th Relaunch Of Kashir Channel To Cost Rs 5 Crore

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The much-hyped Kashir channel of Doordarshan is poised for 'relaunch' for the umpteenth time on Friday. A neat Rs five crore is likely to be spent to mark the occasion

Reliable sources told Observer News Service two chartered plane loads of senior government officials from the union minis-tries of home and information and broadcast- ing besides scores of Bollywood celebrities were expected to descend on this capi-tal city, otherwise resonant with screams and shrieks emanating from the unabated violence. The VVIP guests, who include Amitabh Bachan and Shah- rukh Khan, would be lodged in Grand Palace hotel.

Sources said the Doordarshan authorities would orga- nise a 2-day extravaganza at the world famous rendezvous, SK International Convention Centre. It will be marked by sev-eral cultural pageants and musical concerts. A team of Doordarshan officials is already in town lining up the ar- rangements for the big occasion.

It may be recalled the Kashir channel is being re- launched for the fifth time, ostensibly by way of commis- sioning of a new transmitter. It was first launched during the erstwhile Congress government in 1996 by the then minister, K P Singh Deo, from Delhi as a satellite channel. A year later, Sushma Swaraj of the BJP government per- formed its fresh inaugura- tion as a terrestrial channel to facilitate direct reception with-out cable or dish antenna.

Again, in 1999, Pramod Mahajan launched the chan- nel with enhanced power transmit-ter. And, for the fourth time, on tins year's Republic day, the gov-ernor and the chief minister launched the channel with great fanfare only to ex- tend the dura- tion of its telecasts to 16 hours.

Well placed Doordarshan sources told Observer News Serv-ice the qualitatively poor channel with hardly with any viewership has allegedly assumed the dubious of being a money spinner for the mandarins in Delhi and Srinagar.

At present, the director general of news, AIR, Harish Awasthi, is holding the additional charge of Kashir channel. His joint di-rector, Anurag Mishra, alleged to be Awasthis blue-eyed boy, holds the additional charge as controller programmes of Kashir channel. He has been seen in a well-known hotel here almost on every weekend.

Over the years, sources said, the channel had enriched a number of people, including an employee of the state for-est corporation whose house was raided by the vigi- lance or-ganisation in 1998 in an alleged corruption case. Among other things, around 120 empty cases of jewelry had been seized It has been alleged more than Rs two crore worth of assignments were given to the kith and kin of the official.

(Kashmir Observer, June 09, 2000)



“

After years of boycotting elections, now when people set aside their disillusionment and returned to the polling booths, politicians should not demonise Kashmiri voters. Defeat should be accepted gracefully and respect should be shown to political opponents



Er Rashid's son Abrar Rashid during a roadshow in North Kashmir – KO photo

# Sore Defeat

Rohool Banka

The 2024 general elections in Kashmir witnessed seismic shifts in political dynamics, notably with the surprising defeats of prominent figures. Former Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah both faced unexpected losses. Mufti, representing the People's Democratic Party, was ousted by National Conference candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency. In Baramulla, what began as a tight race between Peoples Conference candidate Sajad Lone and Omar Abdullah took a dramatic turn with the entrance of independent candidate Er Rashid, who rallied considerable support and clinched a decisive victory. This electoral upheaval underscores the fluid and evolving nature of Kashmiri politics.

Adding to the political culture, Omar Abdullah's statement following the results has stirred controversy. He suggested that Er Rashid's victory

would embolden secessionists and revitalize Kashmir's defeated Islamist movement. This remark has been widely criticized as both arrogant and condemnable, further underscoring the intense and evolving nature of Kashmiri politics.

#### Demonising Kashmiri Voters

Omer Abdullah's statement reflects his desperation for power.

The voters of Baramulla chose Er Rashid for several reasons. They wanted to express their dissatisfaction with the central government's approach and legislations since 2019. Additionally, they were drawn to Er Rashid's simplicity and authenticity—he had connected with the grassroots, wearing traditional Salwar Kameez, sporting a bald face, and donning plastic chappals. His son, Abrar, was an ordinary student using public transport like any common man.

When it comes to public rallies, all political parties, including the Na-

tional Conference (NC), spent substantial sums on campaigns, flooding the streets with posters and pamphlets. In contrast, Er Rashid's rallies stood out for their grassroots approach. Instead of expensive promotional materials, his supporters used organic tools, such as pressure cookers—the symbol of his campaign. This unique and resourceful method resonated deeply with the electorate, reflecting a campaign genuinely rooted in the community.

The National Conference (NC) and its leader, Omer Abdullah, faced a significant challenge in appealing to voters in Baramulla. Abdullah's legacy as a chief minister with instances of violence and general policy dissatisfactions were well-remembered by the voters. The resentment had sustained over the years. This resulted in his disconnect with voters in the region. Similarly, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) faced backlash for previously allying with the BJP. The People Confer-

ence leader, Sajad Lone and his allies were also an unpopular choice as voters had lost faith in mainstream political leaders who they thought were BJP proxies - a party which still does not enjoy people's trust in the valley.

#### The New Voters' Preference

The voter turnout in Baramulla also saw a remarkable increase, reaching 10 lakh votes, compared to previous turnouts that hovered around 5-6 lakh. This surge can be attributed to approximately 4 lakh new voters who participated in the election. These new voters were not necessarily young in age but were politically engaged for the first time. The absence of an organic, educated, and relatable leader in the past prevented these individuals from voting. However, Er Rashid's candidacy provided a fresh perspective that resonated with these voters. In the 2019 Parliament election, Er Rashid garnered over 1 lakh votes, further solidifying

his appeal among the electorate.

#### The "Common Man" Appeal

Er Rashid's appeal lies in his grounded approach and authentic connection with the people of Kashmir. His simplicity, use of local language, and rejection of VIP culture struck a chord with voters, making him relatable and trustworthy in their eyes. This genuine connection and understanding of the grassroots issues are the primary reasons why people associate themselves with him. Abrar, Er. Rashid's son was quite accessible and relatable to the general masses as well.

The people of Kashmir are tired of religious and dynastic elites who exploit them for political gains.

#### Participation in democratic process after years

After years of boycotting elections, now when people set aside their disillusionment and returned to the polling booths, politicians should not demonise Kashmiri voters.

Defeat should be accepted gracefully and respect should be shown to political opponents. They seem to believe that if people do not support their party, the people must be turning towards separatism.

Kashmir's participation in the electoral process is a victory for democracy. It is seemingly giving hope to people here. People were fed up with boycott politics and, for the first time, wanted to experiment with the electoral process to choose their own representative. They had apprehensions about possible rigging and doubted Er Rashid's chances of winning. However, thanks to the Election Commission of India, which demonstrated its credibility, the result was in Rashid's favor. This victory has given Kashmiris renewed hope in Indian institutions and fostered respect for the ECI.

The people of Uttar Pradesh too chose the INDIA Alliance over the BJP, driven by their dissatisfaction with the current government and a desire for change. Defying the predictions of exit polls, they delivered an unexpected result that has been widely praised. This outcome has made the ruling government recognize the importance of embracing diversity and curbing exclusive, hate-driven politics.

Similarly, the people of Kashmir demonstrated their maturity by electing their preferred leader.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*  
*The author is a student of Law*

## An Ally Or A Double-Edged Sword?

AI should be seen as a transformative ally in taxation; but given that it is nascent and evolving, its responsible use with humans in the loop is necessary

Sameer Gupta

Do ChatGPT passing bar exams with flying colours took many by surprise. Artificial intelligence's (AI) ability to come up with suggested diagnosis in the field of medical sciences has also opened several new paradigms to transform healthcare.

Another knowledge-led profession, taxation, cannot be immune to the impact of the newest AI avatar, generative AI (GenAI). We are seeing several use cases emerging at a fast pace, helping legal and tax professionals in their daily lives; they not only help improve productivity but also improve quality of work. However, with the impact of AI also comes the need for careful consideration. Will AI challenge the ways of working of tax professionals, or it will challenge the core competencies of an average tax professional?

#### AI as an innovative partner

Across the spectrum of a typical tax function, there are multiple areas where GenAI is showing promising impact; these areas cut across compliance, research, and litigation for activities such as data handling, smart analysis, document reviews, and summarisation.

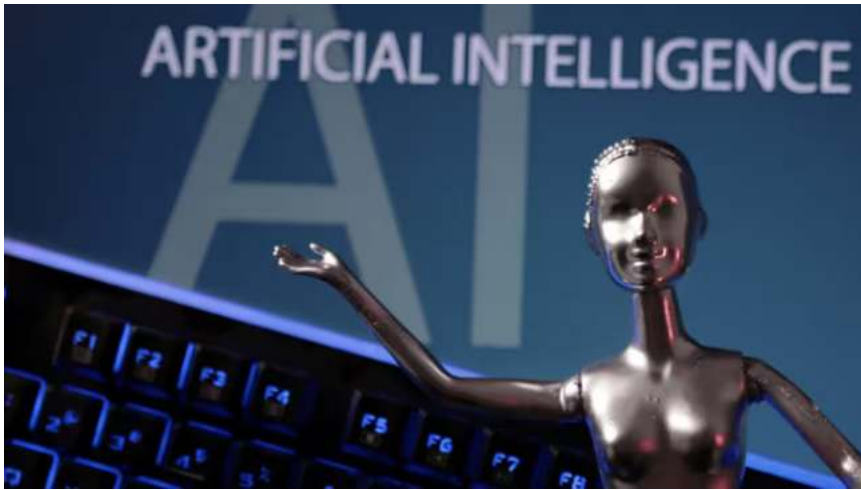
Tax compliance typically involves collecting data from various sources, processing it, and then filling a form template like a tax return or similar document. Conventional tools automate this process to a great extent, but many qualitative tasks are still performed manually. AI can reduce these manual tasks by providing insights and analy-

sis from the data and results. For example, reading and analysing general ledgers or purchase registers and identifying specific events/triggers having an impact on computation of income, blocked input tax credit, or reverse charge transactions under the goods and services tax law.

The function of tax research and litigation is attracting interest in GenAI for its ability to do several tasks better than humans. For example, when a company receives multiple tax notices, AI can help the tax team by quickly reading and validating these notices, and even drafting responses to review and finalise in near-real time. Similarly, GenAI solutions can read and analyse thousands of annual reports and other information and convert it into an insightful output in a matter of minutes.

AI is also transforming courtrooms with the eCourts project, where live video streaming is just the start. Soon, digital records and virtual participation will be common. Imagine AI recording and storing court transcripts for future analysis and providing analytics about the arguments taken and the observations of a bench. Tools like this, which can transcribe meetings, exist today.

Recently, the Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, also commented: "This proves that AI has the potential to enhance the efficiency of court proceedings by automating routine tasks such as document review, case management, and scheduling. By leveraging AI-powered tools, courts can streamline administrative processes, reduce paperwork, and expedite the resolution of legal disputes. This not only saves time



“Across the spectrum of a typical tax function, there are multiple areas where GenAI is showing promising impact; these areas cut across compliance, research, and litigation for activities such as data handling, smart analysis, document reviews, and summarisation

and resources but also improves access to justice by reducing delays and backlogs in the court system.”

Furthermore, AI chatbots can help users 24/7, predictive analytical models can tap into historical data to forecast tax trends, and automation of tax calculations can simulate different scenarios and help to optimise tax strategies, demonstrating AI's crucial role in modernising tax practices and guiding strategic decision-making.

AI as a complex ally  
GenAI is useful, but it also comes

with privacy concerns. We need to think carefully about how we use it. So, what are the challenges? GenAI uses large language models and learns from vast data, but its accuracy isn't guaranteed. In the tax landscape, the margin of error is minimal, and output should be highly accurate.

GenAI can also make up its own answers, which may sound correct but are wrong. "Hallucination" effects can happen for different reasons, like if there's too much data or if the AI wasn't trained well. Hence organisations may explore developing their own pre-

trained model for specific tasks on their proprietary data or partnering suitably. Yet the necessity of maintaining a human oversight, often referred to as the "human-in-the-loop" approach, will remain critical till this technology is nascent and evolving.

Another complex question arising due to advent of GenAI is learning and skilling of next-generation tax professionals; academia as well as young professionals need to find new frameworks of learning, and not fall into the trap of "ChatGPT" shortcut.

While at one level, the tax function is progressively pressured with multi-level policy changes, increased controversy, tighter budgets, talent issues etc., there is tremendous opportunity to see how to use GenAI to suitably tackle these challenges. As a catalyst for change, AI is poised to propel the tax profession in a new era.

However, the future of AI in taxation involves balancing technological advancements with risk mitigation. AI should be seen as a transformative ally in taxation, boosting efficiency and aiding strategic decision-making as tax plays a greater role in C-suite discussions. Yet given that GenAI as a technology is nascent and evolving, its responsible use with humans in the loop is necessary. The revolution is here, and it is time to embrace AI's transformative potential.

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



ICC T20 WORLD CUP  
Titanic Duel

Mushtaq Hurra

Masses of the Indian sub-continent are obsessed with politics and cricket because the twin realms have produced extraordinary idols and influencers whom people of all shades admire, adore and love a lot. Cricket is probably one of the fascinations which infatuate Indians and Pakistanis equally. A sense of nationalism and patriotism associated with cricket in India and Pakistan is quite inevitable because the two neighbouring nations consider it more than a sport.

India of late was abuzz with the democratic carnival of 2024 Lok Sabha elections which wooed people to choose their favourite legislators despite scorching and unpleasantly hot weather. With the hearth of politics still hot, the two nuclear giants of South Asia are all set to lock horns on 9 June at Nassau county cricket stadium in New York, USA. Fans and supporters are eagerly waiting for the high voltage world cup clash. The arch rivals often give us cliffhangers and suspense-thrillers. Millions of frenzied cricket lovers will be glued to their television and smartphone screens on June 9 to enjoy the battle of equals.

Apprehensions, speculations and expectations have risen to new heights. Analysts, experts and pundits of the game have begun threadbare discussions in studios and newsrooms. Some give India a slight edge for their formidable batting prowess, while some have called it an uphill task for them to beat the heat of swingy stuff from the green speedsters. Going by stats, the men in blue enjoy an upper hand



in T20 internationals against their traditional opponents but the mercurial green shirts from the other side of the border are known for their erratic and uncertain character. They suffered a crushing defeat to USA in their world cup opener, yet they can rattle any strong side on a given day. Indo-Pak games go beyond skills, talents and abilities of the players for the pressure and hype created by the media.

The Indian batters can devastate any bowling attack. The likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are in great touch. Though the latter's Mumbai Indian team failed miserably to make it to the

top four, Hitman Sharma played some good knocks for his team. Who is not aware of his ability to pulverize any bowling attack and set a flurry of sixes and fours? But Pakistan's pacers have often handcuffed him terribly. I will call him a bunny of Shaheen Afridi and Amir. Rohit has fallen to Shaheen three times in four international games, while Shaheen has conceded 52 runs against him. In two T20 games, Rohit has scored paltry 4 runs against Shaheen. If Rohit survives the initial intimidation from Shaheen, he can make a difference then. Amir has undoubtedly given nightmarish vibes to the Hitman in the past but the former is not at his best. His dwindling pace and penetration to torment the openers upfront, is a cause of concern for green shirts. And his poor run against the USA will haunt him for many days.

Indian run machine - Virat Kohli has been at his best in the recently concluded IPL, where he amassed 741 runs including a triple figure mark and five fifties with an impressive strike rate of 154.70. His record against the Pakistan team is quite spectacular. India's dominance over Paki-

stan during the last two decades has been spearheaded by Virat Kohli. He can topple any bowling attack of the world. He has piled up more than 1000 runs in 23 international matches against Pakistan. He too has been a bit jittery against Shaheen Afridi. The tall pacer has scalped him a couple of times in four encounters. But, Virat can single handedly take the game away from green shirts. K L Rahul is a good batsman but hasn't been at his best during the recent times. Talented lad like Yashisvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson might sit in the Indian dugout as spectators. Rishabh Pant may be prioritised over Samson for his experience in the game.

Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja provide multiple options to the Indian captain. Pandya's berth in the side is confirmed. He shone in the match against Ireland, in which he scalped three wickets. Kuldeep might be preferred over Jadeja, because the latter is going through the lean patch of his career. Left-arm armoury from Kuldeep may trouble Pakistan middle order. Contrary to the past, India has an indomitable fast bowling attack, spearheaded

by Jasprit Bumra. Siraj and Arshdeep Singh can trouble the Pakistan fragile batting order. Bumra and Siraj can hit the deck hard to intimidate Pakistan batters with short pitch stuff. Drop-in-pitches are assisting fast bowlers substantially. Indian pacers unnerved Irish batsmen, and South African pacers perturbed Sri-Lankans. Is toss going to be crucial in the game, time will tell.

Now, let's delve deep into Pakistan batting. The green shirts rely on the trio of Babar, Rizwan and Fakhar. They are good enough to pulverize any good bowling attack, but they can't flex their muscles freely because of the conditions and behaviour of pitches in the USA. They were rusty against the USA in their first match. Given their poor run against the USA, they might be under tremendous pressure. Saim Ayooob is looking frustrated. He has miserably failed to repeat his PSL heroics at international level. Pakistan might go with Babar and Rizwan at the top, because the duo has brought laurels to Pak sides on many occasions in the past. But, this time around, it won't be a cakewalk. Middle order of Pakistan has been strug-

gling for many months. Iftikhar Ahmad has scored 179 runs in his last 13 T20 innings, at a poor average of 16.1. But, he will certainly play against India. Azam Khan has proven a liability for the Pakistan team.

Will Rizwan or Usman Khan wear gloves to show exodus to the gigantic wicket keeper batsman? Usman played a good cameo against England in their last T20 international clash. And he exhibited great calibre in 2024 PSL. Shadab Khan played a good innings against the US when the Pak side was tottering at 30 for 3. Injury to Imad Waseem should be cause of concern to Babar because the left arm spinner is quite handy with the willow as well. Pakistan pace battery led by Shaheen, Naseem and Haris can exploit the conditions well. The trio possess the firepower to give goosebumps to Indian batters. Will Amir open the bowling with Shaheen or not? Can he repeat his magic when he had undone Indian top order in ICC champions trophy 2017?

Both the teams are balanced and possess the skill to lift the trophy. For me, it is a 50 - 50 affair. The match between the two teams will be a treat to watch. Drop-in-pitches in Nassau, USA are quite different from subcontinent's pitches, where batters enjoy punishing and tearing bowlers. Uneven bounce might worsen the things for batters, particularly during the first innings. Toss might play a role. Team winning the toss, will definitely choose to bowl first. Let's hope the two sides give us a suspense and entertainment packed super Sunday on June 9. The countdown for the match of the tournament has begun, and everyone is waiting eagerly and anxiously.

ICC must be applauded for expanding the horizon of international cricket. Taking the T20 bonanza to the USA is something of a great feat because that part of the world is better known for baseball, basketball, football, ice hockey, lawn tennis and athletics. The move will certainly promote the game across the globe.

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

Going by stats, the men in blue enjoy an upper hand in T20 internationals against their traditional opponents but the mercurial green shirts from the other side of the border are known for their erratic and uncertain character

'I'll Have What She's Having'  
How And Why We Copy The Choices Of Others

Kelly L. Haws

Brent McFerran

Peggy Liu

Imagine you're dining out at a casual restaurant with some friends. After looking over the menu, you decide to order the steak. But then, after a dinner companion orders a salad for their main course, you declare: "I'll have the salad too."

This kind of situation - making choices that you probably otherwise wouldn't make were you alone - probably happens more often than you think in a wide variety of settings, from eating out to shopping and even donating to charity. And it's not just a matter of you suddenly realizing the salad sounds more appetizing.

Prior research has shown people have a tendency to mimic the choices and behaviors of others. But other work suggests people also want to do the exact opposite to signal their uniqueness in a group by making a different choice from others.

As scholars who examine consumer behavior, we wanted to resolve this discrepancy: What makes people more likely to copy others' behavior, and what leads them to do their own thing?

A social signal

We developed a theory

that how and why people match or mimic others' choices depends a lot on the attributes of the thing being selected.

Choices have what we call "ordinal" attributes that can be ranked objectively - such as size or price - as well as "nominal" attributes that are not as easily ranked - such as flavor or shape. We hypothesized that ordinal attributes have more social influence, alerting others to what may be seen as "appropriate" in a given context.

Nominal attributes, on the other hand, would seem to be understood as a reflection of one's personal preferences.

So we performed 11 studies to test our theory.

One scoop or two

In one study conducted with 190 undergraduate students, we told participants that they were on their way to an ice cream parlor with a friend to get a cone. We then told our would-be ice cream consumers that their companion was getting either one scoop of vanilla, one scoop of chocolate, two scoops of vanilla or two scoops of chocolate. We then asked participants what they wanted to order.

We found that people were much more likely to order the same size as their companion but not the same flavor.

The participants seemed to

interpret the number of scoops the companion ordered as an indication of what's appropriate. For example, ordering two scoops might signal "permission" to indulge or seem the more financially savvy - if less healthy - choice, since it usually costs only margin-

ally more than one. Or a single scoop might suggest "let's enjoy some ice cream - but not too much."

The choice of chocolate or vanilla, on the other hand, is readily understood as a personal preference and thus signals nothing about which is better or more appropriate. I

like vanilla, you like chocolate - everyone's happy.

We also asked participants to rate how important avoiding social discomfort was in their decision. Those who ordered the same number of scoops as their companion rated it as more important

For example, in another experiment, we gave participants US\$1 to buy one of four granola bars from a mock store we set up inside the University of Pittsburgh's Katz/CBA Business Research Center. As the ordinal attribute, we used brand prestige: They could

he had tested out a granola bar, randomly specifying one of the four - without saying anything about how it tasted. We rotated which granola bar the employee mentioned every hour during the five-day experiment.

Similar to the ice cream



than those who picked a different amount.

Examining other contexts

In the other studies, we replicated our results using different products, in various settings and with a variety of ordinal and nominal attributes.

pick either a more expensive well-known national brand or a cheaper one sold by a grocery store under its own label. Our nominal attribute was chocolate or peanut butter.

Before making the choice, a "store employee" stationed behind the checkout register told participants she or

study, participants tended to choose the brand that the employee said he or she had chosen - whether it was the cheaper or pricier one - but ignored the suggested flavor.

Moving away from food, we also examined influences on charitable donations. In this study, we recruited online

participants who were paid for their time. In addition, we gave each participant 50 cents to either keep or donate to charity.

If they chose to donate the money, they could give all of it or half to a charity focused on saving either elephants or polar bears. Before they made their choice, we told them what another participant had supposedly decided to do with their money - randomly based on one of the four possibilities.

The results were the same as in all our other studies, including ones we conducted involving different brands and shapes of pasta and varieties and taste profiles of wine. People matched the ordinal attribute - in this case the amount - but paid little heed to the nominal attribute - the chosen charity - which remained a personal preference.

These kinds of social cues regarding others' choices are everywhere, from face-to-face interactions with friends to online tweets or Instagram posts, making it difficult to escape the influence of what others do on our own consumption choices.

And if we believe we're making our companions feel more comfortable while still choosing something we like, what's the harm in that?

By arrangements with The Conversation



# Neuroscience can explain why voting is so often driven by emotion

Agenceis

The British electorate has been more volatile than ever in recent years. The elections of 2015 and 2017 saw the highest number of voters switching parties in modern history. And current polling suggests we're about to see more of the same.

Understanding what's happening in people's brains when they are making decisions helps us understand why certain political messages appeal to them and why they might decide to switch parties.

Political scientists talk about Pedersen volatility, named after the distinguished Danish scholar Mogens N. Pedersen. There is a forbidding

mathematical equation for this, but it all amounts to the net change within the electoral party system resulting from individual vote transfers.

In plain English, volatility is simply the number of people who change party in an election. In late 1960s Britain, the Pedersen index stood at just over 10%, now it is closer to 40%.

There has been much talk about the increased use of social media and its influence on election outcomes. A recent study by Professor Hanspeter Kreisi, a Swiss election expert, reported that a steady stream of argument and voting cues [are] allowing voters to make enlightened choices that are in line with their preferences.

This might well be true, but a recent study found that while politicians post more on social media during election campaigns, overall the number of posts with policy content is lower not higher.

The voting brain  
One of the more interesting developments in electoral studies is that we are now able to use social neuroscience methods to understand voting behaviour.

In the past decade, neuroscience has enabled us to identify the parts of the brain that get activated when you watch political adverts. What these results show is that most people are driven by fear and emotion rather than by rational argument in election

campaigns.

In practice, this means that voters are more susceptible to messages that stress the negative rather than the positive. Researchers found that negative images and statements about products led to heightened activity in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, which is also associated with decision making.

For example, negative information about a brand of cola made subjects more likely to buy the competing brand. However, when this experiment was repeated with political parties rather than soft drinks, the negative effect was three times higher. Negative political advertising works, and we now have the fMRI scans to

prove it.

Politics is a bare-knuckle fight, and our brains reflect that. Evolution has conditioned us to be driven by fear when we are under threat. We want to survive above all.

By playing on our fear and anger, those who devise election slogans are producing perhaps deliberately messaging that triggers parts of the brain associated with revenge and pent up rage, including the so-called anterior cingulate cortex (or ACC), deep in the front part of the fissure that separates the two brain-hemispheres. So, if I am furious that Rishi Sunak has not brought NHS waiting lists down, it is likely that the ACC has gone into

overdrive.

Older people who tend to vote in higher numbers are particularly interesting here. This is because as we age, we become more prone to activating the so-called dorsolateral prefrontal cortex an area of the brain associated with caution.

It is unlikely that Rishi Sunak has delved into the finer points of neuro-politics but his strategy is consistent with what we know from social neuroscience. His emphasis on need to stick to the plan and not gamble on the opposition appeals to those with oversensitive dorsolateral prefrontal cortices namely the older voter cohort he most needs to convince.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Grace Marks

and their parents led by Allen Career Institute director Brijesh Maheshwari held a protest and tried to take out a candle march but called it off after assurance by the district collector. They demanded that the NEET exam be re-conducted.

There have been calls from several quarters for a re-exam alleging that the grace marks awarded to make up for the loss of time at six exam centres have led to the inflation of marks and tampered with the chances of other candidates.

These centres are from Meghalaya, Bahadurgarh in Haryana, Dantewada and Balodh in Chhattisgarh, Surat in Gujarat and Chandigarh.

The result of the medical entrance exam was announced on June 4 and thereafter aspirants have been alleging multiple issues, including irregularities in the test demanding fresh examination.

Sixty-seven candidates had shared the first rank in the exam including eight from the same centre in Haryana. A record more than 24 lakh candidates had registered for the exam this year.

"A high-powered committee has been set up to review the results of over 1,500 candidates. The four-member panel headed by a former UPSC chairman will submit its recommendations within a week and the results of these candidates might be revised," NTA Director General Subodh Kumar Singh said at a press conference here.

"The awarding of grace marks has not impacted the qualifying criteria of the exam and the review of results of the affected candidates will not impact the admission process," he added.

According to experts, the mark inflation in NEET UG 2024 result is expected to make securing a spot in medical school this year more difficult. Some aspiring students have turned to online platforms to demand the cancellation of the results and a re-examination.

Asked about whether the exam will be re-conducted for certain students, the NTA DG said, it will be decided depending upon the committee's recommendations.

"The idea is to ensure that students who lost time or other students are not at any disadvantage," he said.

Singh denied any paper leak and irregularities in the exam and reiterated that the integrity of the crucial test had not been compromised.

The Congress in Kerala alleged that results have raised concerns about the authenticity of the national exam for medical courses, with many students casting doubt on the procedure.

"The Modi government is directly responsible for this. For the candidates appearing in recruitment exams, then facing several irregularities, getting caught in the labyrinth of paper leaks, is playing with their futures. The BJP has cheated the youth of the country," Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X on Friday.

"We demand that a high-level investigation should be conducted under the supervision of the Supreme Court so that our talented students appearing in NEET and other exams get justice," he had added.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin said the trends from the latest NEET results have once again vindicated the DMK on its stand opposing the exam and reiterated that the entrance test goes against social justice and federalism.

The NTA DG reiterated that the increase in cutoff reflects the competitive nature of the examination and the higher performance standards achieved by the candidates this year.

"The number of candidates who appeared in 2023 was 20,38,596 while the number of candidates who appeared in 2024 increased to 23,33,297. The increase in candidates naturally led to an increase in high scorers due to a larger pool of candidates," he said.

Explaining the rationale behind the awarding of grace marks, Singh said, the process has been completed using a formula devised and adopted by the Supreme Court in a 2018 judgement.

"The concerns raised by the candidates through the writ petitions and representations about loss of examination time were ascertained and 1,563 candidates were compensated for the loss of time, and the revised marks of such candidates vary from -20 to 720

marks. Among these, the score of two candidates also happens to be 718 and 719 respectively due to compensatory marks," the official added.

The NTA had on May 5 claimed that the distribution of wrong question papers at an exam centre in Rajasthan led to some candidates walking out with the papers. The agency had denied any leak of the question paper.

A day later, the NTA had reiterated that the reports claiming question paper leak in the medical entrance exam NEET-UG are "completely baseless and without any ground", and every question paper has been accounted.

### Modi Set To Take

Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) are among the allies who may be a part of the new government, sources said, adding that either Singh or Jha will be accommodated from the JD(U) quota.

Maharashtra, where the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP alliance has fared poorly, and Bihar, where the opposition has shown signs of revival, may be in the focus during the government-formation exercise.

Assembly polls are due in the western state in October, while polls will be held in Bihar next year.

Impending changes within the BJP's organisation will also be on the mind of its brain trust in finalising the names of ministers from the party.

Nadda's term was extended due to the Lok Sabha polls, and organisational imperatives will be an important consideration for the party as the poll results have sent signals that all may not be well within its vast machinery.

This opens the possibility of some seasoned hand being sent to the party and Nadda being given a berth in the government, the sources said.

The desertion by a section of voters, especially from the Scheduled Castes and other deprived sections of society, may also be a guiding factor in government formation even though Modi had made a point to increase their relative representation in his outgoing term.

Nehru is the only prime minister who held the post after three consecutive elections after independence.

The BJP is keen to send out a message of continuity and ward off any impression of political vulnerability following its surprising below-par show in the Lok Sabha polls as its seat tally fell to 240 from 303, considerably short of the majority mark of 272.

The government has announced that leaders of several neighbouring countries, including from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Mauritius, will be attending the swearing-in ceremony slated to take place at 7:15 PM on Sunday at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### INDIA Bloc Offered

that the JDU has rejected all the offers from the opposition and plan to work with the NDA for the next five years.

"Nitish Kumar's speech supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put to rest all the rumours doing the rounds. These reports should have stopped when we (JDU) joined the NDA," Tyagi said.

"We were hurt by the way Congress and its allies treated our leader, and had to choose a different path. Those who thought Nitish Kumar was not worthy of being the alliance's convener are now offering him the Prime Minister's post. But the JDU has already rejected all such offers," he added.

The 73-year-old also said that their main demand would be to grant a special status to Bihar, which he said would help Bihar develop.

"All the resources, coal mines went to Jharkhand when the state split, Bihar was left with unemployment, poverty and migrants. Bihar cannot develop unless it is given a special status," Tyagi said.

Buzz of a sensational Nitish Kumar - INDIA bloc reunion surfaced Tuesday evening after it became clear the BJP would not win 272 seats on its own. Senior INDIA leaders, including former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, suggested an olive branch might be extended to Nitish Kumar.

On Thursday sources close to Nitish Kumar ruled out this possibility, but left a sting in the tail; with both sides locked in talks over ministerial berth allocation, the BJP brass was

reportedly told to remember Nitish Kumar had walked out of the INDIA bloc over delays in naming him as its Convener.

According to sources, JDU will get two key posts in the new cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which will be sworn in tomorrow. The party has proposed the name of two senior leaders - Lalan Singh and Ram Nath Thakur. Lalan Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bihar's Munger, while Ram Nath Thakur is a Rajya Sabha MP. Thakur is the son of Bharat Ratna awardee Karpoori Thakur.

### Foreign Delegates

a video of the preparation for the grand ceremony which showed a large number of chairs being arranged and covered with white cloth and the laying of a red carpet.

A selected cuisine and speciality of the Rashtrapati Bhavan kitchen would be served to the guests at a banquet to be hosted by President Droupadi Murmu after the swearing-in ceremony, the officials said.

Leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean Region have been invited for the swearing-in ceremony scheduled to begin at 7.15 pm on Sunday, they added.

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu, Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay have accepted invitations to the ceremony.

Prachanda will be accompanied by his daughter Ganga Dahal, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Padam Giri and high-ranking officials of the government of Nepal.

Modi will take oath as the prime minister for a third straight term. He and his council of ministers will be sworn in by Murmu following the ruling National Democratic Alliance's victory in a keenly contested Lok Sabha election.

The leaders of regional grouping SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries attended Modi's first swearing-in ceremony when he took the reins as the prime minister after a massive electoral victory for the BJP in 2014.

Leaders of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries attended Modi's swearing-in ceremony in 2019 when he became prime minister for the second consecutive term.

The Delhi Police has imposed prohibitory orders and declared the national capital a no-flying zone for June 9 and 10 for the ceremony.

### Tourists Filmed

"While public consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited under the law, why and how it has been allowed is a matter of worry," it added

"The people of Kashmir are hospitable and respect tourists visiting the valley as guests. However, such un-Islamic and unethical practices will not be tolerated in the Muslim majority valley which is the land of saints and Sufis," it said.

"Consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited in Islam for its disastrous ill effects and deprivation of society cannot be allowed to go unchecked," it added.

The MMU appealed to hotel owners, houseboat owners and Shikara operators to keep an eye on such "wrongdoings" and stay away from indulging in any "un-Islamic and immoral practice" just to earn a profit.

Chief Spokesperson of National Conference, Tanvir Sadiq said, "Strongly condemn the vulgar acts of tourists drinking alcohol on a Shikara in Dal Lake. Under the garb of 'Kashmir Badal Raha Hai,' the government must remember that such behavior is not acceptable here. A modern society doesn't dance vulgarly in the streets or drink in public."

"These acts must end under the guise of tourism. The Jammu and Kashmir administration must strictly enforce laws banning public drinking. Our hospitable people respect tourists, but un-Islamic and unethical actions will not be acceptable," he posted on X.

### Er Rashid Will

them to do the same," Baba said, adding, a vote of compassion might have contributed to his success.

"Er Rashid, as you are all aware, has been incarcerated in Tihar jail for the past five years. Following our victory in Baramulla Lok-Sabha constituency recently, we have started the legal process to ensure our leader takes part in the oath ceremony," the spokesman said.

He also expressed gratitude to the Patiala House for being liberal to them, saying the matter would be heard again on June 18 with the option to make an application to have Er Rashid participate in the swearing-in ceremony, in case the event was held before the next date of hearing.

"I hope Er Rashid will be freed from prison and given an opportunity to take an oath in the parliament. The jail administration blocked his communications for unknown reasons. We have also moved an application before the court to have his communication restored," he added.

When asked if Er Rashid would join the NDA or sit in the opposition with the INDIA bloc upon his release from prison, he said it was up to Er Rashid to make that decision.

The AIP spokesperson expressed his optimism that the AIP supremo will also be allowed to take an oath as a member of parliament, noting that no candidate who ran from jail and won elections has ever been prevented from attending the swearing-in ceremony.

He also took a jibe on NC vice-president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his recent comment against Er Rashid, saying such assertions have a potential to stoke serious controversy.

"Since religious matters are sensitive in nature, Omar Abdullah should refrain from making comments having potential to stoke controversy," he added.

### Govt Employees

camouflage uniform cloth and other material to them, taking undue and criminal advantage of being in the department.

It added that Ghulam Rasool Bhat, a police constable, is also involved in the commission of offence of carrying illegal arms and ammunition from one place to another for terrorists.

"As Kote NCO in the rmory of a district, he was supplying ammunition and weapons to the terrorists for a long time. He was linked to the terrorist ecosystem, through a network of OGWs, who have been operating at the behest of terrorist outfits based in Pakistan", it reads.

As per the statement, Shabir Ahmad Wani, a teacher in the education department has been an active member of Jamat-e-Islam (JeI), a proscribed separatist association having tangible links with terrorist organization.

"He played a substantial role in strengthening JeI and creating a network of people among JeI sympathizers. Various FIRs have been registered against him because of his direct involvement in inciting and leading an unlawful assembly of mob instigating rioting and violence in DH Pora during the 2016 unrest."

It added that he continues to be a hardcore OGW of banned terror outfits, in particular the HM and his affiliation has perpetually aided terrorist activities in and around Kulgam, collecting information for facilitating attacks, clandestinely.

"Anayatullah Shah Pirzada, Assistant Lineman in the Jal Shakti Department is a terrorist associate of Al-Badr Mujahideen, a proscribed terror outfit, has worked covertly in a variety of ways to support the agenda of terrorists. He had direct association with dreaded terrorists like Yousef Baloch and Tameem, who were the commanders of Al-Badr Mujahideen, operating at different times in Kashmir."

The statement added that he has been involved in various FIRs pertaining to the recovery of satellite phone ans hand grenades communicating with the terrorists of Al-Badr Mujahideen based in Pakistan.

It further reads that the government has adopted a zero tolerance policy towards anti-national elements who have been taking advantage of being in government service.

### Teacher Suspended

Saturday.  
The action against Grade-II teacher Fiaz Ahmed was taken after a video showing the dilapidated condition of his remote Government Middle School Draman in Bhatyas zone went viral on social media early this week.

The teacher is seen talking about the shabby accommodation, lurking threat to the lives of the minor students and inadequate staff to manage eight classes.

Chief education officer (Doda) Prakash Lal Thappa confirmed the teacher's suspension and said the department has sought a detailed project report from the concerned department for repair of the school.

The teacher was placed under suspension on Friday, while a DPR was sought from the Public Works Department for immediate repair of the school building, Thappa said

In his suspension order issued on Friday, he said the department has taken a serious note of the viral video as the concerned teacher did not resist the entry of the unauthorized person into the premises and instead disseminated confidential information as well as criticized the government policies like 'digital India', school education policies and working of higher authorities in violation of service guidelines.

The teacher was asked to explain his position within two days on June 6 and his reply has been found 'not satisfactory' as well as 'non convincing', the order reads.

Therefore, pending inquiry into the matter, the teacher is placed under suspension with immediate effect and during the suspension period he shall remain attached to Higher Secondary School Chanti.

The order said a two-member committee comprising the principals of Higher Secondary School (girls) Thathri and Saringal will conduct an in-depth inquiry into the alleged act of 'violation of government instructions' by the suspended teacher and shall furnish their report to this office within a stipulation of 21 days positively with specific recommendations.

The local residents said over 100 local students are enrolled in the school having a staff strength of four teachers, one of whom is not performing his duties for the past four years.

The school was upgraded to middle school over a decade ago and some more class rooms were added to it but were never completed, prompting the management to adjust the children in the two rooms of the old building that are also not repaired for a long time and posing a threat to the lives of the students, they said.

The teacher said they have raised the issue with the Zonal Education Officer several times.

He said one of the teachers is not performing his duties in the school, while another among the rest of the three is looking after the accounts section and only two of them are attending the class. PTI

### Tough Action Against

being saved and a drop in violence," Swain said.

"There are 70 to 80 foreign terrorists who have come in. They have been trying to come here regularly and, when they do come, they bring along guns and IEDs. Sometime back, they tried to blow up electric poles. They don't come with money, schools or hospitals," the police chief said.

There are a few locals who shelter them and take them from one place to another, Swain said. "We have to act against them so that others remain safe."

### J&K Govt Grants

a condition of mortgage of movable & immovable assets including land for grant of commercial loan.

Administrative Council has accordingly granted approval for lease of land with mortgage rights for 40 years (renewable) in favour of CVPPPL and authorizing Administrative Secretary, PDD to take further action regarding signing lease agreements and other actions on behalf of Govt. of J&K. The project with estimated cost of Rs 4288 Cr is positioned to cater to the power needs of Jammu and Kashmir by generating 2272.02 million units of energy annually.

### “Security Of State

an outdated rationale. This flawed reasoning was also adopted by the

Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in their approval and confirmation of the detention, without proper scrutiny by the Advisory Board.

Additionally, the court said that none of the FIRs cited against the petitioner were related to the security of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. It asserted that even if one assumed "security of the State" referred to the security of the Union Territory, this assumption was legally invalid.

The court noted the District Magistrate's failure to show any thoughtful consideration about whether he had been thoroughly informed on the status of the FIRs.

The inclusion of these FIRs in the detention grounds seemed more aimed at sensationalising the petitioner's profile rather than providing a solid basis for preventive detention.

Consequently, the court declared the petitioner's preventive detention illegal and quashed the detention order.

### 2 Minor Girls

raped them in a forest on Friday evening, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said the girls were lying unconscious in the forest area throughout the night and were recovered by the police upon getting information Saturday morning.

The girls were shifted to a hospital in Ramnagar for treatment, he said, adding that a case under relevant sections of law was registered at the local police station and further investigation is on.

The spokesman said the accused had fled after committing the crime but was arrested by special police teams which were constituted and fanned out in different directions.

### SOG Jawan Dies

Meanwhile, further proceedings in this regard have been taken up.

### SIA Raids Timber

documents, the officials said.  
They said the raid was carried out as part of the investigations into the April 2013 terror attack in the Hygam area of Sopore in Baramulla district.

Four police personnel were killed in the attack when terrorists, waiting in an ambush, opened fire on them.

### Properties Of 2

attachment order passed by the additional sessions court in Baramulla, police attached eight 'kanaals' and four 'marlas' of land, they said.

The action was taken under CrPC section 83 and is linked to an FIR registered under various sections of the law, including the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the officials said.

They said the property was identified as belonging to the terror handlers during the investigation.

### 26 Yr Killed In

in the border area.

The incident occurred late Friday night in the Regal Border Outpost area and preliminary inquiry suggested that Vasudeva was apparently shot by the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on noticing suspicious movement and mistaking him as an intruder from across the border, they said.

According to his colleagues, the incident took place when he had gone out of his tented accommodation to relieve himself.

He was rushed to district hospital Samba where he was declared dead by the doctors, the officials said.

Senior BSF and police officers visited the scene and further investigation is on, they said.

Hospital Medical Officer K. Jandyal said the patient reached the hospital around 11 pm with his vitals not responding.

Every effort was made to revive the patient but he could not be saved, she said, adding he had a bullet injury in the chest and his body was shifted to the mortuary for post-mortem.

### Interim Bail Granted

prosecution, ACB said it received a written complaint wherein it was alleged that Khan through his tout Mushtaq Ahmad is demanding Rs 8 lakh as bribe for issuance of a report in an accident case to the complainant.

During the course of investigation by ACB, a trap team was constituted and SHO and his tout were apprehended red handed while demanding and accepting bribe from the complainant.





## Will Make Better Arrangements For Mela Kheer Bhawani: Div Com

KO NEWS SERVICE

**GANDERBAL:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Saturday visited the Kheer Bhawani Temple Tullamulla to inspect and finalize the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani.

At the outset, Div Com chaired a comprehensive meeting attended by Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Arvind Karwani; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir; SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; SSP Rural Traffic; Director Disaster Management; Director Health Services Kashmir Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir; SE KPDCI Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings; DIO Ganderbal and other district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, Div Com reviewed the security arrangements, accommodation facilities, traffic management, medical facilities, larger facility, parking areas, sanitation measures, Fire and Emergency and availability of power and water supply.

He stressed the importance of ensuring all necessary facilities are provided to devotees for performing religious rituals seamlessly.

Executive Engineer KPDCI was instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and installation of street lights at all prominent locations within the

temple premises and enroute. Additionally, gensets shall be kept available at the temple and transit camp established within the Central University of Kashmir (CUK).

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department was directed to ensure a sufficient and treated potable water supply at both the temple and the transit camp at CUK.

EO Municipal Council Ganderbal was tasked with ensuring proper sanitation measures in and around the temple.

Meanwhile, Div Com toured the temple, inspected the arrangements, and gave necessary instructions to the District Administration and representatives of the Dharmarth Trust to further augment the arrangements. Earlier, the Div Com was briefed by Deputy Commissioner on the steps taken to ensure a smooth Mela and it was informed that various line departments, including Medical, Municipality, Police, Information Department, etc. will erect stalls to provide necessary facilities to the devotees during the Mela.

Furthermore, Div Com directed officers to maintain close coordination and ensure proper arrangements are in place to facilitate smooth and hassle-free celebrations of the festival.

Later, Div Com visited the transit camp established within CUK, where he was briefed by the Deputy Commissioner regarding the plans for parking and accommodation measures for visiting devotees.

## Govt transfers 2025 Kanals of land for different Industrial Estates in J&K



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, J&K approved transfer of 2025 kanals and 03 Marlas of land for development of Industrial Estates in Budgam, Anantnag, Shopian and Reasi districts.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The locations where the land has been transferred are village Watalpora (55 Kanals), B.K. Pora (85 Kanals 5 Marlas) in Budgam district, Brah Tehsil Shangus (633 Kanal 5 Marlas), Hassan Noor, Pahalgaon (119 Kanal), VeerBijehara (101 Kanal 02 Marlas), Nanil Aung (100 Kanal), Ranbipora, East Mattan (223 Kanals 5 Marlas) in Anantnag district, Berthipora Keller (55 Kanals 13 Marlas), MelhuraZainpora (152 Kanals) in Shopian district and 500 kanals 13 Marlas at village Nambal, district Reasi.

Establishment of Industrial Estates in these areas shall play important role for the development of the area, create various employment opportunities which shall be in the interest of the public and the Government. An amount of Rs. 3167 crores is expected investment in these industrial estates with expected employment of 31,990 persons.

Administrative Council also approved utilization of un-allotable land patches, each one having the area of up to 200 Kanals, at Industrial Estate, Bhagthali, Kathua by allotment in terms of J&K Industrial Land

## Amusement Park To Come At Tattoo Ground, AC Gives Nod

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, J&K granted approval for conveying consent of the UT Government to Government of India for setting up of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the development of Theme/Amusement Park at Tattoo Ground, Srinagar over 139.04 acres of land.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

Earlier UT Government had approached MHA in this regard who proposed a collaboration with Government of UT of J&K for the development of this amusement park. The Government of India intends to support the UT of J&K to leverage the tourism potential of J&K and catalyze growth in the tourism sector by attracting tourists from across the globe by creating a State of the Art Theme/Amusement Park (Theme Park)

at Tattoo Ground, Srinagar. The Theme Park will not only enhance tourist footfall but it will also be a centre of revenue generation and create employment opportunities in the region. To undertake the project, a formal institutional structure is proposed as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), under the Companies Act, 2013. The SPV so formed will implement the Theme Park either by itself or through its subsidiary or through a private player, on a Public Private Partnership basis or through any other acceptable mode, as may be decided. SPV will be an asset light company with no investment in the creation of capital assets.

The project is expected to create sufficient employment opportunities in the UT. The project will be first of its kind in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the theme park zoning involves sectors like hotels, hospitality, rides, indoor attractions, retail, commercial, offices, film facility, food and beverage etc. and all these sectors have huge potential to create employment generation in the region.

Allotment Policy, 2021- 30 for optimum use of the limited land resource. Industrial Estate at Bhagthali, Kathua by virtue of Administrative Council decision No. 49/3/2022 dated 15.03.2022 was reserved for large investment projects, which require land exceeding 200 kanals which are cleared by Apex Level Land Allotment Committee (ALLAC) under J&K Industrial Land Allotment Pol-

icy, 2021-30.

Since there remained some utilized land patches of less than 200 kanals, the matter has been brought before the Administrative Council by Industries & Commerce Department as the earlier decision of Administrative Council was required to be altered for approving allotment of un-utilized land patches of less than 200 kanals.

## With Rising Sedentary Lifestyle, Kashmir Witnesses Surge In Fitness Industry

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Syed Abu Bakar Bukhari, a 20 year-old lad is a fitness freak. Given his interest in fitness, he always desired to set up a state-of-the art gym to provide fitness solutions to the people of his area.

Come 2024, he realized this dream and set up a facility in his area. "I have been inot fitness for more than a decade and always wanted to do something in this industry. So, I set up a gym in my area given the growing interest of youth into fitness and sports," he told the news agency.

offer state-of-the-art equipment, personalized training programs, and a range of fitness classes to cater to diverse preferences.

The surge in investment in the fitness industry is not only driven by commercial motives but also by a genuine desire to address pressing health concerns prevalent among Kashmiri youth.

Showkat Ahmad, a 28-year-old entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast, exemplifies this trend. Motivated by his passion for fitness and the desire to promote a healthier lifestyle among his peers, Ahmad recently inaugu-



Just a few kilometres away from Bukhari's gym, many more such facilities have sprouted up, reflecting a broader trend of youth-driven entrepreneurship and a shift towards healthier lifestyles.

Kashmir over the last few years has seen a notable rise in investments within the fitness industry. A burgeoning number of young entrepreneurs are setting up gyms to cater to the growing demand for fitness facilities.

These new fitness centers

rated a gym in Baramulla.

Speaking about his venture, Ahmad expressed optimism about the growing interest in fitness activities among Kashmiri youth.

"I have always been passionate about fitness, and I noticed a gap in the market for modern gym facilities that cater to the needs of young Kashmiris. With this facility, I aim to provide a space where individuals can pursue their fitness goals in a supportive and well-equipped environment," he said.

## People Hail Resumption Of DGP's Public Darbar



Agencies

**PULWAMA:** The Public Darbar initiative, recently resumed by Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain, is garnering widespread praise from the public for providing a direct platform to address their grievances and engage with law enforcement.

The resumption of this programme has been lauded for promoting transparency, community involvement and strengthening the relationship between the police and the public.

On Saturday, hundreds of people gathered at District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama to present their issues to the DGP and seek resolutions.

According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), approximately 300 applications were received during the Darbar. The DGP gave on-the-spot directions in many cases and assured attendees that pending cases would be addressed as soon as possible.

An elderly man from Pulwama shared his ordeal, saying his son was killed by terrorists years ago, and he has been seeking employment for his other son under the Special Relief Operation (SRO) for the past two years. "I have been moving from pillar to post, seeking

employment for my son under SRO," he said.

After meeting the police chief, he expressed hope that his issue would soon be resolved. "The DGP Sahab assured me that my son would get a job," he added.

A woman expressed her concern about her husband being posted outside Kashmir while their child is ill. She requested her husband's transfer back to Kashmir for better care of their child. "DGP Sahab assured me that justice will be done. I'm hopeful that my husband will be transferred soon to Kashmir," she said.

Many attendees raised issues including requests for re-investigations of their cases, citing improper investigations in the past. "DGP directed the concerned authorities to look into the matter and re-investigate the cases wherever required," they said.

The attendees strongly advocated for similar Public Darbars to be held in every district. They said these redressal programmes are crucial for the timely resolution of issues, especially for the less privileged.

Holding such Darbars in every district at least twice every six months would significantly strengthen the bond between the police and the public, the attendees said-(KNO)

## DC Bandipora Visits Yatra Transit Camp Shadipora

KO NEWS SERVICE

**BANDIPORA:** In an effort to address local concerns and ensure effective administration, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today conducted an extensive field tour of Bandipora and Sumbal areas of the district to inspect ongoing developmental projects, assess public grievances and interact with local residents.

During the field tour, DC paid a visit to District Hospital Bandipora to review the availability of medical supplies, facilities available in Blood Center, CT Scan and efficiency of other emergency services.

While interacting with healthcare staff, the DC emphasized cleanliness in and around the hospital in addition to enhancing patient care.

Stressing on quality healthcare, the DC directed hospital administration to address deficiencies promptly.

During his visit to the far-off Banyari area of Sumbal Sub Division, the DC inspected under construction 0.10 Mgd Rapid Sand Filtration plant of WSS Banyari Sharki, which is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 crore under CAPEX.

AEE Jal Shakti Sumbal apprised that 80 percent of work has been completed, and the rest will be completed within the stipulated time.

The DC also visited the pump station of the newly started lift irrigation scheme at Anwath Banyari, which is designed to boost agricultural productivity

by providing a reliable water supply to more than 1200 kanals of agricultural land.

AEE Mechanical Irrigation informed that presently, the pump station is capable of discharging 5 Cusec water, and it has been started on a war footing basis to ensure timely support for agricultural sector.

He said that after this season, the pump station will be further upgraded to enhance its capacity and efficiency.

The DC also paid a visit to dewatering pump station Saderkoot, and directed the concerned to complete the pending work on priority.

During the tour, the DC visited Delta Park Banyari to assess the facilities available for tourism development, besides he also inspected ongoing work on the Wular walkway.

He directed the concerned department and executing agency to redouble the efforts for completing the Wular walkway project within the stipulated timeframe. The DC also assessed the progress of work for Mini Secretariat Hajin and asked the concerned to ensure adherence to quality standards and timelines.

On the way, the DC interacted with the public to gain firsthand insights into their needs and concerns. Locals presented various demands and flagged-off public issues.

After patiently listening to the issues of the public, the DC assured redressal of all genuine issues on priority, besides impressed upon officers to optimize resource allocation and enhance service delivery.

## 25037 Traffic Challans, 492 Electricity Disputes Resolved Amicably In Special Lok Adalat

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Under the patronage of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority and with the approval of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, as well as under the guidance of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, a Special Lok Adalat was organized throughout the UT of J&K today, with a special emphasis on the amicable settlement of traffic challans and disputes related to electricity bills pending disposal before various courts in the UT of J&K.

As per the data received from various District Legal Services Authorities in the UT of J&K, a total of 26006 Traffic challans and 767 Electricity disputes were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 25037 Traffic Challans and 492 disputes relating to electricity were amicably settled, involving a total amount of Rs. 1,02,56,419/- providing significant relief to the litigants. District Jammu and



District Srinagar emerged as the leaders in settling 11887 and 10814 cases respectively which constitutes about 90% of the total cases disposed of in the today's Special Lok Adalat.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, while appreciating the efforts of officers and officials of DLSA Jammu and Srinagar informed the media persons that this was the Sixth Special Lok Adalat of the current calendar year. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such kind of Special Lok Adalats organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

Lauding the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries of the DLSAs, Advocates, staff of

the district and tehsil courts, and Legal Services Institutions, as well as the litigants for their wholehearted participation in the Special Lok Adalat and facilitating the settlement of cases in such large numbers, he also acknowledged the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic, in creating and spreading awareness amongst the masses about such initiatives of the J&K Legal Services Authority.

Gupta further informed that the next Special Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024, focusing on the settlement of Bank Recovery Cases pending disposal in different courts within the UT of J&K as also those yet to filed and are at Pre-litigation stage.

## Assembly Elections a Roller Coaster For Omar, Mehbooba After LS Polls

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The recent Lok Sabha elections have proven challenging for two former Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti. Both leaders faced significant losses in their respective constituencies, with Omar Abdullah losing in 15 out of 18 assembly constituencies and Mehbooba Mufti in 16 out of 18.

Omar Abdullah's Performance: As per news agency, National Conference (NC) leader

Omar Abdullah managed to secure victories in only three constituencies: Pattan, Gurez, and Budgam. In Budgam and Pattan, Omar's lead was marginal, with just six and four votes respectively over independent candidate Engineer Rashid. Engineer Rashid, who contested as an independent, dominated the Baramulla seat, outperforming Omar in most areas including Sopore, Uri, and Karnah. People's Conference candidate Sajjad Gani Lone also outshone Omar in Handwara, securing more votes than all his competitors.



Mehbooba Mufti's Performance: People's Democratic

Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti found support in only two

assembly constituencies on the Anantnag-Rajouri seat, Bijbehara and Anantnag West, where she led against the winning NC candidate Mian Altaf. However, in other areas such as Kulgam, Doru, and Nowshera, Mehbooba's performance was weak, with her vote count falling below 10,000 in several constituencies. Despite her perceived influence in Anantnag, the voters did not back her in this election. In Bijbehara, she secured a lead of about 2,500 votes.

**ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS:** Engineer Rashid's Victory:

Engineer Rashid's strong performance is notable, with substantial support in separatist strongholds like Sopore, Uri, and Karnah.

Sajjad Gani Lone's Dominance: Sajjad Gani Lone of People's Conference showed significant strength in Handwara.

Nazir Ahmed Khan's Candidacy: Nazir Ahmed Khan, brother of separatist Naem Khan, contested from the Baramulla seat under the Jammu Kashmir Nationalist People's Front but received only 2,019 votes. He even lost his security deposit.

Non-local Candidate in Anantnag: Baldev Kumar, a non-local from Mohali, contested from the Anantnag-Rajouri seat and garnered 6,189 votes (0.6 percent).

Candidate Vote Counts and Percentages: Engineer Rashid: 472,481 votes (45.7%), Omar Abdullah: 268,339 votes (25.95%), Sajjad Gani Lone: 173,239 votes (16.76%), Mian Altaf: 521,836 votes (50.85%), Mehbooba Mufti: 240,042 votes (23.39%), and Zafar Iqbal Manhas: 142,195 votes (13.86%)-(KNO)



# T20 WC: Spotlight On NY Pitch As Steady India Take On Wounded Pakistan

Press Trust of India

**NEW YORK:** A confident and well-adjusted India would look to capitalise on an unpredictable Pakistan's vulnerable state and lack of familiarity with the tricky conditions here when the traditional rivals lock horns in their eagerly-awaited T20 World Cup clash on Sunday.

The marquee game, which is expected to draw the biggest crowd of the tournament so far, will be held at the newly constructed 34,000-seater Nassau County International Cricket Stadium at the Eisenhower Park on the outskirts of the city.

Heading into this high-profile contest, the 22-yard pitch remains a major talking point, having already faced significant criticism for its unpredictability, which the ICC has officially acknowledged.

In the six innings of the three matches hosted at the stadium so far, teams have surpassed the 100-run mark only

twice. Some former players have wondered aloud whether the low-scoring conditions would be of any help in selling cricket to the American market through the showpiece.

The four drop-in pitches at the venue, laid in April under the supervision of Adelaide Oval groundsman Damian Hough, are yet to settle down properly.

The uneven bounce of the surface has also raised safety concerns for the batters, especially after Indian skipper Rohit Sharma was hit on his shoulder, forcing him to stop batting during the tournament-opener against Ireland on June 5.

"I don't know what to expect from the pitch to be honest. We will prepare as if the conditions are going to be like this (for Pakistan game). This is going to be a kind of game where all XI of us will need to contribute," Rohit had said after the game against Ireland.

A day after India's game, the ICC had to release a statement,



addressing the growing concerns surrounding the pitches prepared for the New York-leg of this T20 World Cup.

"The ICC recognise that the pitches used so far at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium have not

played as consistently as we would have all wanted," the statement read.

The Pakistan team, however, is yet to acclimatise to the conditions at Nassau Stadium.

They arrived in New York on Thursday night following their

shocking defeat to tournament debutants USA and took the next day off.

As a result, Babar Azam and his squad have had limited time to adjust to these challenging conditions, which could be a disadvantage head-

ing into this crucial encounter. And a defeat against India could significantly complicate their qualification prospects.

Against Ireland, the Indian think-tank left out left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav from the playing XI and opted for an extra specialist fast bowler.

On Sunday, the strategy is expected to remain the same, particularly as the match is expected to be played on an unused centre turf. South Africa and Netherlands are playing a game at the Nassau stadium on June 8 but on a different track.

However, given Kuldeep's recent form and his favourable match-ups against Pakistani batters, especially Babar, the team management might consider including him.

If so, one out of Axar Patel or Ravindra Jadeja may have to sit out. The batting is more or less settled with Rohit and Virat Kohli expected to continue as openers and Rishabh Pant taking the No.3 slot.

Pakistan, on the other hand, would be hoping to get their act together after the opening shock.

Their legendary unpredictability was on full display against the USA, who pipped them in the Super Over for a memorable win.

Babar blamed the loss primarily on bowlers but what he cannot afford to overlook is the underwhelming performance of the team's batters, including him.

The captain consumed 43 deliveries for his 44, which is nowhere close to being a decent strike rate in the shortest format. He would be hoping to do better.

And with conditions helpful for seamers as pointed out by India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah after the Ireland game, it won't be a surprise if the lethal version of Pakistan's bowling attack led by Shaheen Afridi decides to show up on Sunday and put the team's campaign back on track.

Stringent Security Measures

## Kohli, Bumrah can take game away from Pakistan: All-rounder Fawad Alam

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan all-rounder Fawad Alam said Babar Azam's side will have to nullify Indian stars Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah in their high-profile T20 World Cup match on Sunday for a win and get their campaign back on track.

While India started the tournament with a resounding eight-wicket win over Ireland, Pakistan shockingly went down against co-hosts USA in the Super Over.

"Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah will make an impact for India in the game because of their experience and also the quality of both of them. They can easily take the game away from Pakistan," Alam told PTI videos in an interview.

"As a team, India is well-balanced, and it will be really hard to get past them."

Alam, who played 19 Tests, 38 ODIs and 24 T20Is for his country, said left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir will have to come up with a match-turning effort against India, similar to his burst against them in the Champions Trophy final 2017.

"I feel Mohammad Amir will redeem himself and give a match-winning performance against India alongside captain Babar who has had a pretty decent record against them," said Alam, whose last T20I for Pakistan came back in 2010.

Amir had an ordinary Super Over against the USA, conceding 18 runs, but Alam warned against writing the pacer off.

"Based on that super over, you can't blame Amir. He is not

the same bowler as he was four years back.

"He has been playing cricket in different leagues and is still Pakistan's best and most experienced bowler," he added.

Alam, however, accepted that losing to the USA was not "acceptable" and Pakistan would feel pressure against India.

"Pakistan losing to the USA is very shocking. The USA is playing in their first World Cup, so it is not acceptable at all.

"Now the pressure is on Pakistan in the game against India. All I can hope is for a good game of cricket," he said.

Alam hoped that Pakistan bowling would come good against India, despite lacking good spin options.

"Imad Wasim's injury has come as a shock. Shadab is completely out of form with the ball in his hand. Pakistan is clearly lagging in bowling, especially in the spin department.

"India has Bumrah, (Mohammad) Siraj, and Kuldeep (Yadav) who can pose a threat. But if Pakistan bowling clicks in the improved conditions as claimed by ICC then we may witness them having an edge over India," he noted.

The left-arm spinner said the International Cricket Council (ICC) should have inspected the drop-in pitch in New York well in advance to the tournament.

The deck at the Nassau County stadium has been offering variable bounce to pacers, often posing a threat to batters' limbs.

India's Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant took hits during the match against Ireland.

## Even Curator Is Confused About NY Pitches: Rohit Sharma

Press Trust of India

**NEW YORK, JUN 8 (PTI)** Still baffled by the Nassau County ground's unpredictable pitch, India captain Rohit Sharma on Saturday said he has no idea what to expect from it in the T20 World Cup clash against Pakistan as even the curator is "confused" about the drop-in wickets being used here.

The matches in New York have seen low scores, including in India's first match against Ireland when the latter was bowled out for a sub-100 total. The ICC had to issue a statement acknowledging the inconsistent nature of the tracks.

"New York is not our home ground. We have played two matches here but we don't have much awareness about its nature. It behaves differently on different days, so even the curator is confused," Rohit said on the eve of the game against Pakistan.

"So, you can imagine the kind of thinking we need to put in. We don't know on which pitch we are playing (against Pakistan), so, whoever plays better cricket will win the match," he added.

The slowness of the outfield,



Rohit said, has compounded the worries.

"The outfield is slow. Some shots get lot of bounce on the field, and some others do not roll on the field. So running between the wickets is important. We need to play as per conditions," he explained.

However, the skipper said such external factors can be neutralised by playing good cricket and his teammates often thrive in tough situations. The Indians will also be the more confident unit as Pakistan are coming off stunning loss to tournament debutants USA in their lung-opener.

"Playing good cricket holds the key, not opposition, not pitch. Yes, it's tough but that's why I would like to highlight the experience we have. The blows count for nothing," said Rohit, referring to the hits he and Rishabh Pant took in their tournament-opener against Ireland due to the uneven bounce.

India will come up against some seriously quick Pakistan fast bowlers such as Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf on Sunday, but Rohit drew comfort from the team's past experience of playing in pace-friendly countries like Australia and South Africa.

## Norway Chess: Praggnanandhaa Beats Nakamura; Carlsen Wins Norway Chess

Press Trust of India

**STAVANGER:** Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa ended his campaign on a positive note by defeating American Hikaru Nakamura in the finale to sign off third even as world number one Magnus Carlsen won the Norway Chess tournament here.

Carlsen walked away with prize money of 7,00,000 NOK (Around USD 65,000 reserved for the winner) for ending with 17.5 points in the unique tournament that ensured that each round had a winner either through Classical time control or Armageddon if the game ended in a draw.

Nakamura finished second on 15.5 points despite losing to Praggnanandhaa, who concluded third on 14.5 points.

Praggnanandhaa can be happy with the fact that he defeated the top three ranked players in the world in one of the strongest ever tournaments.

He had beaten Carlsen and Caruana under Classical time control earlier in the tournament and his win against Nakamura ensured that he became the first player ever to beat the top three.

The fourth place went to Alireza Firouzja (13.5 points) who accounted for reigning world champion Ding Liren of China. The Iranian turned Frenchman also won under



the Armageddon, leaving Liren at the bottom of the standings behind Caruana who finished on 10 points for the fifth place in the six-players double round-robin tournament.

In the Women's section, Wenjun Ju had no trouble securing the top spot at the expense of compatriot Tingjie Lei. The Chinese won with 19 points in all coming from three wins under Classical time control.

Anna Muzychuk finished second on 16 points, 1.5 points ahead of Lei who in turn was two points clear of R Vaishali. Koneru Humpy on 10 points was a distant fifth ahead of veteran Pia Cramling who tallied eight points in all.

The final round was not devoid of excitement. Carlsen delivers on demand and he did just that yet again against Fabiano Caruana.

After a regulation draw in

the Ruy Lopez as white Carlsen reserved his energy for the final Armageddon and his Queen pawn opening ensured a tangible advantage as the game progressed.

The Norwegian won in the Queen and pawns endgame after 52 moves when his passed pawn in the centre was about to become a new Queen.

Praggnanandhaa took his chances in the middle game arising out of a London system and did not regret as Nakamura was on the backfoot right from the word go. Unleashing a king side attack the Indian romped home in just 31 moves.

Results final round men: Magnus Calrsen (Nor, 17.5) beat Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 11.5) 1.5-1; R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 14.5) beat Hikaru Nakamura (Usa, 15.5) 1.5-1; Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 13.5) beat Ding Liren (Chn, 7) 1.5-1.

## Spirited Afghans clip Kiwi wings, secure 84-run upset win in T20 World Cup

Press Trust of India

**GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), JUN 8 (PTI)** A determined Afghanistan rode on splendid spells from their skipper Rashid Khan and left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi to stun an under-prepared New Zealand by 84 runs and make a strong case for a Super Eight berth in the T20 World Cup here.

Chasing a tricky 160 at the Providence Stadium here, 2021 runners-up New Zealand were shot out for a lowly 75 in an innings that lasted a mere 15.2 overs with only Glenn Phillips (18) and Matt Henry (12) managing double-digit scores.

The decision to bowl after winning the toss backfired on the Black Caps as the Afghans relied on openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 56-ball 84 and Ibrahim Zadran's 44 off 41 to post a reasonably good total of 159/6 in the low-scoring tournament.

Gurbaz was expectedly adjudged player of the match for his knock.

The triumph was a reminder of Afghanistan's first big upset win in 2016 when they defeated West Indies by six runs in Nagpur after restricting the eventual winners to 117/8 in their defence of 123/7.

Farooqi, who snared five wickets for nine runs against Uganda, returned figures of 17/4 off his 3.2 overs, including the match-sealing dismissal. Rashid was also lethal as

he collected the prized scalp of Kane Williamson (9 off 13) with his first ball. He finished overall figures of 17/4 off his four overs.

It took Afghanistan to four points from two matches, having earlier beaten Uganda by 125 runs. The West Indies and Uganda occupy the next two spots, while Papua New Guinea and New Zealand are the last two teams who haven't opened their accounts.

Afghanistan next face PNG on Friday, while NZ will be up against the co-hosts West Indies on Thursday.

"One of the greatest performances from us in T20I cricket against a big team," said Afghan skipper Rashid Khan terming it a "great team effort."

"The way Ibrahim and Gurbaz started again... The wicket was not easy. They did not throw away their wickets.

"Great win for Afghanistan and it is a privilege to be leading this side and winning against NZ," Williamson acknowledged that Afghans "outplayed them".

"To get a total like that on a fiddly surface, they kept wickets in hand and played it beautifully. Not good enough from us. Quick turnaround, we have to regroup quickly and onto the next challenge," Williamson said.

Farooqi triggered the New Zealand collapse with the devastating new ball spell.

## No Excuses, An Incredibly Frustrating Performance: Kane Williamson

Press Trust of India

**PROVIDENCE:** New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Saturday termed his side's 84-run defeat against Afghanistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup as "incredibly frustrating" and urged his teammates to move on quickly from the reversal.

New Zealand struggled against Rashid Khan (4/17) and Fazalhaq Farooqi (4/17) while getting bowled out for 75 in 15.2 overs while chasing 160.

"Incredibly frustrating performance. We certainly did prepare to the best of our ability. So, no excuses. For us, it's moving on quickly.

"We know we've got a match in a few days and it's about putting out a better performance," Williamson said in the post-match press conference.

In their second Group C match, New Zealand will face co-hosts West Indies at Trinidad on June 13.

Williamson said the Kiwis would hit the boardroom soon to find a way to dish out a better performance against the two-time champions.

"We're going to have to sit

down. We are going to have to have a chat and review a little bit and then move on quickly because the tournament is short from here on.

"I mean, it was mentioned we've been here for a long time (in the West Indies), but we knew that when the games started, they'd be coming thick and fast.

"So, it's making some small adjustments, and we know we go to a different venue against a different opposition. So, it's important we prepare for what's in front of us again. We know how strong the West Indies side is," elaborated Williamson.

However, the affable Kiwi did not take anything away from a brilliant Afghan side, which dished out a cohesive performance to outwit his unit.

"I mean certainly they're not the standards that we expect of ourselves. But take nothing away from Afghanistan, they were superb.

"And they've been building as a group for some time now and we're seeing performances like that from them quite regularly," he added.

## Anshu Malik Settles For Silver In Budapest

Press Trust of India

**BUDAPEST, JUN 8 (PTI)** Indian woman wrestler Anshu Malik could not match the skills of her 21-year-old Chinese rival Kexin Hong in the final, bowing out tamely to settle for a silver in the 57kg category of the Budapest Ranking Series here.

Competing against the No.1 ranked Chinese, Anshu lost 1-12 on technical superiority against the Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medalist in the 53kg category.

India's Antim Panghal had earlier fought hard to settled for a silver in the 53kg category, while star wrestler Vinesh Phogat lost to Jiang Zhu of China 0-5 in the quarterfinals in the 50kg category.

Anshu started with an incredible bout against Anastasia Nichita of Moldova, winning 6-5 on points to secure a place in the semifinal. With Nichita leading 5-4 and just 19 seconds remaining on the clock, Anshu scored a takedown on the edge



to claim a 6-5 lead to win the close contest.

She then overcame the challenge of world champion Zhang Qi 2-1 on point to secure a title showdown with another Chinese.

But Hong proved far too superior for the Indian, taking a 4-1 lead in the opening round before asserting her class in the second round and taking an unassailable lead with 11 seconds still remaining on the clock.

India's only male wrestler to qualify for the Paris Olympics, Aman Sehrawat had earlier won a silver on the opening day losing 1-11 on technical superiority to Japan's Rei Higuchi.