

## Kashmir Drenched By Rains

# MeT Predicts More Rains Till August 23

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Heavy rainfall lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir on early Saturday morning ending a prolonged period of dry weather in the Union Territory.

The weatherman has predicted the possibility of a brief spell of rain and thundershower at a few places during day time & light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of J&K towards late night or early morning during the next three days.

Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of a brief spell of rain and thundershower at a few places during day time & light to moderate rain and thundershower at isolated places of J&K towards late night or early morning from August 21 to August 23.

The MeT has also predicted the possibility of intense showers for brief period and heavy rainfall in Jammu division that

may lead to flash floods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones over vulnerable places of J&K during the next three days.

Meanwhile, a flood-like situation was witnessed in Kellar area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday after the cloudburst occurred at Chowgam Kellar area while the rains lashed most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing down the mercury across the Union Territory.

As per the details available, the cloudburst at Chowgam Kellar led to the flood-like situation today as the muddy water entered into several residential houses.

Although no damage occurred due to the incident, the muddy water has entered into the residential houses in the hamlet today, the locals informed.

As per the details, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a rainfall of 8.8 mm from 08:30 this morning to | More on P6

## Kolkata Medic's Rape-Murder

# Doctors Unite For Nationwide Strike, OPD Services Hit At GMC Srinagar



### 5 DEMANDS OF DOCTORS

- Central Act for Doctor and Hospital Protection
- Declare Hospitals as Safe Zones
- Improved Conditions for Resident Doctors
- Investigation of the Kolkata Incident
- Compensation for the Bereaved Family

MAJID NABI

Srinagar: The outpatient department (OPD) services at the Government Medical College (GMC)

Srinagar and its associated hospitals came to a grinding halt on Saturday in response to the nationwide strike called by the Indian Medical

Association (IMA) against the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar hospital in Kolkata.

IMA, a representative voluntary | More on P6

## Centre To States: 'Send Law & Order Report Every 2 Hrs'

Amidst nationwide outrage over the Kolkata Doctor rape-murder incident at RG Kar Hospital in the city, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday stepped in reportedly issuing a crucial notification to all the police forces across the nation seeking law and order situation report. The Union | More on P6

## Parents Allege Role Of Interns, Doctors From RG Kar

30 Suspects In CBI List

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The parents of the doctor, who was allegedly raped-murdered at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital last week, told the CBI that several interns and physicians from the hospital might be involved in the crime, an officer said on Friday.

The parents also provided the central agency, which is investigating the case under an order from the Calcutta High Court, with the names of persons they suspect to be involved in their daughter's murder at the state-run hospital.

"The parents told us that they suspect the involvement of multiple persons behind the sexual assault and murder of their daughter. They have given names of a few interns and doctors who worked with her at the hospital," the CBI officer said.

The agency is | More on P6

## 86th AGM Of Shareholders

# J&K Bank Announces 215% Dividend

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank Saturday announced 215 percent dividend for shareholders during 86th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held here at its Corporate Headquarters.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash chaired the AGM - themed 'Goals Met: Promises Kept' - in presence of Bank's Directors-on-Board including Principal Secretary to Government (Finance Department) Santosh D Vaidya (IAS) - representing majority share-holder and promoter i.e. J&K UT Government. Couple of Bank's board-directors joined the meeting through video conferencing.

Besides a large number of valuable shareholders, the meeting was also attended by the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Company Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, and other senior officers besides members from the media fraternity.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary Santosh D Vaidya commended all the stakeholders of the Bank for its eventful journey of 86 years. He stated, "From the initial investment of Rs 5 Lacs, which has grown to more than Rs 10000 Cr today, the Bank's own business has increased to over Rs 2 Lac Cr. While seeing the ups and downs during | More on P6

## J&K ELECTIONS 2024

## J&K Parties Gear Up to Finalise Poll Manifestos

Agencies

Srinagar: As the Election Commission announced three-phased assembly polls from September 18, the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have geared up to finalize the manifesto, with most of these parties stating that it will be made public within a week.

National Conference (NC) spokesperson, Imran Nabi Dar said that the meeting with regard to the manifesto for assembly elections was held today at party headquarters.

"The manifesto has been finalized and will be made public within a day or two," Dar said.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) spokesman, Najam-us-Saqib informed that the manifesto for the assembly polls will be made public within the next



one week.

"The discussion is going on and consultation within the leaders is already on," he said, adding that the manifesto will be ready and made public within next one week.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul said that the manifesto would likely be out within the next two or three days. | More on P6

## BJP Wraps Up Feedback Exercise

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir BJP has wrapped up its process of massive feedback exercise in all zones of the UT ahead of framing a compact poll manifesto by the high command in New Delhi even as jobs, free rice and minimum power tariff is what people have sought in all the interactions BJP leader have held so far.

BJP started the feedback exercise in a bid to make a people-friendly poll manifesto for the J&K Assembly polls commencing from September 18 in three phases. J&K will witness its first assembly election after

a decade. It will also be the first election in J&K after the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 when Centre sliced the erstwhile state into two UTs- J&K and Ladakh.

A senior BJP leader said that it had formed different zone-wise committees in both regions of Jammu and Kashmir to get feedback from people on their demands so that a people-friendly manifesto could be framed. "We are done with the exercise and a detailed report will be sent to the party high command on August 18. We are expecting the election manifesto to be out any time after August 25," said a BJP leader, who | More on P6



## Taj Ditches Azad, To Re-join Congress

Observer News Service



Jammu: A day after Congress changed the leadership in Jammu and Kashmir, many former Congressmen are returning to the party fold shortly.

Earlier in the day, in a major setback for J&K's former Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party, the former legislator and senior leader Taj Mohi-Ud-Din said he will rejoin the Congress soon.

The development comes a day after the Election Commission of | More on P6

## Will Contest J&K Assembly Polls: Dr Farooq

Says Omar To Succeed After Statehood Restoration

Observer News Service

Srinagar- National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said he will participate in the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Farooq Abdullah said that he will contest the assembly polls, and



that once the statehood is restored, he will step down and his son Omar Abdullah will contest from the seat.

He said that the Statehood has been | More on P6

## 'NC Parliamentary Board To Decide CM Face'

Senior National Conference leader and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadotra on Saturday said his party's parliamentary board will decide the chief ministerial candidate in the coming | More on P6

## 'Sexual Assault' On Minor HC Rejects Bail Plea Of Accused

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has rejected bail application of a 41-year-old man accused of sexual assault on minor girl in Nowshera area of Srinagar last year.

According to prosecution, on 31 March 2022, a complaint was received from a resident of Baramulla, putting up at a rented house at Nowshera Srinagar, that her two minor daughters were playing in the lawn of the house and one person namely Amit Ambarbar who was also residing on ground floor in the same house, called both of them in his room and gave some money to one and sent her outside for purchasing chewing gums.



Then he allegedly attempted to rape her second daughter, the police said.

Accordingly, FIR No 27/2022 under sections 376-AB IPC and section 7/8 of POCSO Act was registered. During investigation, it said, the statement of the victim was also recorded under section 164 of Cr.P.C. and her medical examination was also

conducted. After the completion of investigation, the prosecution said, the offences under section 376 IPC and 7/8 of POCSO Act were "established" against Ambarbar and a chargesheet was presented against him on 27 May 2022. Ambarbar, a resident of Janipur Jammu, was charged under section 506 IPC and 9/10 of POCSO Act by the trial court on 27 June 2022.

"In the present case the petitioner is alleged to have committed aggravated sexual assault on the victim who is aged only six years. It is true that maximum punishment prescribed for offence under Section 9 punishable under Section 10 of the POCSO Act is seven years but that is only | More on P6

## 'Corruption, Backdoor Appointments' FIR Filed Against Ex MD J&K Handloom Corp

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday registered two cases against former managing director of Jammu and Kashmir Handloom Development Corporation Limited Rakesh Sharma and others for alleged corruption and backdoor appointments, officials said.

Two FIRs have been filed against Sharma, proprietors of Shree Tex Engineers from

Maharashtra, and others over allegations of corruption involving the procurement of looms and the appointment of 14 officials through backdoor channels in the corporation.

In another case against the former MD, it has been alleged that he misused his authority by approving the appointment of 14 individuals without advertising the positions, thereby benefiting the appointees unlawfully.

Investigations into both cases are ongoing, officials said.



## Army Commander Reviews South Kashmir Security



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar on Saturday reviewed the security situation and the counter-terror grid in south Kashmir.

"#LtGenMVSuchindraKumar, #ArmyCdrNC, along with #GOC @ChinacorpSLA, visited South Kashmir to review the Counter Terrorism grid and prevalent security situation," the Northern Command said in a post on X.

The commander | More on P6

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# Scholarships This Week

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

## Scholarship Name 1: Bharti Airtel Scholarship Program 2024-25

Description: Bharti Airtel Foundation invites applications from deserving students enrolled in technology or engineering undergraduate and integrated courses (up to 5 years) at the top 50 NIRF (engineering) institutions across India. The program is designed to support students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, with focus on girls, to help them become future technology leaders.

Eligibility: For the Bharti Airtel Scholarship Program 2024-25, students should meet the following eligibility criteria:  
 Confirmed admission in the first year (starting with the 2024 cohort) of the UG/5 year integrated courses in fields of Electronics & Communication, Telecom, Information Technology, Computer Sciences, Data Sciences, Aerospace and Emerging Technologies (AI, IoT, AR/VR, Machine Learning, Robotics) at the top 50 NIRF Engineering institutions across India. (Basis the latest list available).  
 Must be a citizen and resident of India  
 Family annual income from all sources should not exceed INR 8.5 Lakh  
 Applicants should not be recipients of any other scholarship or grants for the same purposes supported by Bharti Airtel Foundation.

NOTE: Girl students are encouraged to apply. Prizes & Rewards: Scholarships are for the full duration of the UG courses including integrated courses of up to 5 years (subject to meeting the renewal criteria).  
 Each scholarship covers 100% of annual fees as per the fee structure of the respective institute/universities.  
 The hostel and mess fees shall be given to all eligible students who apply for it. For students staying in PG/outside hostel, the support shall be extended as per the Hostel/Mess charges of the institute. A laptop will be provided in the first year of the course.  
 Once the Bharti Scholars graduate and are subsequently gainfully employed, they will undertake to voluntarily ex-



tend financial support to at least one student at a school or college level at any point of time, to the extent they can.  
 NOTE: Refundable and security deposits are not covered under the Bharti Airtel Scholarship 2024-25. Students are responsible for these payments and their refunds.

• Last Date to Apply: 10-09-2024  
 • Application mode: Online applications only  
 • Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ASPI2

## Scholarship Name 2: Aspire Scholarship Program 2024-25

Description: Aspire Scholarship Program 2024-25 is a CSR initiative of SWAYAM Charitable Trust, a not-for-profit organization set up by Dr. Ajai Chowdhry and his family. The scholarship aims to provide financial support to underprivileged students pursuing B.Tech. courses at 11 prestigious engineering institutions across India.  
 Eligibility: Students joining the first-year of B.Tech. courses at any of the specified 11 institutions can apply. Annual family income of the applicants should not exceed INR 6 lakh from all sources.  
 Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship based on the actual fee structure to cover academic expenses, such as tuition fees, hostel fees, food, and related expenses.

• Last Date to Apply: 20-08-2024  
 • Application mode: Online applications only  
 • Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RMKSP4

## Scholarship Name 3: Raman Kant Munjal Scholarships 2024-25

Description: The Raman Kant Munjal Scholarships 2024-25 is an initiative by the Raman Kant Munjal Foundation, supported by Hero FinCorp, that aims to help undergraduate students pursuing finance-related courses to pursue their dreams of a promising career and a better life.  
 Eligibility: Students enrolled in the first year of BBA, BFIA, B.Com. (H. E), BMS, IPM, B.A. (Economics), BBS, BBI, BAF, B.Sc. (Statistics), or any other finance-related degree courses are eligible. Applicants must have secured at least 80% marks in Classes 10 and 12. The annual family income of the applicants should be less than INR 4 lakh. Open for Indian nationals only.  
 Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship from INR 40,000 to INR 5,50,000 per year for three years

• Last Date to Apply: 10-09-2024  
 • Application mode: Online applications only  
 • Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ASPI2

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System**  
 Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Northern Railway, Store Branch, DRM Office, Firozpur (Punjab) for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. no.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due date
01	94245564A	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Hydraulic re-railing Equipment (HRE)	01 Set	13.09.2024

Note: Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e www.ireps.gov.in The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a Class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.  
 Tender Notice No. 17/2024-25  
 Dated: 16.08.2024

**The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education, New Campus, Bemina Srinagar**  
 ATTENTION PLEASE  
 The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he/she has lost his /her qualification certificates have the following description.

Roll No.:-	360236	Roll No.:-	362297
Class:-	10th	Class:-	12th
Year & Session:-	2003 Annual Regular	Year & Session:-	2005 Annual Regular
Registration No.:-	02BM3096007	Registration No.:-	02BM3096007
Name:-	AIJAZ AHMAD BHAT	Name:-	AIJAZ AHMAD BHAT
Father's Name:-	GHULAM UD DIN BHAT	Father's Name:-	GHULAM UD DIN BHAT
Mother's Name:-	SARVA BEGUM	Mother's Name:-	SARVA BEGUM
Date of Birth:-	10-08-1987	Date of Birth:-	10-08-1987
Residence:-	GUNDIAHANGIR	Residence:-	GUNDIAHANGIR

Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate qualification certificate. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.  
 Besides the losted "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE", bearing serial no/S. Class 10th (1808262) Class 12th (05AKTR-518337) Shall be treated as "CANCELLED"  
 FKO  
 Sd/ Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD

**Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri**  
 Sub: Application of Shaheena Begum W/o Late Abdul Hamid Bhat R/o Reshipora seeking their in the Dependent certificate.  
**NOTICE**  
 Regarding the subject cited above, in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned Abdul Hamid Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Reshipora has passed away on 28/05/2024. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Shaheena Begum	Wife	50	H/W
2	Humaira Hameed	Daughter	28	H/w
3	Shakir Hameed Bhat	Son	21	Student
4	Danish Ahmad Bhat	Son	26	Labour

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.  
 fko  
 Naib Tehsildar

**AN URGENT APPEAL**  
 (My Daughter Needs Liver Transplant)

I would like to appeal all the generous, kind hearted people that my daughter Seerat Gul R/O Nowgam, Tehsil Sumbal is suffering from Wilson's disease with partial HTN with recurrent ascites and SBP. The patient needs liver transplant as recommended by doctors. The liver transplant estimate is about Rs 40 lacs as certified by Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. Subsequently I request general public, who are bestowed with means and sense of charity and empathy to provide me assistance so that I can save the precious life of my daughter.

**Mushtaq Ahmad Najar**  
 F/o Seerat Gul  
 R/o Nowgam Sumbal  
 A/C No: 0729-0420-0000-0089  
 J&K Bank Branch : Gadakhud Gamdoo  
 IFSC Code: JAKA0GAMUDD  
 Cell No: 9622428470

**از دفتر نايب تحصیلدار پٹن**  
 عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فیاض احمد چوپان و نیدہ نور اولادان نور دین چوپان ساکن شہر پورہ بانگل بڑھن حصول OBC بنج

**اشتہار ہرخاص وعام**  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بنج OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ چوپان پٹن کی ہے جو کہ برکاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنجاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی تمام چوپان سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن شہر پورہ بانگل میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ ساکن کا کئی بڑے افراد پر مشتمل ہے

نور دین چوپان	گورنٹ ملازم	70 سال
فیاض احمد چوپان	مزدوری	38 سال
ریاض احمد چوپان	گورنٹ ملازم	36 سال
فقیہ بیگم	گھریلو کام	68 سال
نہدہ نور	زرتعلیم	23 سال
روضہ بی	گھریلو کام	29 سال
نصرت جان	گھریلو کام	26 سال

ساکن مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی عجز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہور اخبارات دن کے اندر آئے پتے مندرجہ اعتراض و ادالت حد اکوفتزی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد معاہدہ کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نايب تحصیلدار FKO

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan Executive Magistrate 1st Class**  
 Application of Ishfaq Ah Sheer Gojri S/o Abdul Majeed Gojree S/o Ghulam Ahmad Sheer Gojri R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan for obtained OBC certificate  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Palhallan tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 58400/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S.No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Ghulam Ahmad Sheer Gojree	S/o Gh Mohd Sheer Gojree	70	Labour
02	Zoona Begum	W/o Ghulam Ahmad Sheer Gojree	66	H/W
03	Bial Ahmad Sheer Gojree	s/o--	38	Labour
04	Ishfaq Ahmad Sheer Gojree	--	30	Student
05	Abdul Majeed Sheer Gojree	--	28	--

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/ she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.  
 fko  
 Naib Tehsildar

**Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri**  
 Sub: Application of Mohammad Shafi Hajam S/o Ghulam Mohiuddin Hajam R/o Reshipora Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of OBC in favour of self  
**NOTICE**  
 Regarding the subject cited above, The applicant has submitted the file in the office of undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village reshipora belongs to the Hajam Community having annual income of Rs 120000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Ghulam Mohiuddin Hajam	Father	47	Labour
2	Misra Begum	Mother	45	H/w
3	Bial Ahmad Hajam	Brother	24	Student
4	Mohammad Shafi Hajam	Self	22	--
5	Shakir Mohiuddin Hajam	Brother	18	--

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.  
 fko  
 Naib Tehsildar

**Government Dental College & Hospital**  
 SHIREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR  
 EMAIL ADDRESS: gdc.srinagar@gmail.com  
 PHONE NO: 0194 - 2504701, 0194 - 2504702.  
 FAX NO: 0194 - 2504703.

Subject:- Postponement of written examination.  
**NOTICE**  
 The written examination for tenure engagement of Registrar posts on Academic Arrangement Basis in various disciplines of this Institution advertised vide No. GDC/Estt/54/e file-6/2021-02/4789-4805 dated: 03-07-2024 followed by No. 4831-45 dated: 04-07-2024 scheduled to be conducted on 20.08.2024 at 02:00 P.M in Auditorium Block of Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Srinagar issued vide this Office Notice under endorsement No. GDC/Estt/54/e file-6/2021-02/5960-72 dated: 08-08-2024 is hereby postponed. The next date for written examination will be issued later on.

Sd/-  
 [Prof. (Dr.) Ajaz Ahmad Shah]  
 Principal/Dean,  
 Govt. Dental College & Hospital,  
 Srinagar.

No. GDC/Estt/54/e file-6/2021-02/6258-68  
 DIPK-5066/24  
 Dated: 17-08-2024.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla**  
 Fax No: 01952-234426 e-mail, id, xenmhdbla@gmail.com

**Short Term Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
**NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2024-25/15/1105-12**  
**Date: 17-08-2024**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on Percentage basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs/Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned repair work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Providing and Fitting of Integrated VFD Drive Mother Board (Card) For G-2 26 Passenger Lift at Government Medical College Baramulla	0.35	200/-	700/-	10 days	Vide No. 250-GMCH of 2024 Dated: 05-08-2024	AEE/M&HSD/1/Hba/03 of 2024-25 Dated: 08-08-2024

- Downloading of Bids:** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 17-08-2024 (06.15PM)
- Submission of Bids:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 17-08-2024 (06.30 PM) to 27-08-2024 (06.55 PM) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids:** The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 28-08-2024 (13.00 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

**Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:**

S. No	Description	Remarks
I	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TESHLL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
II	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 5% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K Engineering Manual 2020.
III	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A", "B" & "C" duly accepted by the bidder.
IV	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
V	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
VI	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.

**Note:** Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.  
**Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only.**

- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla after evaluation of the technical bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
- The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.
- The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract (L1 rates only) from the date of issuance of Allotment Order / L.O.I.

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
 Baramulla

No. M&HDB/TS/e-tender-2024-25/15/1105-12  
 DIPK-5067/24 Dated: 17-08-2024



## Ruhullah For Adequate Arrangements On Urs Makhdoom Sahab

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior leader and Member of the Parliament from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi Saturday asked the administration to ensure all facilities to the devotees at the revered Shrine of Hazrat Sultan Ul Arifeen Sheikh Hamza Maqdoomi (RA) during the Ayam-e-Urs that started today.

Ruhullah impressed upon all the line departments, Waqf board officials and shrine management to work in tandem to ensure hassle free Urs observance.

Chief Spokesperson and In charge Constituency Za-

dibal Tanvir Sadiq also called for facilities for devotees visiting the revered shrine during the Urs days.

Seeking elaborate arrangements for the devotees during the Urs days, Tanvir said, "Ayam-e-Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Sultan Ul Arifeen Sheikh Hamza Maqdoomi (RA) has begun today. During these auspicious days, we anticipate a significant increase in the number of devotees visiting the revered shrine from various parts of the valley. It is imperative that the administration steps up to the occasion and provides all necessary amenities to the visiting devotees, ensuring this spiritual gathering is a memorable and fulfilling experience for all"

## Cop Found Dead In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An assistant sub-inspector of Jammu and Kashmir police posted in Srinagar was found dead in his room in the Ahmad Nagar area of the city, officials said on Saturday.

An official told the news agency—KNO that the cop

posted at Ahmad Nagar police station was found unconscious in his room.

The cop, he said, was immediately taken to hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He was later identified as Mohammad Shafi. Police have launched an investigation into the matter.

## Program To Discuss Roadmap To Start Liver Transplant Held At SKIMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, SKIMS Saturday conducted a comprehensive program to discuss the road map for starting Liver Transplant.

The event was attended by leading Liver Transplant experts of the country from CLBS, Max Hospital Saket, New Delhi headed by Prof. Subhash Gupta which has the distinction of being among the pioneers of Liver Transplant and running one of the highest volume Transplant Centers of the country.

The team with huge experience has already helped many public and private centers in the country and beyond to set up their transplant programs. Prof. Abhijeet Chandra from KGMU, Lucknow who has started a liver transplant program in collaboration with Prof. Subhash Gupta also addressed the gathering via video conferencing.

The experts shared their views and discussed in detail with the faculty members of SKIMS the required protocols to start the program. They said that SKIMS being one of the leading tertiary care hospitals in the country can set the example and

set up the facility which will hugely benefit people suffering advanced liver diseases and need transplant.

Director SKIMS Dr. Ashraf Ganie welcomed the guests and lauded the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology SKIMS for conducting the program which he said will prove a major stepping stone to start this Liver Transplant at SKIMS.

He assured full support of the administration and said he will put in his best efforts to start the Liver Transplant at SKIMS. He said administration will acquire a transplant license, provide the requisite infrastructure and wished the program a great success.

All the faculty members and guest faculty emphasized the need as well as feasibility of Liver Transplant in SKIMS under the patronage of the administration. The guest team assured their full support and help in seeing through a successful transplant program at SKIMS.

Department of Surgical Gastroenterology SKIMS headed by Prof. Sadaf underlined the importance of Liver transplant at SKIMS and said that the team at the department will work tirelessly to see that program is started and run successfully.

## NIT Srinagar Discusses Startup Ecosystems, Technological Landscape

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant development for the region's technological landscape, Greenovator Incubation Foundation, NIT Srinagar, and Chinar Quantum AI convened a high-level meeting to accelerate efforts toward launching Jammu and Kashmir's first satellite.

Held at the Greenovator Incubation Foundation Conference Room at NIT Srinagar, the event gathered key industry leaders, innovators, and academia to discuss start-up ecosystems and advancements in satellite technology.

Leaders of Greenovator Incubation Foundation, NIT Srinagar, and Chinar Quantum AI in a high-level meeting at NIT

Srinagar on August 16, 2024.

Dr Saad Parvez, Principal Investigator of Greenovator Incubation Foundation, opened the forum by highlighting the role of fundamental business values—such as attitude, belief, commitment, and determination—in fostering innovation and operational excellence within organizations.

Professor MA Shah, a distinguished academic, urged stakeholders to adopt a strategic shift toward emerging technologies, advocating for professionals and students to embrace new advancements to stay competitive in the rapidly evolving market. His call to action resonated with the audience, emphasizing the critical importance of bridging traditional industries with cutting-edge technology.



Srinagar hosts weeklong 'Chinar Book Festival' to ignite habit of book reading among Youth

## Srinagar Hosts Weeklong 'Chinar Book Festival'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At a time when book reading has become scarce with increasing digital space, and with the aim of inculcating a habit of book reading among the youth, a weeklong national event titled 'Chinar Book Festival' commenced today at SKICC, Srinagar.

This festival, dedicated to celebrating the rich culture of reading, promises a series of engaging activities for children, literary sessions, book displays for the people of Srinagar that are designed to reignite the passion for books in a digital age.

The festival, first of its kind

here, is expected to serve as a platform to explore diverse literary works, besides fostering a lifelong habit of reading among the younger generation.

Throughout the festival, attendees can look forward to various attractions, including a Children's Corner featuring storytelling sessions and interactive workshops designed to engage young minds.

In addition to these, the festival will host a significant Photo Exhibition, displaying themes such as 'Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh Through the Ages,' '25 Years of Kargil Vijay Diwas,' and 'National Space Day.' These exhibitions aim to visually nar-

rate the rich history of the region, offering visitors a deeper understanding of its legacy.

A major highlight of the festival is the participation of over 1,000 publishers representing languages such as Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, and English, with more than 200 book stalls available for visitors to explore.

Workshops on Creative Writing, Calligraphy, Storytelling, and Emotional Intelligence are set to provide people with practical skills and creative insights. Additionally, interactive symposiums will cover topics such as Careers in Civil Services, Empathy Circles, Art of Conversation, etc.

## My Dream Come True, Say DC Srinagar

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat said that his dream came true as Srinagar hosted the workshop on Chinar Book festival.

He expressed his pride and satisfaction in seeing the book festival come to fruition. "I believe books can change the world. We have been planning this festival for the last two and a half months, and today, my dream has come true," he said.

The Chinar Book Festival, the first national book festival in the Kashmir Valley, is being held in collaboration

with the National Book Trust, India (Ministry of Education, Government of India), and the District Administration Srinagar. The festival will feature over 200 stalls offering books in various languages, including English, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi, Dogri, and other Indian languages.

Set against the backdrop of the picturesque Dal Lake, the event will also see participation from the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) and offer special discounts, providing an opportunity for readers to engage with a wide array of books from more than a thousand publishers nationwide.

### OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

#### 8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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

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

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

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

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

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

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

**9070806160**

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**

12 Safar  
1446

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 22
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5: 21
Magrib	7:20
ISHA	8: 47

### This Day In History

- 293 BC - The oldest known Roman temple to Venus is founded, starting the institution of Vinalia Rustica (grape harvest festival)
- 440- St Sixtus III ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1201- The city of Riga is founded
- 1217 - First historical record of Scottish scholar Michael Scot, signs and dates his translation of al-Bitruji's "On the Sphere" in Toledo, Spain
- 1418- Competition announced to design the dome of Florence Cathedral, main competitors Lorenzo Ghiberti and Filippo Brunelleschi (supported by Cosimo de' Medici)
- 1564 - Spanish King Philip II joins Council of Trente
- 1587 - Saul Wahl is elected King of Poland, according to legend.
- 1605 - Spanish army under of general Spinola conquers Lingen
- 1686- Giovanni Cassini reports seeing a satellite orbiting Venus
- 1698- Russian Tsar Peter the Great arrives in Zaandam
- 1700- Swedish, English & Dutch army lands on Seeland, Denmark
- 1759- 2nd sea battle of Lagos: England vs France
- 1769 - A lightning strike on the Bastion of San Nazaro in Brescia, Italy, ignites 90 tonnes of gunpowder, killing 3,000 people
- Scottish explorer Alexander Gordon Laing travelling across the Sahara, is the first European to reach the fabled trading city of Timbuktu (murdered near there a few weeks later)
- 1840- French colony established in Akaroa, South Island of New Zealand
- 1846- General Stephen W Kearney's US forces capture Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 1858- Netherlands & Japan sign trade agreement
- 1864 - Battle of Petersburg: Battle of Weldon Railroad day 1 of a 3 day battle
- 1868 - French Astronomer Pierre Janssen discovers helium in solar spectrum during eclipse
- 1870- Battle at Gravelotte Privat: Prussia beat France, 32,000 casualties
- 1872- Aaron Montgomery Ward issues the first "catalog" for his mail-order business, it is one sheet listing 163 available items
- 1873- 1st ascent of Mount Whitney, California (14,494')
- 1886- Carr Baker Neel & Samuel Neel win US Lawn Tennis Association doubles
- 1891- Hurricane hits Martinique, about 700 die
- 1904- Chris Watson resigns as Prime Minister of Australia and is succeeded by George Reid
- 1914- Belgian army withdraws to Antwerp
- 1914 - French troops under general Dubail occupy Sarrebourg
- 1924 - France begins withdrawing troops from the Ruhr
- 1925 - Belgium & US sign treaty about war debts
- 1940 - Battle of Britain: The air battle known as "The Hardest Day" occurs; Luftwaffe lose approximately 69 aircraft and the RAF lose 68 in one of the largest ever air battles
- 1945 - Sukarno elected 1st President of Indonesia by the Preparatory Committee for Indonesian Independence (PPKI)
- 1964 - Charles Helu elected president of Lebanon
- 1964 - South Africa banned from Olympic Games because of apartheid policies
- 1964 - USSR launch 3 Kosmos satellites
- 1971 - New Zealand Prime Minister Keith Holyoake announces in Parliament that New Zealand's combat force would be withdrawn from Vietnam before the end of the year, coinciding with a similar announcement by the Australian government
- 1976 - USSR's Luna 24 soft-lands on Moon
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini demands Saint War against Kurds
- 1979 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1985 - Susei Launch (Halley's Comet Flyby)
- 2008 - President Of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf resigned due to pressure from opposition.
- 2013 - 6 people are killed by a bomb blast on a bus in West Bengal, India



# Assembly Polls: The Wait is Over

Upcoming Assembly election is full of interesting political possibilities. Let the action begin

RIYAZ WANI

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**For the first time since the advent of militancy in 1989, the people look forward to participating in the exercise. However, this approach to the exercise seems driven more by calculated pragmatism than genuine enthusiasm for the restoration of democracy**

Finally, the Election Commission of India has announced Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir contrary to the expectations in the Valley that they might not take place. Over the past five years, both the central and the UT governments had exhibited little urgency to hold Assembly elections. All assurances to this effect turned out to be false. So, many people weren't willing to believe until the polls were actually called on August 16. But, here we are. The union territory is going to polls after nearly a decade. For the first time since the advent of militancy in 1989, the people look forward to participating in the exercise. However, this approach to the exercise seems driven more by calculated pragmatism than genuine enthusiasm for the restoration of democracy. After five six years of a sterile bureaucratic rule, people want an administration that shows some feeling and is accountable for its actions. Even if only symbolically so, as the new elected government would be largely subservient to the Lieutenant Governor.

That said, the political scene in the UT since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 has metamorphosed, yet stayed the same. Though the new political outfits like Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) are also in the fray, they haven't made much of a mark so far, more so the latter. In the recently held Lok Sabha election, the parties sank without a trace. In contrast, beside the surprise victory of Engineer Rashid, the context in the Valley mainly revolved around the National Conference and the PDP. And this was telling. Essentially, the parliament election in Kashmir was a contest between the traditional mainstream political narrative and the new-fangled politics of the past five years. And it was decided in favour of the former.

In J&K, the old political order is represented by the National Conference and the PDP as well as the Congress party, which is a national party though. The BJP's rise in the former state began after 2014 when for the first time it won 25 of 37 seats from Jammu division in the then Assembly elections. The BJP subsequently formed a coalition government with the PDP which secured 28 seats. The new order is represented by



Photo credit: Aabid Bhat for Kashmir Observer. Photo for representational purposes only

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

Though the NC looks apparently strong and PDP remains politically very much relevant, the parties have a work on hand to retain their centrality. This has become critical after the alliances they were a part of are no longer operational. The once-united opposition in the region under the umbrella of INDIA finds itself fractured and scrambling to maintain relevance. The fragmentation, coupled with the BJP's strategic maneuvering, presents a formidable advantage for the saffron party.

Besides, the unraveling of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), reflects the deep-seated divisions within the ranks of the mainstream parties. Originally formed with the lofty goal of advocat-

ing for the restoration of Article 370, the PAGD has devolved into little more than a memory, with its constituent parties failing to even convene, let alone pursue their shared objectives. The NC and the PDP, both integral members of the PAGD, have begun charting independent courses driven by their own political calculations - more so, the NC which was the first to announce its decision to go solo in the polls.

Going forward, it seems the NC holds an advantage, not so much due to the political ideology it promotes, but rather because of its widespread organizational structure. For example, its tame rhetoric on Article 370 faces a tough challenge from that of the PDP on the issue. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has been peddling a hawkish narrative on the revocation of J&K's special status.

The NC, on the other hand, has maintained a more diplomatic stance on the issue. In doing so, it not only expects to broaden its appeal across the religious and regional divide in the union territory, it also doesn't

want to antagonize the centre, which is hostile to a strident political demand for autonomy. Will adopting a political middle ground pay off for the party. The situation in the UT has become far too complex to lend itself to an easy prediction. If any proof was needed, it was provided by the surprise victory of Engineer Rashid. He polled nearly five lakh votes in Baramulla constituency, which makes his party a formidable challenger for the NC, the People's Conference and the PDP not just in North Kashmir but also across the entire Valley. Should Rashid's sons be able to work up the same emotion they did during the Lok Sabha election, they could pull off a major political upset. Upcoming Assembly election is thus full of interesting political possibilities. Let the action begin.

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

## Horror At The Workplace

The brutal incident in Kolkata exposes a lack of faith in institutions, stemming from inefficiency and complicity

Yukta Raj

The fact that it took a brutal rape and murder of a young trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College to rouse public anger shows how inured we are as a nation to gender-based violence. If the 2012 Nirbhaya case unmasked the horror on the street, last week's incident in Kolkata exposed the lack of safety for women at the workplace. Several cases over the years that have caught media attention and outraged people to demand justice have turned into bigger tragedies because of a lack of swift action, cover-ups, and shielding of the accused by the police and local administrations. So, the first and most urgent step on the part of the West Bengal government and the police is to fix a broken law and order machinery. The vandalism of the hospital on Wednesday night by a mob has added insult to injury as peaceful protesters, largely women-led, marched to "reclaim the night" across cities in West Bengal and elsewhere in the country, forcing the Calcutta High Court to launch a scathing attack of the state administration.

Institutional failure is evident in the Kolkata episode, starting with the hospital authorities' attempt to mislead the victim's family to a

tardy progress in police probe, which prompted the high court to transfer the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation. It reflects poorly on chief minister Mamata Banerjee, whose Trinamool Congress boasts a healthy representation of women Members of Parliament and has been appreciated for women-centric schemes. Kolkata police commissioner Vineet Goyal has blamed a "malicious media campaign" for the loss of public trust in the police. While it is difficult for the layperson to separate the wheat from the chaff when rumours circulate wildly on social media, it is also undeniable that a lack of faith in public institutions stems from inefficiency and, at times, complicity. Such systemic rot is unfortunately true across India, especially a politicisation of the police. On that account, long-due police reforms are the only way out to unshackle the law enforcers from being dictated by their political masters.

The medical fraternity has held nationwide strikes to draw attention to the vulnerabilities faced by doctors, especially women, and demand safety inside hospitals and campuses. The Centre should fulfil the assurances of health minister JP Nadda to doctors, which included introducing a law to curb attacks on them, and hospitals should ensure safe zones as sought. At a time employment trends report

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**Institutional failure is evident in the Kolkata episode, starting with the hospital authorities' attempt to mislead the victim's family to a tardy progress in police probe, which prompted the high court to transfer the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation**

a narrowing of gender disparities in India, an unsafe workplace threatens to undo the progress and deter women from seeking employment of their choice. As things stand, India already has among the lowest female labour force participation rates in the world.

Legal experts have observed how despite amendments to criminal law—which widened the definition of rape and brought in severe punishments for less serious offences as well—after the Nirbhaya case, poor implementation has resulted in a lack of meaningful change. An empowered police and quick delivery of justice are necessary to set it right. At a deeper, societal level, however, we need a cultural shift. An entrenched patriarchal mindset is increasingly being challenged by women today, who are vocal about being treated as equal citizens. We cannot hope to achieve a more gender-equal society by continuing to condone or promote aggressive masculinity with a "boys will be boys" justification. It creates the ground for the use of violence with immunity and its normalisation.

*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*



# The Most Instagrammable Eateries in Srinagar

You'll never have to worry about where to go for that perfect Instagram picture again

Sahir Ul Sehar

What constitutes a memorable dinner or a quick cafe run? While delicious food is essential, beautiful surroundings can improve the experience and make for amazing photo opportunities. Srinagar's brand-new cafes offer delectable food but not without that picture perfect moment we all crave! Eateries here have stunning décors and themes which would look great on your Instagram feed. They range from classic settings to concepts influenced by gardens.

Here is a selection of a few cafes in Srinagar that will provide you plenty of chances to elevate your Instagram feed with the ideal photo.

## Le Delice-The French Bakery

The perfume of freshly made French breads and sweets reigns supreme inside "Le Délice" at the Boulevard on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar. Additionally, everyone is enamoured with the aroma and the "melt-in-your-mouth" cakes and desserts that the establishment serves, including politicians, diplomats, visitors, and locals. French bread, cookies, almond slices, French hearts, chocolate fillings, walnuts, lemon tarts, chocolate walnut tarts, pastries, cakes, and other treats are among the specialties that Le Délice is renowned for.

Bonus points for their Fresh fruit pastry!

This stylish café in Srinagar provides the ideal fusion of peace, bakery goods, and visually stunning shots that are sure to wow your followers and friends.



## The Backyard Grill Garden and Art Cafe

Visit this cafe if you want a tranquil experience such as having coffee in your backyard! Tucked away in the middle of Rajbagh, this place is sure to enchant you with its cuisine and design. It's also wise for you to keep an eye out for all that is approaching if you enjoy the outdoors and the arts. This cafe's primary architectural theme is natural raw materials, which are complemented by unique pots with a variety of outdoor plant species. They are positioned organically to make a light and comfortable area. The area is perfect for meetings, get-togethers, or even people looking for a quiet spot because of the surrounding plants. This cafe definitely merits special at-



tention when it comes to being instagrammable, both for its interiors that have a really positive vibe and its façade that is covered with plants.

Bonus points for their playlist! Class apart! So, the next time you visit Kashmir, get ready to unwind at this magical cafe.

## Chai Jaai



The renowned Cotswold tea shops served as the inspiration for Chai Jaai, a tea room located in the centre of Srinagar in the Kashmir valley. Offering a breathtaking panorama of the ancient Jehlum river embankment, Chai Jaai provides an ideal environment for a get together in Kashmir. They provide a special chance to explore both regional culinary customs and international tea

traditions. A visual delight is the exquisite assortment of teapots, cups, saucers, and samovars with a Turko-Persian flair! Photographs of Kashmir from history and culture line the walls and the stairway at the entry. Actually, there is a picture gallery with lovely images of Kashmir's royal families and tourism destinations. And, this place, Chai Jaai, deserves to be on your Instagram feed.

## Tao Restaurant

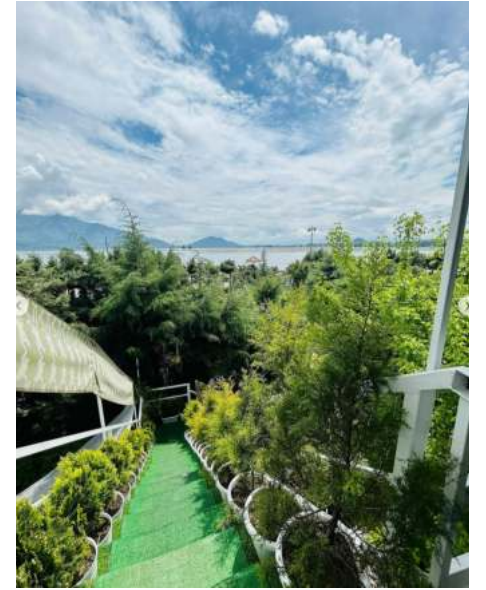


Not only has Srinagar, the "city of gardens," a reputation for pulling off the unbelievable, but it also boasts a vibrant garden cafe culture and mouthwatering cuisine. You guessed it correctly—Tao Cafe is a cafe that has a garden-like landscape. A lovely restaurant

in the centre of Srinagar, its intricate workmanship and vibrant atmosphere will leave you in awe. This cafe values the aesthetics of the rich natural surroundings. It's the ideal spot to grab some adorable photos for your Instagram while indulging in delectable cuisine.

## Cafe Emerald

The gram always has a particular place for picturesque vistas and sunsets. Hence, Cafe Emerald ought to be your next destination if you've been waiting to enjoy the flavours of your coffee while watching the sunset on Foreshore road Kashmir's one of the most scenic café, without a doubt, is Cafe Emerald. The entrance's tiny route creates a sense of going from low to high and from dark to light. The cafe abruptly grows larger and brighter once inside. Visitors to the cafe are able to touch the flowers, leaves, and untamed environment. The cafe is surrounded by flowers, shrubs, and many kinds of vines in addition to large and small trees. It surpasses all expectations with its decadent menu, exuberant atmosphere, and breathtaking view of Dal. This place is definitely worth adding to your Instagram feed because of its forest like vibe.



## Hukus Bukus

Hukus Bukus is a theme-based garden cafe that is so tranquil and serene that it practically makes you want to live there. The name alone transports you back to your childhood. This outdoor cafe offers a fresh air environment for relaxing while indulging in delectable food and coffee. This

place, seems like an idea of incorporating the garden into the home which gives it a welcoming "indoor but outdoor" atmosphere. There are many delicacies available at this garden cafe, so definitely give them a try. This place's aesthetics are really beneficial for improving your Instagram game.



# Nami Danam

Shakeel Bin Abdul Ali

Some days ago, while driving back home from Iqbalpora Larnoo in the Koker-nag area, where I have been newly posted, I tuned in to 92.7 Big FM. The radio show was hosted by RJ Amir, a close friend and a younger brother of mine. As I was listening, a song from the movie *Om Shanti Om* played. The lyrics, written by the legendary Javed Akhtar, included the phrase *Nami Danam*. This phrase, which means "I know nothing," is from a poem by the Sufi poet Amir Khusrau. It got me thinking deeply about what we know and how we understand the world. This write up is about those thoughts.

Have you ever wondered if what we know is just an opinion of someone else? The things we learn from books, teachers, and even our own experiences might just be the way of seeing the world by another person. If that is true, then what is real knowledge?

This idea is not new. A long time ago, the Greek philosopher *Protagoras* said that everything we know comes from how we see things. He meant that our understanding of the world is shaped by our own

thoughts and feelings.

Imagine two people looking at the same painting. One might see the bright colours and patterns, while the other might feel emotions or memories connected to the painting. Both people are looking at the same thing, but they experience it differently because of their unique perspectives.

Think about the objects around us. They exist even when we are not looking at them, right? For example, our houses do not disappear when we go outside. But this idea can get a bit tricky when we think about things that we do not see at all.

New animals, plants, or even planets are discovered every now and then. These things were always there, even though we did not know about them. So, does something need to be seen or known to exist? Not really. This makes us wonder if there are things in the universe that exist even though we do not know about them yet.

Let us assume humans are the only beings in the universe who can think and understand. Everything we know has been seen, measured, or experienced by us. But what if there are things out there that we have not discovered yet? How can

we be sure they exist?

This question is similar to an idea from *Plato*. He told a story about people who lived in a cave and only saw shadows on the wall. For them, the shadows were the only reality. But if one of them stepped outside the cave, they would see that the shadows were just reflections of real things. This story shows that our understanding of the world might be limited by what we see and experience.

This idea is not just about philosophy; it also touches on spiritual beliefs. Many religious teachings suggest that there is more to life than what we can see or touch. For example, the Holy Quran says: "And indeed We have created man, and We know whatever thoughts his inner self develops, and We are closer to him than (his) jugular vein." (*Quran 50:16*).

This is what the Creator, The Almighty, tells us about Him being so close to us. But have we ever encountered even the Divine presence? Why? Because we never understood the Verse, or we never tried to?

In Islam, there are people called *Wali-Ullah*, or friends of God. These people understand that

there are limits to what we can know. They accept that some things are beyond our understanding and are okay with that. A *Wali* might live a simple life, but they have a deep understanding of the Divine.

Let us look at the story of Amir Khusrau, the Sufi poet and disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia, to better understand this idea. The story of Amir Khusrau shows us how spiritual understanding can go beyond what we think we know.

Khusrau's journey started when his teacher, Nizamuddin Aulia, sent him to visit another Sufi teacher, Hazrat Shah Qalandar. One day, Qalandar asked Khusrau why he had never seen his teacher at a special heavenly gathering led by Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). Khusrau was confused and sad because he didn't know how to answer.

When Khusrau told his teacher about this, Nizamuddin Aulia just smiled and gave him some advice. He told Khusrau that the next time Qalandar asked the question, he should ask Qalandar to take him to that heavenly gathering.

The next time Qalandar asked, Khusrau followed the advice of his teacher. Qalandar placed his hand on Khusrau's heart, and suddenly,

Khusrau found himself in a beautiful, shining place. But even there, he could not find his teacher.

Khusrau continued searching through different levels of heaven, each more special than the last. But still, he could not find Nizamuddin Aulia. Finally, at the highest level, Khusrau saw two mysterious figures at the feet of the Prophet. When he got closer, he realized that one of them was his teacher, Nizamuddin Aulia. These two were the teachers of all the other saints he had seen on his journey.

When Khusrau returned to the physical world, he visited his teacher and shared a poem he wrote about the experience.

*Nami danam che manzil bood shab jaaheki man boodam*  
*Bahar su raqs-e-bismil bood shab jaaheki man boodam.*

(I do not know what place it was where I was last night, All around me were half-slaughtered victims of love, tossing about in agony...!!!)

These lines describe the mysterious and divine experience Khusrau had. The poem shows that the other world exists, whether we know about it or not. But to truly understand it, we must start by admitting

that we know nothing. While human knowledge has limits, there is much more to life than what we can see or measure. The spiritual journey is about recognising these limits and seeking a deeper understanding that goes beyond the physical world.

As we go through life, we often try to understand the world by looking at things, measuring them, and thinking about them. But the story of Amir Khusrau and the teachings of spiritual guides like Nizamuddin Aulia remind us that there are limits to what we can know. True understanding might mean accepting that some things are beyond our reach.

The search for knowledge is not just about learning new things. It is about finding a deeper understanding of the world and our place in it. It is about recognising that our knowledge is shaped by how we see things and that true wisdom comes from accepting that there are mysteries we may never fully understand.

When I reached home, I realised that we should take to heart the wisdom of Amir Khusrau and face the unknown with humility and openness. Often, the first step to truly understanding something is acknowledging that we know nothing at all.



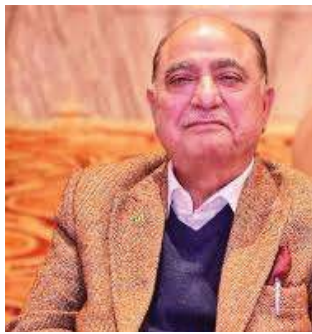
## Chaya Optimistic About Tourism Trade, Wants More Wellness Resorts In Kashmir

Agencies

Gulmarg: In a gesture of gratitude, prominent businessman and tourism promoter, Mushraaq Chaya, organized an appreciation event to recognize the efforts of the travel industry in promoting Kashmir.

Speaking at the event, Chaya praised the relentless work of those involved in the region's tourism sector, emphasizing the importance of their contributions.

"This evening was about appreciation and encouragement. We organized this event to recognize the hard work of the travel trade in promoting Kashmir and Gulmarg," Chaya stated, highlighting the critical role that the travel trade plays



in boosting Kashmir's tourism.

Chaya also underscored the flourishing state of tourism in Kashmir, noting that the region has become one of the top tourist destinations in India. He expressed optimism about the future, mentioning the need for more development in the area.

"Right now, tourism in Kashmir is flourishing, and we are focused on enhancing it further by building more hotels and creating a world-class wellness resort," he added, pointing to the need for additional facilities to accommodate the growing number of visitors.

He mentioned the shortage of hotel rooms in Gulmarg, stressing that the area cannot currently handle the pressure of increased tourism.

Chaya further revealed plans to develop wellness centers and resorts similar to those in Bangalore.

He explained that these facilities would cater to international tourists and promote Kashmir as a wellness destination. (KNS)

## Assembly Elections-2024: DEO Bandipora convenes meeting with Political Parties

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 17: In preparation for the upcoming Assembly elections 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today convened a meeting with representatives of various political parties at the Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting focused on ensuring a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

The meeting was attended by SSP Lakshay Sharma, ADDC M Ashraf Bhatt, Nodal Officer MCC Zaffar Husson Shawal, Dy DEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, RO 15- Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani, Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring Sheikh Aabid Manzoor, Nodal Officer



MCMC Aadil Manzoor Wani, representatives of different political parties including Bhartiya Janta Party, INC, DPAP, JKAP, JKNC, JKPNF, AIP, PDP, and other concerned.

During the meeting, the DEO discussed several key issues, including strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct. Emphasizing the importance

of a peaceful electoral environment, the DEO sought the co-operation of all political parties to ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly and without any disruptions.

The participants were provided a detailed briefing on the measures being implemented to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

The DEO said that all the arrangements have been put in place to ensure free and fair elections and added that different committees have been constituted to check the implementation of MCC.

The participants were briefed about the model code of conduct, expenditure monitoring, putting up of flags, banners,

the size of banners, the time of their installation and removal besides detailed deliberations were held regarding various applications including cVIGIL, Suvridha, NCORE and other ICT applications of Election Commission of India.

Addressing the participants, SSP Lakshay Sharma urged participants to encourage the use of ethical campaigning practices and to refrain from engaging in any activities that could incite violence or violate the model code of conduct.

The DEO also addressed concerns raised by the political party representatives and assured them that their suggestions would be taken into consideration.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### MeT Predicts

05:30 in the evening. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir has recorded a precipitation of just 1.2 mm while Pahalgam recorded 6.2mm during the period. Kupwara, Kokernag and Gulmarg recorded a precipitation of 1.3mm, 1.4mm and 2.2mm respectively.

According to the details, Jammu's Batore has recorded the highest precipitation with 24.9mm in the last 24 hours till 08:30 AM followed by 4.8mm in Banihal.

Meanwhile, below normal temperature was recorded at all the stations across Jammu and Kashmir as the rainfall continued from the wee hours of this morning till the afternoon.

Srinagar city was recorded at 21 degrees Celsius on Saturday, Gulmarg 15.4 Celsius, Jammu 28 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 17.9 Celsius, Banihal 20.6 Celsius, Katra 25 Celsius and Kupwara 21 degrees Celsius and as per the Srinagar Meteorological Centre. (KNO)

#### Doctors Unite

organization of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine had called for 24-hour nationwide strike against the brutal rape and murder of a junior doctor at state- Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

As the doctors began a 24-hour strike to condemn the shameful incident, GMC Srinagar and its affiliated facilities, including SKIMS Medical College Bemia, turned away patients except for emergency situations.

Wearing black bands around their arms, the protesting doctors demanded a thorough investigation into the incident that sent shockwaves across the country.

The protesting doctor's later gathered on the college campus to show their support for the victim, holding signs that read, "Stop shaming the victim, protect female doctors, and bring perpetrators to book."

"We have gathered here in response to the IMA call against the rape and murder of a fellow doctor at RG Kar Medical College. We offer the victim's family our sincere condolences and support in this hour of extreme grief, and also demand the introduction of a strict legislation to ensure such despicable events do not happen in future," said a female resident doctor at GMC Srinagar.

Since the government, she claimed, hasn't yet passed any strict legislation to address the heinous acts that working women suffer at the hands of certain unscrupulous men, their lives have become a virtual nightmare at work.

"We might also experience the same incident that a female doctor in Kolkata experienced. Therefore, given the rising number of rapes cases in the country, we urge that women, particularly female doctors, have sufficient protection at work," she added.

Similar scenes were witnessed at hospitals across the country with Resident doctors at government hospitals in different parts of the country, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Haryana among others, protesting since Monday.

The nationwide strike comes a day after medical students across Indian cities conducted protest marches and staged dharnas against the alleged inaction over the horrific rape-murder that has sent shockwaves across the country.

The case is now being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under an order from the Calcutta High Court. "We have identified at least 30 suspects and have started questioning them," a CBI officer said on Friday.

#### Parents Allege Role

prioritising the questioning of these individuals and officers from Kolkata Police who were part of the initial investigation. "We have identified at least 30 suspects and have started questioning them," the officer added.

On Friday, the CBI summoned a house staff member and two post-graduate trainees who were on duty with the doctor the night she was murdered.

The agency also escorted the former hospital principal, Dr. Sandip Ghosh, for questioning.

Dr. Ghosh, who resigned two days after the body was discovered, had expressed fears of being attacked, prompting his lawyer to seek protection from the Calcutta High Court. The court directed him to approach a single bench.

As a part of their investigation, the CBI officers also took the arrested accused for a reconstruction of the crime scene, he said, adding that 3D tracking was also conducted at the seminar hall of the hospital.

The body of the post-graduate trainee was found in the RG Kar Hospital's seminar room on August 9. Police arrested a civic volunteer the next day in this connection.

#### Centre To States:

Home Ministry instructed the police departments across the state and the Union Territories (UTs) to send reports on law and order situations every 2 hours. The Home Ministry issued a notification to all the police forces of the country on Saturday seeking reports every 2 hours on the law and order conditions, which can be sent to the ministry via email, fax or even WhatsApp.

In its notification, the MHA reportedly stated, "Regarding two hourly law and order situation reports. The competent authority has desired to monitor the law and order situation report of your state/UT against the murder of a trainee woman doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal. Henceforth, a continuous two-hourly law and order situation report in this regard may kindly be sent to the MHA control room by fax/e-mail/WhatsApp from 4 pm today (Saturday)."

#### J&K Bank Announces

these 86 years, we have stayed together and increased the value of the Bank. So I take this opportunity to congratulate all the stakeholders, the shareholders and institutional investors."

While congratulating the entire staff of the Bank for their commitment and dedication in taking the bank to such heights, he also commended the board of directors for their skilful guidance throughout the bank's journey.

Highlighting that the goodwill and trust earned by the Bank was a remarkable achievement, he said, "Throughout these years we have seen one remarkable achievement, which is the goodwill and trust the bank has earned in J&K. This goodwill and trust are the forte of J&K Bank. And that is what the board of directors and shareholders would like it to preserve in years to come."

He further said, "This bank has a unique legacy among all banks operating in India. It is an institution which has been promoted by the public sector but it is classified as a private sector bank. It has leveraged this unique legacy by working closely with the government on various programmes by extending credit, providing services of disbursing pensions and salaries while working for the welfare of farmers, entrepreneurs and common people in J&K. It has also expanded its geographical footprint with 25 percent of its presence in the rest of the country, which is also a remarkable achievement of the Bank."

On the occasion, he also listed five expectations, which he said, the board of directors and shareholders have from the Bank. "As we cross this milestone of 86 years, we would like the Bank to focus on these areas beginning with customer focus. The Bank needs to be cognizant of the growing choices for its consumers ranging from farmers to entrepreneurs and needs to build on its large consumer base in J&K with better pricing and quality of services to ensure customer satisfaction", he said.

The other areas he touched upon included regulatory and other capital adequacy compliances, optimization of balance sheet and asset quality along with cost efficiency. On

technology front, he said, the bank has done substantially well.

However, he advised the bank to improve upon its fintech capabilities. "The bank should continue to educate its consumers about the secure use of its technology platforms to protect them from cyber and other frauds. Also the upskilling of staff must keep pace with the growing use of its technology platforms", he further added.

Earlier, the Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash began his address by extending his heartfelt gratitude to all the shareholders for their unwavering support and trust in the Institution.

Expressing his pleasure to announce 215 pc dividend for the shareholders of the Bank after the outstanding financial results for fiscal 2023-24, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Following the exceptional results and record-breaking performance in FY 2023-24, I am happy to announce that the Board of Directors of your Bank has recommended a dividend of 2.15 per equity share for the financial year 2023-24.

"The theme for our Annual Report for this year, 'Goals Met-Promises Kept', aptly encapsulates our commitment to deliver on our promises. Our gross revenue has increased by 19% YoY reaching to 12038 Crores and our net profit grew by 48% YoY, standing at 1767 Cr, the highest ever in Bank's history", he added.

On the occasion, MD & CEO highlighted the special mention of the Bank by the country's Prime Minister and the Union Finance Minister. He said, "The turnaround story of the Bank has hogged the limelight and was being acknowledged by various players in banking ecosystem in the form of accolades and awards conferred on the Bank. However, the icing on the cake is the special mention and admiration of the Bank's turnaround and success story by none other than the Honourable Prime Minister during his public address at Srinagar and subsequently in an interview with a prominent media channel."

"Even the Honourable Finance Minister, in her J&K Budget Speech referred to the Banks turnaround as a success story. The admiration and acknowledgement of this order has highly elevated our brand image and morale on the one hand, but it also comes with added responsibility to ensure that we have to keep this emblem high and flying", he stated.

Summing up the Bank's recent performance, MD further added, "This phenomenal growth is a testament to our perseverance, resilience, commitment, ambitious endeavours, and fructification of our well thought out strategies. Concomitantly, we are transforming into an agile, efficient, tech-driven, digitally enabled future-ready Bank to ensure flourishing in the fast changing and highly competitive environment and we are on course towards becoming the bank of choice for every generation."

Acknowledging that the Bank's success is intertwined with the success of its customers, he said, "We continue to place our customers at the heart of everything we do. This year, we have automated several processes as part of Business Process Re-engineering designed to meet the evolving needs of our diverse customer base. With the evolution of digital stack in banking landscape, the sales aspect of banking operations has undergone revolutionary change. Aligning ourselves to industry trend, our digital platforms have been upgraded to meet diversified customer needs and aspirations, reflecting our commitment to providing convenient and seamless banking solutions."

Expressing confidence to continue on the path of sustainable growth, he asserted "Despite continued volatility in the global markets, we are confident to navigate upcoming challenges. We are committed to redouble our efforts to continue our growth story and make this institution the bank for all generations."

Thereafter, the Bank's Company Secretary Mohammad Shafi Mir read out the Auditor's Report comments of Comptroller and Auditor General

(C&AG), Secretarial Audit Report and provided a brief background of each business item to be transacted at the AGM. He further informed that the results of e-voting along with the scrutinizer's report will be available on the websites of the Bank/RTA/Stock Exchanges within two working days from conclusion of the AGM.

Notably, the share-holders hailed the Bank's stellar performance for the financial year 2023-24.

"The Bank's Board, management and staff have really given a stellar performance and truly deserve our appreciation", said a group of shareholders at the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a question-answer session, wherein MD & CEO Baldev Prakash along with the directors listened to a range of questions from shareholders and responded in detail to every query.

#### J&K Parties Gear

Similarly, Apni Party senior leader, Muntazir Mohi-ud-din when contacted, said that the manifesto will be finalized till next Monday (day after tomorrow) and would be in the public domain by Tuesday or on Monday evening.

Pertinently, Chief Election Commission of India (CEC) Rajiv Kumar had on Friday announced three-phased assembly polls for J&K starting from September 18.

Second phase will be on September 25 and third phase will be held on October 3 while the counting of votes will take place on October 4 and the election process will end on October 6. Notably, J&K has been without an elected government for the last six years

#### BJP Wraps Up

was part of one of the feedback committees.

In South, North and Central Kashmir most common demands of the people were—jobs, free ration (5 kg per family member) and minimum power tariff besides local issues of sadak, pani and bijli.

"We met all sections of the society including youth. They demanded government jobs, free ration and minimum power tariff. These are the most common demands we got from the people during our feedback exercise in Kashmir," he said. He said that in Kashmir, Sikh members demanded minority status and introduction of Punjabi language in schools.

In Jammu, another BJP leader said the demands were almost similar to what people have sought in Kashmir. "There is not much difference between the demands put forth by Kashmiri people and people belonging to the Jammu region. In Jammu, people also sought slashing of power tariff, government jobs for youth and free ration. They also demanded improvement in drainage system, upgradation of schools, colleges and health infrastructure," the BJP leader said, adding that in some remote constituencies, people demanded road connectivity and installation of mobile towers.

"In nut-shell, the demands of Kashmiri and Jammu people are more or less the same," he said.

BJP General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul said that a detailed report will be sent to party high command in New Delhi and the final poll manifesto will be out any time after Aug 25. What remains to be seen is what would be the poll plank of regional parties like National Conference and PDP who have fought earlier elections promising protection to Article 370. (KNO)

#### Taj Ditches Azad,

India announced the schedule for assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference, he said that he has spent over four decades in the Congress and today during a meeting he discussed with his workers about joining back the party. He said that he will join the party soon.

Meanwhile, the former MLAs Abdul Majeed Wani, Gulzar Wani and Muhammad Amin Bhat are deserting Democratic Progressive Azad Party

(DPAP) too and are returning to the Congress party.

As per KNO, all these leaders were in touch with Congress party since long but due to some issues within Congress party their re-entry was being delayed.

But now when Karra was appointed PCC president doors have been opened for all these DPAP leaders, sources said.

"There is still resentment among a group of Congress leaders in the state who believe that these leaders played a negative role during parliamentary elections and also left no stone unturned to tarnish the image of Congress party," said a Congress party leader.

Another party leader said that they are coming to get a mandate of their own choice. "This will not go well among party leaders who have given their blood and sweat to the party. Giving mandate to parachute leaders will not help the party," the leader said.

#### Will Contest J&K

promised by the central government and all parties are seeking complete restoration at the earliest.

Abdullah while reacting to the poll schedule, said that it is better as it will expose the readiness of parties for the elections.

He said that any decision over pre-poll alliance will be taken by the party after holding threadbare deliberations

The Election Commission of India Friday announced three-phase polls, which were long overdue in Jammu and Kashmir, with the first phase being held on September 18, second on September 25 and the third phase on October 1.

Results will be announced on October 4 along with Haryana assembly results, which will go to polls on October 1.

#### 'NC Parliamentary

days and expressed hope that Omar Abdullah will reconsider his decision on not contesting the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

The Election Commission on Friday announced the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir in three phases on September 18, 25 and October 1 and the votes will be counted on October 4.

"The parliamentary board of the party will decide the face of the chief minister. In the recently held working committee meeting, all the speakers requested (party vice president and former chief minister) Omar Abdullah to reconsider his decision of not fighting the assembly elections (before restoration of full statehood)," Sadotra told reporters at the party headquarters here.

The National Conference additional general secretary expressed hope that Omar would reconsider his decision and fight the assembly elections.

Asked about the agenda of the parliamentary board meeting in Srinagar on Monday, Sadotra said the National Conference is a democratic party and the party high command takes all leaders on board before taking any important decision.

According to the Election Commission, the gazette notification for the first phase of elections will be issued on August 20, while the last date for making nomination has been set on August 27 followed by scrutiny next day and withdrawal of candidature on August 30.

"The first list of candidates will be released before the issuance of the gazette notification for the first phase... the parliamentary board will decide the candidates," he said.

Asked whether party president Farooq Abdullah will also contest the elections in case Omar agrees to jump into the fray, he said the parliamentary board will decide it as well.

On the party's target for the assembly elections and possible pre-poll alliance, he said the National Conference would like to win all the seats to form the government on its own but it is people who have to decide on the new government.

However, one thing is clear that

people want a change which is evident from the fact that the BJP's vote share in the parliamentary elections declined drastically, Sadotra said.

He said the National Conference is fully prepared for the elections and added the decision on pre-poll alliance will be taken by the party high command.

Earlier, Sadotra welcomed several prominent political and social activists from R S Pora and Suchetgarh in the party fold.

Farooq Abdullah was scheduled to welcome the new entrants but had to leave the venue before the start of the joining function due to some work.

Earlier on Friday, Abdullah welcomed BJP leader and District Development Council member Joginder Singh Kaku in the party fold at a rally at Jandiyaal in the Nagrota assembly constituency.

#### HC Rejects Bail

one of the considerations for grant of bail," a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said. The other considerations like nature of offence, the position of the accused with reference to the victim and the witnesses and the public interest are some of the other considerations which are also required to be taken into account while considering the bail plea of an accused, the court noted.

"In the instant case, prima facie, it appears that the victim while making her statement before the trial court during trial of the case has not deviated from the version of occurrence which she narrated in her statement under Section 164 of the Cr. P. C.," the court said, adding, "It is true that parents of the victim have not supported the prosecution version while making their statements before the trial court during trial of the case but then besides the statement of the victim, the medical opinion of the doctor, the DNA profiling report which has been substantiated by the statements of the doctor and DNA Expert of FSL, Srinagar, whose statements have been recorded during trial of the case, prima facie, support the version of occurrence given by the victim in her statement."

The court observed that accused being about 41 years of age was living in the same building in which the victim along with her family was living and she would call him as her uncle.

"There was fiduciary relationship between the petitioner (accused) and the victim, who would repose trust and confidence in him being her neighbour. By indulging in abhorrent behaviour with the child victim, the petitioner has shaken this trust and confidence and brought bad name to the relationship of a child with her neighbour who is as good as her father". So, it is not an ordinary offence where an accused has tried to molest a major woman having no acquaintance with her, the court noted.

"It is a case where the petitioner has committed sexual assault upon a girl child who is about 1/6 th of his age. The gap in age of the petitioner and the victim makes his alleged act more heinous and it shows an element of perversion in the alleged offence," the court said and eventually rejected the bail application.

#### Army Commander

of the army's Northern Command was briefed on the soldier-citizen connect and operational preparedness of the force, it said.

Kumar felicitated troops for maintaining the momentum in operations and exhorted all ranks to continue to refine tactics in view of emerging threats and maintain a high level of professionalism, it said.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Kumar met with Special Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police and DGP-designate Nalin Prabhat to convey his best wishes on the new appointment and discussed ways to enhance synergy and security measures between the forces.

"The #IndianArmy and @JmuKmrPolice remain committed to bolstering the safety and security of #JammuAndKashmir," the army said.



## Thousands Throng Pakherpora Shrine For Annual Poshak Bandhi Ceremony

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Thousands of devotees from across the Kashmir Valley gathered at the revered shrine of Hazrat Sultan Syed Mohammad Ali Aali (RA) in the Pakherpora area of Budgam district, on Saturday to participate in the annual Poshak Bandhi ceremony.

The Poshak Bandhi, a traditional event marking the ceremonial dressing of the saint's shrine, is a significant day in the religious calendar for the people of this region. The ceremony, deeply rooted in the spiritual traditions of Kashmir, drew worshippers from all corners of the valley.

"This shrine holds a special place in our hearts. The Poshak Bandhi is not just a ceremony but a reminder of the saint's teachings and the spiritual heritage of our region," said Ghulam Nabi, a resident.

Zahida, another attendee, said she never misses the annual gathering. "Every year, I make it a point to attend this ceremony. It gives me peace and strengthens my faith," she said.

The ceremony, which witnessed a massive turnout, highlighted the deep connection between the people of Kashmir and their spiritual roots—(KNO)

## Will Contest Assembly Polls If High Command Demands, Says Karra

Agency

**SRINAGAR:** Senior Congress leader Tariq Hameed Karra on Saturday formally took over as president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) at a function in Delhi.

Karra expressed his willingness to contest for any assembly seat in Srinagar, including his political bastion Central Shalteng, formerly Batamaloohis native place.

"My immediate focus would be assembly elections and win seats for my party in Jammu and Kashmir. And whether I run for the elections or not it is left to the discretion of the high command," he said.

Asked about his take on pre-poll alliance with regional parties of Jammu and Kashmir, he said the decision would be taken only after consultation with local leaders and central leadership.

"This is a major task and every leader, small or big, will be taken on board on this. And the final call would be of the party high command," he told KNO. Karra's statement assumed



significance as the National Conference President Farooq Abdullah said he would also contest the upcoming assembly polls held after a gap of ten years.

Notably, Karra had won the Lok Sabha election in 2014 from Srinagar by a margin of over 40,000 votes giving the first-ever electoral defeat to Abdullah in four decades.

A former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader was also a finance minister of the erstwhile state during the PDP-Congress coalition government.

Karra had been against the BJP-PDP alliance and resigned from the Lok Sabha and PDP in 2016. He later joined Congress in February 2017—(KNO)

## 17 People Affected By Gastroenteritis Outbreak In Bandipora's Malangam

Agencies

**BANDIPORA:** Seventeen people have been affected by a gastroenteritis outbreak in a village in North Kashmir's Bandipora district even as the administration rushed health teams to assess the situation.

Chief Medical Officer Bandipora said that the disease broke out in Bhat Mohalla of Malangam village of Bandipora on August 15 which infected 17 residents who are under treatment. He said that he has deputed teams of doctors to the village to assess how the disease broke out in the area.

"17 cases of mild to moderate gastroenteritis reported till

August 17. No deaths reported till today. Three water samples have been sent to DPHL Bandipora for investigation; their reports are awaited," he said.

"The situation is under control, and the health department is closely monitoring the situation. Local teams have been instructed to maintain close vigilance and report any new developments, Dr Rafi added.

Meanwhile an advisory has been issued to the villagers which includes drinking boiled water, and Oral Rehydration Solution packets have been distributed among the affected cases and door-to-door visits have been conducted to identify any new cases.(KNS)

## Distt Admin Ganderbal Ensures Strict Enforcement Of MCC

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** Following the announcement of Assembly elections in the Union Territory of J&K, the District Administration Ganderbal has swiftly moved to ensure full compliance with the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) across the district.

All measures required under the MCC have been implemented within 24 hours to maintain fairness and transparency in the electoral process.

In a significant move, all forms of defacement on government property, including wall writings, posters, banners, hoardings, flags, and cutouts, have been removed throughout the district.

This action underscores the administration's commitment to upholding the integrity of public spaces during the election period.

To further strengthen the enforcement of the MCC, the district has activated multiple teams, including Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs), and Video Surveillance Teams, to monitor and prevent any violations.

Intensive checks for the illicit movement of liquor, cash, and con-

traband drugs are being conducted, with the Excise department's flying squads actively working to curb narcotics trafficking.

In addition, a Complaint Monitoring System has been established to ensure timely redressal of grievances.

All necessary IT applications, including the official website and social media platforms, are fully operational to provide citizens with up-to-date information and to facilitate smooth communication.

To oversee media-related activities during the election period, a Media Centre has been set up, and Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC) have been formed at the district level. These committees will ensure that all media content adheres to the guidelines set forth under the MCC.

For public convenience, a 24x7 Control Room has been established, where citizens can reach out with any concerns or complaints. The Control Room is accessible through the following contact numbers: 1950, 1800-180-7052, 0194-2416199, 0194-2416789, 0194-2416260, and 0194-2416261.

## Chenab Valley All Set To Go Into Poll Mode

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A day after the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule of Assembly elections for Jammu and Kashmir, all the three districts of Chenab valley have started to get into the election mode with probable candidates heading to get a mandate for contesting the elections.

For a couple of days the battle will be within the parties to get the mandate first and thereafter the actual battle on ground will start.

Eight Assembly constituencies of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts, part of Chenab valley, will go for polls in the first phase of the Assembly elections and notification for the same will be issued on August 20. The last date for filing of nomination will be on August 27, scrutiny on August 28 and last date for withdrawal of candidates will be on August 30. The polling for the first phase will be held on September 18.

The Chenab valley has traditionally been a bastion of both National Conference and Congress party but it was breached by Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) in 2014 Assembly elections. The saffron party was able to win four out of six seats of Chenab valley and after delimitation of Assembly constituencies the contest will be on eight seats.

Kishtwar district has got



three seats, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni and Inderwal, Doda has also got three, Doda, Doda West and Bhaderwah and for Ramban there is no change and it has two seats which include Ramban and Banihal.

The ruling BJP doesn't want to lose the hold which it got during 2014 and the parliamentary elections of 2014, 2019 and 2024 showed the party still has strong support among the masses. The party has three strong leaders in Chenab valley which include Sunil Sharma of Kishtwar, Shakti Parihar and Daleep Parihar of Doda and Bhaderwah, respectively, and all of them are eyeing their second term.

After Ghulam Nabi Azad formed his own party Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Congress party has nurtured new leadership in the area and the likes of Nadeem Sharief Niaz, son of late Congressman Muhammad Sharief Niaz, and Sheikh Riaz Ahmed, General Secretary of

Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) are the two probable candidates for Bhaderwah and Doda seats. The outgoing PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani would like to hold on to his bastion Banihal but this would not be easy for him anymore.

NC on the other hand would like to regain its lost ground and they have a strong leadership with the likes of two former MoS Home Sajjad Kichloo and Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy ready to contest. Former PDP leader and former bureaucrat Mehboob Iqbal, Praye Lal and Dr. Chaman Lal are few other strong leaders from Chenab valley belt who will be probable candidates of NC.

Meanwhile, Azad's DPAP would like to make a debut from Chenab valley during these elections while Ghulam Muhammad Saroori and Abdul Majeed Wani are his two strong leaders. If Azad himself decides to contest then the contest will be more interesting—(KNO)

## Greenovator Incubation Foundation Concludes Two-Day Startup Evaluation

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Greenovator Incubation Foundation (GIF) at NIT Srinagar, a Section 8 company established under the NIDHI Scheme of the DST, Ministry of Science and Technology, successfully concluded a two-day start-up evaluation event. This event was part of the Call for Startup Application 2.0 initiative.

The evaluation was conducted in a hybrid mode, featuring a distinguished panel of experts from various industries and regions. The panel included Rajiv Bose, Consultant and Start-up Mentor; Shahid Ansari, Founder and CEO of Startup Kashmir; Prof. Babar Ahmed, Senior Patron of Mechatronics, Haptics, Robotics, MEMS Modelling and Simulation, Dr. Shabir A Sofi, HOD IT Dept., NIT Srinagar; Dr. Saad Parvez, PI GIF NIT Srinagar; and Mr. Shahid Abbas Mir, CEO NIT Srinagar.

A diverse array of startups from across India showcased their innovative ideas at the evaluation event. The rigorous screening process screened more than 45 promising ventures with a wide range of backgrounds. Among the participants were several startups with unique patented technologies.

The evaluation panel also saw participation from NIT students, alumni, agritech experts, educators, and entrepreneurs. Pitches were delivered both in-person and virtually, reflecting the dynamic and growing start-up ecosystem.



The foundation said that the evaluation process has concluded and the results will be announced soon after further deliberations with the short-listed startups.

"This initiative highlights the nurturing environment for startups in Kashmir, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. The Kashmir startup ecosystem is rapidly evolving, with new startups and entrepreneurs emerging daily, creating significant disruptions in the valley and across India," it further said.

## GMC Anantnag Performs First CRT-P Implantation Under C-Arm In J&K

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** In a groundbreaking medical achievement, the Cardiology section of the Department of General Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag successfully performed the first Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy Pacemaker (CRT-P) implantation under C-arm fluoroscopy in the region of Jammu and Kashmir. This significant milestone marks a new chapter in the medical history of the state.

The procedure was carried out on a 50-year-old female patient diagnosed with Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) with an ejection fraction (EF) of 20% and a Left Bundle Branch Block (LBBB) with QRS duration of 170 milliseconds.

The CRT-P implantation was successfully completed with a remarkable narrowing of the QRS duration to 110 milliseconds, signifying an effective response to the therapy.

The historic procedure was done by a group of cardiologists including Dr Syed Maqbool, Dr Shamim Iqbal and Dr Showkat Shah with support of technical staff.

What makes this achievement even more noteworthy



is that the procedure, which is typically performed in a Cath lab, was conducted under C-arm fluoroscopy due to the ongoing installation of a Cath lab at GMC Anantnag. This pioneering effort is the first instance of a CRT-P implantation being performed under C-arm guidance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The successful execution of this complex procedure would not have been possible without the unwavering support and leadership of Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Najeeb, Principal of GMC Anantnag. Her commitment to advancing healthcare services at the institution has been instrumental in making

such complex procedures a reality at GMC Anantnag.

Special thanks are also extended to the former Medical Superintendent, Muzaffar Sherwani, and the dedicated OT staff, whose collective efforts ensured the smooth and successful completion of the procedure. Their support was crucial in overcoming the challenges posed by the absence of a fully operational Cath lab.

This historic achievement underscores GMC Anantnag's commitment to providing cutting-edge medical care and its determination to push the boundaries of healthcare in the region.

## 'Kashmir Centre Of Knowledge For Last 5000 Years'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Sanjeev Verma on Saturday said Kashmir has been a centre of knowledge dating back to the Vedic period.

His remarks came during the inaugural ceremony of the first-ever nine-day Chinar Book Festival at SKICC, which began on Saturday and will run until August 25.

Verma said people must "read well" to understand Kashmir's rich history. "Kashmir has long been a society of well-read people," he said.

The Secretary GAD lamented the lack of comprehensive historical records from earlier times. "Kashmir's journey started long ago," he said, adding that the region has been known for its rich culture, music, Sufism, engineering, medical science, research, yoga and Ayurveda for the past 4,000 to 5,000 years.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din

Bhat, also spoke at the event. He expressed his pride and satisfaction in seeing the book festival come to fruition. "I believe books can change the world. We have been planning this festival for the last two and a half months, and today, my dream has come true," he said.

The Chinar Book Festival, the first national book festival in the Kashmir Valley, is being held in collaboration with the National Book Trust, India (Ministry of Education, Government of India), and the District Administration Srinagar. The festival will feature over 200 stalls offering books in various languages, including English, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi, Dogri and other Indian languages.

Set against the backdrop of the picturesque Dal Lake, the event will also see participation from the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) and offer special discounts, providing an opportunity for readers to engage with a wide array of books from more than a thousand publishers nationwide—(KNO)

## Omar Chairs Meeting, Discusses Matters Related To J&K polls



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday chaired a meeting of party functionaries and discussed matters related to the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, political affairs and the organisation, a day after the schedule for the polls was announced by the Election Commission.

Issues being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir were also discussed at the meeting at NC headquarters Nawa-e-Subha here, a party spokesman said.

The assembly elections, being held after a decade in Jammu and Kashmir and five years after it was reorganised as a Union Territory, will be conducted in three phases -- on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The results of the polls will be announced on October 4.

The spokesman said in the meeting, issues pertaining to party operations and organisational initiatives, challenges being faced by citizens and matters related to the polls were taken up for discussion.

"Economic crisis", unemployment rates, "inflation surge" and ongoing NC activities were also highlighted by party func-

tionaries, the spokesman said.

They expressed deep concern over the government's "negligence" towards citizens, highlighting that essential services that were once readily available are now scarce despite public outcry, the NC said.

The continuous cancellation of recruitment processes was also condemned, the party said, adding that this only serves to exacerbate the frustration and hopelessness felt by the youth. Abdullah emphasised the importance of unity within the party and maintaining strong connection with the public to ensure the success of party candidates in the upcoming elections.

He stressed that the NC draws its strength from collaboration and support of the people, making them the cornerstone of the party's vision.

The NC vice president said the party's ability to serve the public and represent the interests of all regions hinges on its strength.

Therefore, it is imperative to prioritise the party's growth and work diligently towards achieving common goals, he said adding, "the NC remains committed to its founding principle of empowering the people and will continue to uphold this belief steadfastly".

## Poonch Hosts Annual Chari Mubarak Yatra

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Annual Chari Mubarak Yatra, led by Acharya Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishavattmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, commenced on Saturday from the Dashnami Akhara Mandir complex in Poonch and proceeded to the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Shrine at Rajpura, Mandi.

The yatra began after a special Puja and Havan ceremony at the Akhara Mandir, attended by Swami Vishavattmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj and other prominent religious personalities.

Following the Puja and Havan, Swami Ji addressed a grand religious congregation, which was attended by prominent members of the civil society from different communities. The gathering showcased the region's traditional communal harmony, brotherhood,

and peace.

The ancient Shri Budha Amarnath Shrine, situated in the Himalayas, is believed to be the place where Rishi Pulatsya, the grandfather of King Ravana of Lanka, had worshipped for many decades. The Pulast River, which flows from the Loran-Mandi mountains of the Pir Panjal (Himalayas) to Poonch and Pok, is named after this great saint.

Along the route from Poonch to Mandi, various food stalls were set up by different societies and local residents to cater to the devotees. The Chari Mubarak will remain in the temple for two days and will be brought back on the next day of Raksha Bandhan.

The devotees, who came from all over the country, expressed joy and appreciation for the yatra, citing the region's exemplary communal harmony.



## Vinesh Phogat Cries Inconsolably On Return After Paris Olympics Heartbreak

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Saturday received a grand welcome on her return to the country with hundreds of supporters gathering outside the IGI airport, showing immense solidarity with her.

Stars such as Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and panchayat leaders received Vinesh, who endured a heartbreaking exit at the Paris Olympics where she was disqualified for being overweight on the day of her 50kg final.

Heavily garlanded, Vinesh stood in an open Jeep and thanked all the supporters. "I thank the entire country," she said, her hands folded in humility.

There was a thick security cover as Phogat, who was found 100 grams overweight, landed in the national capital.

Vinesh's caravan left for her native village Balali in Haryana



and on the way she met her supporters, positioned at different spots.

A group of 50 followed her jeep. They offered prayers at a temple in Delhi's Dwarka be-

fore continuing their journey towards Balali.

Vinesh had stayed back in Paris after challenging her disqualification in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and

demanding a joint silver. The application was dismissed on Wednesday.

"She has come back to her country after such a long time. She is very emotional also. She

will spend time with family and calm herself. What Vinesh has done for women is praiseworthy. She might not have received a medal, but she is a champion for us," said Sakshi Malik.

London Olympics bronze medal-winning shooter Gagan Narang, who was the chef de mission of the Indian contingent in Paris, called her a champion, posting a photo with Phogat at the Paris airport. Both of them were on the same flight to Delhi.

The feisty wrestler, in her first reaction after her disqualification, on Saturday said that under "different circumstances" she could see herself competing till 2032 because she still has a lot of wrestling left in her but is now unsure about her future as things "might never be same again".

Vinesh had announced her retirement from the sport after her disqualification.

### Short TAKES

#### Durand Cup Derby Cancelled Amid Protests In Kolkata

The Durand Cup derby between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, scheduled at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Sunday, has been cancelled because of the prevailing unrest in the city, sources said.

The decision was taken following a meeting between the Kolkata Police officials and organisers of the tournament.

"Both the teams will be awarded a point each, while the fans will get full refund for the tickets they bought," an official told PTI.

#### Delhi Premier League Begins With Star-Studded Opening Ceremony

The inaugural edition of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) T20 was officially set in motion following a spectacular opening ceremony at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday.

The event featured electrifying performances by music sensation Badshah and actress Sonam Bajwa, holding the crowd's attention throughout the evening. Top management from the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA), franchise team owners, players, and staff from all participating men's and women's teams were in attendance.

#### India Gears Up For Badminton Asia Junior Championships

India will be sending a 39-member squad to the Badminton Asia (U-15/U-17) junior championships in Chengdu, China, from August 20-25. The primary goal is to create a robust pool of players for next year's World Junior Championship, which India will be hosting.

The contingent was selected after rigorous trials in Bengaluru and is led by Gnana Dattu and Tanvi Reddy Andluri in the U-17 category. In the U-15 category, Shyam Bindiganavile and Tanvi Patri will lead the singles players.

#### AC Milan Signs Midfielder Youssouf Fofana From AS Monaco

AC Milan has secured the services of French midfielder Youssouf Fofana from AS Monaco on a four-year contract, the Serie A club announced on Saturday. While the transfer fee remains undisclosed, Italian media reports suggest Milan will shell out approximately 25 million euros (\$27.57 million) for the 25-year-old, including performance-related bonuses.

Fofana has been capped 21 times by the French national team and scored three goals.

#### Zirkzee The Hero As Man United Beat Fulham In PL Opener



Joshua Zirkzee made himself a Manchester United hero on his debut with a late winner to beat Fulham 1-0 in the opening match of the Premier League season on Friday.

Zirkzee, lacking match fitness after his £36.5m (\$47 million) move from Bologna last month, came on only for the final half hour.

The Dutch international saved the Red Devils from a frustrating evening at Old Trafford when he poked in Alejandro Garnacho's cross on 87 minutes.

### Real Kashmir Junior Trials Today



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K's top football club, Real Kashmir FC, is all set to conduct selection trials for its junior level teams today, Sunday, August 18. The trials are only for J&K residents and will be held at Polo Ground in Srinagar.

The Under-17 trials, for footballers born between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2009, will be held between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

The Under-15 trials, for footballers born between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2011, will be held from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

The Under-13 trials, for footballers born between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2013, will be held from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Interested footballers have been asked to keep a copy of their birth certificate and a photocopy of their Aadhaar Card with them. They can also contact the club on 7006377341, 7889502909 and 9149637311.

### Pulwama Youth First From J&K To Play In Pro Kabaddi League

Jaipur Pink Panthers selects Aamir Hamid Wani with base price of Rs 9 lakh

Agencies

**PULWAMA:** Aamir Hamid Wani, a young talent from Dadoora, Pulwama, has made history by becoming the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to be selected for the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) with a base price of Rs 9 lakh.

Aamir said his passion for kabaddi began in childhood.

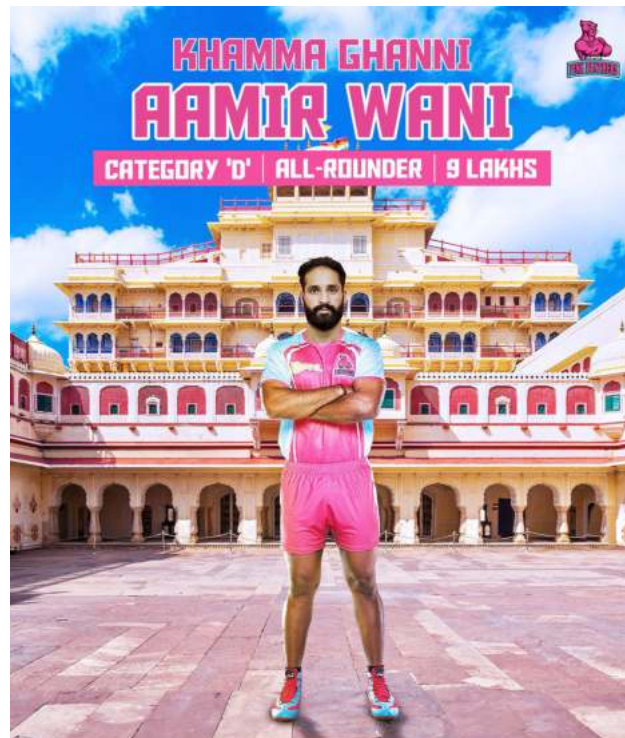
He has been training at Mid Line Academy in Mumbai for the past four years, working hard and playing at various levels before being picked by the Jaipur Pink Panthers in the PKL auction. "I am confident that I will perform well in the upcoming competitions. My ultimate goal is to represent India," he said.

Aamir expressed his gratitude to his coach, Aniket Mhatre, and the J&K Kabaddi Association for their support during his journey. He said that while Jammu and Kashmir has indoor stadiums, most youth in the region are more interested in cricket, with kabaddi receiving much less attention.

"There is immense talent in J&K. If youth get interested in kabaddi and are properly nurtured, they can achieve great things," he added.

His father, Abdul Hamid Wani, said Aamir's passion for kabaddi was first recognised by a Physical Education Teacher, Faisal, at Degree College Pulwama.

"Faisal Sahab encouraged Aamir to pursue the sport and took him to Srinagar for training. After a year, Aamir



moved to Mumbai to follow his dreams, facing numerous challenges, including financial difficulties. To support himself, my son sold dry fruits while training at his academy in Mumbai," he said.

Wani also credited coach Aniket Mhatre for playing a crucial role in Aamir's development and helping him achieve this milestone. He urged the government to develop better sports infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, saying there is an untapped potential for many talented youth in the region who could

represent the country at various levels.

Aamir has already represented J&K in the Yuva Kabaddi Series held in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, in 2021.

The Pro Kabaddi League, also known as Vivo Pro Kabaddi for sponsorship reasons, is India's premier professional kabaddi league. Launched in 2014, it is the most popular kabaddi league in the world and the second most-watched sports league in India after the Indian Premier League (IPL). The current champions of PKL are Puneri Paltan. (KNO)

### Neeraj Chopra Confirms Participation At Lausanne Diamond League

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's double Olympic medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Saturday confirmed his participation at the upcoming Diamond League meet in Lausanne on August 22.

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra claimed a silver medal in the recently-concluded Paris Olympics, having won a historic gold in the Tokyo edition of the Games three years ago.

"... I have finally decided to partic-

ipate in Lausanne Diamond League, which begins August 22," Chopra said during a virtual interaction.

After a busy couple of days post the Olympic final on August 8, Chopra started training in Switzerland and is determined to finish the season on a high despite being restricted by the injury.

Following the season-ending Diamond League in Brussels from September 13-14, Chopra will consult the doctors on his groin injury with surgery being the most likely option.

### Liverpool, Arsenal Win As Salah, Milner Set Records On First Premier League Saturday

Agencies

There were wins for Liverpool and Arsenal and records for the prolific Mohamed Salah and the enduring James Milner on the first Saturday of the Premier League season.

Liverpool's new era under Arne Slot began with a 2-0 victory over promoted Ipswich, with Salah netting the second to take his tally of goals in the opening round of a Premier League season to nine — breaking a tie he had with English soccer greats Wayne Rooney, Alan Shearer and Frank Lampard.

Arsenal, runner-up in the league for the past two seasons, also won 2-0 at home to Wolverhampton thanks to goals by Kai Havertz and Bukayo Saka.

Liverpool and Arsenal are widely expected to be the biggest threats to champion Manchester City in its bid for a record-extending fifth straight English top-flight title. City opens its title defence at Chelsea on Sunday, with the season having been launched Friday by Manchester United beating Ful-



ham 1-0. In other matches on Saturday, Newcastle overcame a 28th-minute red card to Fabian Schar for a headbutt to beat Southampton 1-0 through Joellinton's goal and Everton also had a player sent off, Ashley Young, in its 3-0 loss at home to Brighton. Brighton's team featured

James Milner, who — at 38 — was starting his 23rd season in the Premier League, beating the record of 22 he held jointly with Man United great Ryan Giggs. Milner is seven years older than his manager, Fabian Hürzeler, who had a winning start to English soccer after moving from German team St. Pauli.

Nottingham Forest drew 1-1 with Bournemouth in a match that featured a serious-looking leg injury to Forest's Brazilian midfielder Danilo, who was carried off on a stretcher early after screens were put up around him while he received treatment. Aston Villa visits West Ham in the late game.

### Real Madrid Could Give Players Breaks During Season: Ancelotti



Agencies

**MADRID:** Real Madrid are considering allowing players to go on short holidays during the season because of concerns about the congested fixtures schedule, manager Carlo Ancelotti said on Saturday.

On the eve of their LaLiga season debut at Mallorca, Ancelotti said that the steady increase in regional and international games on the cal-

endar was taking its toll on players. "The players need rest, they need holidays and we are thinking about giving individual holidays to the players during the season," Ancelotti told a news conference on Saturday.

"We are thinking about giving in-season breaks, give a week off for a player so he can go and stay with his family, especially international players, who have very little rest because

they usually don't get even a day's holiday in international breaks.

"We are assessing it with the medical staff and the physical preparation..."

After winning the LaLiga and Champions League double last season and now bidding for up to seven titles in the 2024-25 campaign, Ancelotti believes the club need to make sacrifices to preserve the health and fitness of their players.