# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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'Will Benefit 23 Lakh Employees'

# **Centre Launches Unified Pension** Scheme



**KO Web Desk** 

New Delhi: In a big announcement ahead of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana this year, the government has launched the Union Pension Scheme (UPS) amid protests by several non-BJP-ruled states over the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

This scheme will benefit 23 lakh central government employees," announced Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The new scheme will be implemented from April 1, 2025 and employees will have the option to

choose between the NPS or UPS. The UPS, approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar- Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari Saturday said that his party will field candidates from 60

seats including 40 in Kashmir

and 20 in Jammu for the up-

coming assembly elections in

Chanapora, Bukhari said that

Talking to the media

while visiting

give assured pension, family pension and assured minimum pension to government employees:

1. Assured Pension: The scheme assures 50 percent of the average basic salary for the last 12 months before retirement as pension for government employees who complete a minimum of 25 years in service. It will be proportionate for a shorter service period upto a minimum of 10 years of service.

2. Assured Family Pension: In case of death, the pensioner's family will get 60 percent of the pension received at their time of death.

3. Assured Minimum Pension: The scheme assures

**Alliance With Any Party** 

Will Contest From 60 Seats In J&K: Altaf Bukhari

**PDP** MANIFESTO

# **'Will Resolve K-Issue, Abolish UAPA'**

### Bats For Trade Restoration With Pakistan

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The PDP on Saturday released its manifesto for the Assembly elections, promising to pursue the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir to its "original status", and advocate for confidence-building measures (CBMs) and regional cooperation between India and Pakistan.

The manifesto was released during a function at the party headquarters here by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti along with senior lead-

ers of the party.
"The PDP is resolute in its pursuit of restoring the constitutional guarantees that were unjustly scrapped, and is committed to restoring Jammu & Kashmir to its original status, ensuring that the voices of its people are

**'Will Not** 

**Contest If** 

Congress, NC

**Accept PDP** 

**Agenda'** 

heard and their rights are safeguarded," it said.

The manifesto said the "unconstitutional and illegal revocation" of Articles 370 and 35A in 2019 has "further complicated the Kashmir issue, deepening the alienation felt by the people of the region".

Mehbooba said the 'resolution' of the lingering Kashmir issue was far more important for the party to bring Jammu and Kashmir out of political 'uncertainty'.

It said the PDP firmly believes that meaningful engagement is the only way forward. | More on P6

he PDP will extend complete support to the Congress-NC alliance and leave all seats in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections to the coalition if it is ready to accept the party's agenda, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said on Saturday.

"Forget about alliance and seat-sharing, if the Congress | More on P6

Reverse revocation of Art 370, 35A

India-Pakistan relations

Cross-LoC connectivity Repeal PSA, UAPA, Enemy Act, AFSPA

Regularize 60,000 daily wagers

Fast-track filling of govt vacancies

Land and employment rights Kashmiri pandit

rehabilitation Free 200 units of electricity, 12 LPG cylinders

Free water, abolish water

meters

Transfer hydro power projects to J&K

**Restore Darbar Move Enhance Waqf Board's** 

transparency Reinstate the old pension scheme

Increase PM Kisan installment

Waiver of KCC loans for genuine farmers

### **Terrorist Killed** In Baramulla **Encounter**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: One terrorist was killed on Saturday in an encounter with the security forces in J&K's Baramulla district.

Earlier, an exchange of firing took place between the security forces and the terrorists in the Watergam area of Baramulla district.

"In the exchange of firing, one terrorist was killed and his weapon was recovered from the encounter site. The exact identity of the terrorist is being ascertained," an official said.

He said that the operation is still underway in the area.

Security forces including the army, paramilitary forces and local police have been aggressively carrying out anti-terrorism operations in J&K for the last three months.

The heightened security alert is being maintained throughout J&K to ensure that the terrorists are prevented from disturbing the upcoming Assembly elections.

Over 300 additional companies of paramilitary forces are being deployed to augment the strength of the already existing security forces in J&K to secure the democratic process.

After reports of a group of hardcore foreign terrorists operating in the | More on P6

### Ensure AMFs Across All 11,838 Polling Stations: CEO To Officers per month after retirement for Says Efforts On Way To Give Voters Better Experience On Poll Day **Apni Party Rules Out**

Majid Nabi

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: The J&K Election Department conducted a meeting of the Director level officers under the chairmanship of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday at Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Iammu.

The CEO reviewed the overall preparations of the Polling Stations to ensure the smooth and hassle free conduct of the Assembly Election 2024 which is going to be held in 3 phases across Jammu and Kashmir beginning 18



September 2024. The officers from School

Education Department, on Department Public Works Department, Jal Shakti Department, Social Welfare Department, Forest

Department, Department; JPDL and KPDCL and others were present in the crucial meeting which was held to discuss the Assured Minimum Facilities to be made | More on P6

## **Art 370 Will Never Be Restored: Amit Shah**

**Press Trust Of India** 

Raipur: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday asserted that Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will never be restored.

Shah's comments came as Jammu and Kashmir's two principal regional parties -- the National Conference and the PDP -- promised in their election manifestoes for upcoming assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir that they would work to restore the controversial provision, scrapped on August 5, 2019.

"Article 370 has no place in Jammu and Kashmir now or ever. It will never be restored," Shah said at a press conference



in the Chhattisgarh when asked about it.

The home minister was addressing a press conference here after attending a meeting of top civil and security officials of the Naxal-hit states.

Restoration of Article 370 Jammu and Kashmir's statehood as well as implementation of the | More on P6

### 2 Get Lifer For 2011 Murder Of Pulwama Youth

there won't be any alliance

with anyone and they have

bore the brunt in the Lok

"We will contest the assem-

bly polls on our own and we

have decided not to go for any

alliance this time," Bukhari

said, adding that AP will field

40 candidates from Kashmir

He further said that PDP

and 20 from Jammu division.

and BJP are in a | More on P6

Sabha elections.

**M** Ahmad

Srinagar: A court in Pulwama on Saturday sentenced two persons to life imprisonment for murdering a youth in Pampore area of the south Kashmir district in 2011.

The Principal Sessions Judge Pulwama, Naseer Ahmad Dar had convicted the duo-Younis Ahmad Dar and Javaid Ahmad Bhat, both residents of Rakh Shalina Tangan Nowgam Budgam-on August 17 for killing the youth, Kaleem Qadri of Pampore, after demanding ransom of Rs 1 crore.

"...keeping in view the entire facts and circumstances of the case, this is not a fit case for inflicting death sentence under Section 302 RPC. Hence it will be just and proper to sentence the convicts namely Younis Ahmad Dar and Javaid Ahmad Bhat to



imprisonment for life under Section 302 RPC," the court said.

It also sentenced the convicts to imprisonment for life under Section 120-B RPC and 7 years each rigorous imprisonment for commission of abduction in order to commit murder under section 364 RPC.

Further, the court sentenced the convicts to 5 years each of simple imprisonment for commission of extortion under section 387 RPC.

However, the court ordered that all the sentences shall run concurrently.

"Every criminal Court is also under a legal duty to apply its mind to the question of compensation to the victim of the crime," the court said, adding, 'The deceased was a young boy of around 21 years of age at the time of his death who was undergoing his studies and was the lone son of his parents. The criminal justice System has to address the plight of the victim also. Mere punishment will not

satisfy the victim who has suf-

fered as a result of commission

of the crime.'

The real victims, the court said, are his parents. "One cannot assess the shock and trauma caused to his parents, near and dear ones. No amount of compensation can repair the irreparable loss caused," the court said, and referred to a judgment by the Supreme Court in Manohar Singh | More on P6

'Seat-Sharing With NC'

# Congress Chairs Meet Of Screening Panel

**Observer News Service** 

Congress party's election incharge for Jammu Kashmir Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa alongwith Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hamid Karra on Saturday chaired a meeting of party's screening committee at a hotel in Srinagar.

The meeting, which lasted for around five hours, held deliberations on protecting the interests of party workers while going for seat sharing with the National Conference upcoming assembly elections.

Sources said that there were reservations of Congress leaders on seat sharing as they believed that NC is playing a double game while sharing seats with the Congress party.

"The committee was informed that on multiple seats, Congress party wasn't considered for the mandate despite being way above the NC candidates but still the seats were given to NC. Also, on those seats which were offered to the Congress party, NC probable candidates had given a statement that they will not abide by the decision and will contest the elections on the party symbol," said a source.

Since the alliance between the Congress and NC has been announced, resentment within the Congress | More on P6

# Will Safeguard Reservations For Backward Classes: BJP

'Attempts To Rename Sacred Sites Would Be Resisted'

**Press Trust Of India** 

Jammu: The BJP will safeguard reservations granted to backward classes after the abrogation of Article 370, senior leader Devender Singh Rana said on Saturday as he claimed that the Congress-National Conference alliance would deprive these people of their rights.

He also said any attempt to rename Shankaracharya Hill as "Takht-e-Suleiman" and Hari Parbat as "Koh-e-Maran" would be resisted as "both places are sacred and related to our faith".

National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah on Thursday announced a pre-poll alliance with the Congress for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which is going to the



the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

Polls to the 90-member assembly will be held in three -- September 18, phases September 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be held on October 4.

"The Congress has aligned

## PDP Manifesto: Abandoned By Allies, Party Opts For A Hawkish Line In Assembly Elections

**KO Political Editor** 

Srinagar: As expected, the People's Democratic Party's manifesto takes a more aggressive stance than the National Conference (NC) in its political agenda. Besides calling for restoration of Article 370, the party has sought resolution of the larger Kashmir issue. This both distinguishes the PDP's manifesto from that of the NC and signals a more hawkish political line, allowing the party to stand out from the rest.

"For me, this election is not for statehood or seat sharing... We have a bigger goal... We are

fighting for dignity, for the resolution of the Kashmir issue," Mehbooba said while releasing the manifesto

She continued that if the National Conference Congress were ready to adopt the PDP agenda, she will support them fully, even without contesting any seats.

Although the demand is rhetorical in nature, it allows Mufti to position her politics as slightly more hardline than that of the NC, its nearest competitor in Kashmir Valley. The party could hope to benefit from this as the demands, even if essentially symbolic, nod to



the grievances harboured by a significant section of Kashmiri society - more so, in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 370.

The PDP has been left out of the NC-Congress, apparently because the NC didn't want to have to further share the Valley seats with a local party. Besides,

the recent victory in the South Kashmir parliamentary seat has further emboldened the NC to give a short shrift to the PDP, which otherwise is a member

of the INDIA bloc.. Left in lurch and abandoned

even by the Congress, the PDP has been forced to strike out on its own. A hawkish line could thus serve the party well. More so, when other regional parties, including the NC, will have agendas that may look tamer in

contrast. One exception could be the manifesto of the Awami Ittehad Party of the jailed Engineer Rashid. But beyond including "Kashmir issue" in the manifesto, it won't be possible for any party to go more extreme

Earlier, the senior PDP leader

Naeem Akhtar accused the NC of adjusting faster to the new political reality in Kashmir.

'They (NC) are doing what they have done so many times before: normalizing the new situations and the new status quo imposed by New Delhi," Akhtar told reporters while welcoming Chaudhury Haroon into the PDP at the party's headquarters near Sher-i-Kashmir Park on Friday. "Today, once a large state has been reduced to the size of a match box, and the NC is again at the forefront of accepting it (as a fait accompli).

In the days to | More on P6



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# KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 25-08-2024

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Ab Gani Mir S/o Gh Mohd Mir has approached the Tehsil Office Budgam for issuance of death certificate of my mother namely Khati Begum W/o GH MOHD MIR R/O SUNNERGUND BUDGAM dated 8th of August 1961. In this regard if any person has any objection he may file the same in the office of Tehsildar Budgam within seven days, no objection will be acceptable after seven days.

AB GANI MIR S/O GH MOHD MIR R/O PATTAN



### **OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR PATTAN EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS**

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Death/Birth.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

The registrar births and deaths (EO Muncipal council Pattan/Block development officer Pattan) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth/Death of Mehnoor Bint Shabeer D/o Shabeer Ahmad Teli R/o Hanfiya Colony Arampora Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event Birth as 28/06/2021 occurred at SDH Pattan. In this connection, if anybody having objections to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st class Naib Tehsildar Pattan.

### PENCAK-SILAT CHAMPIONSHIP

**DISTT SHOPIAN-20-21 AUGUST 2024** 



Today on 20-21 August District Pencak- SILAT CHAMPIONSHIP was held in Cambridge Noorani Educational Institute Nagbal Shopian In opening ceremony the chief guest was Principal Cambridge Noorani Educational Institute Nagbal Shopian, Mr. Mushaid Shabir. In this Championship nearly about 150 Students from different institutes and clubs participated including Boys as well as girls of all age groups. The spectators whose number was nearly about 200 were also present at the event which added beauty to the event because they welcomed all the guests with great dignity and honour. In closing ceremony the chief guests were S.H.O. Zainapora Mr. Showkat and D.O. of Wachi Mr. Javaid distributed gold and silver medals among the participants and also addressed the participants to play part in such events, championships and tournaments and Keep themselves away from the drugs.

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed travel unit under the name & Style of M/s. Colorful Kashmir" situated at Rozabal Zaloosa Charar i sharief

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas I Mr./Ms Waseem Sidiq S/o Mohammad Sidiq Dar R/o Rozabal Zaloosa Charar i sharief Budgam intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style" M/s. Colorful Kashmir tour and travel s" situated at Rozabal Zaloosa Charar i sharief Budgam under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department). Bank statement (m balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested subregistrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:ddtreg123@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This for the information to the general public that I have los tmy 8th class discharge certificate. Now I have applied for its duplicate. In this regard if any body have any objection he/she may contact Govt. Middle School Chowan Keller Shopian within seven days, no objection will be acceptable after seven days.

Aijaz Ahmad Lone S/O Ghulam Mohammad Ione R/O Chowan Keller Shopian

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information to the general public that I intend al in my driving license bearing no. JK-110011714 which was wrong mentioned as Abdul Lateef Khan hammad Khan. Now I want to change them as per ny Aadhar And Other Documents in which my correct credential I Lateef Khan S/O Ghulam Mohammad Khan R/O a Kawoosa Khalisa. In this regard if anyone have any objection, he/she can contact RTO Budgam with in a period of s from the date of publication of this notification. No be entertained afterwards.

> Abdul Lateef Khan S/o Ghulam Mohammad Khan R/o Doni Mohalla Kawoosa Khalisa

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct my credential in my driving license bearing no. JK-2019000 4960 which was wrong mentioned as Aamir Ahmad Khan S/o Shahzad Ahmad Khan. Now I want to change them as per my Aadhar And Other Documents in which my correct credential are AAMIR KHAN S/O Shahzad Ahmad Khan R/O Sheikhpora Utikoo. In this regard if anyone have any objection, he/she can contact RTO Budgam with in a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notification. No objection will be entertained

> AAMIR KHAN S/O Shahzad Ahmad Khan R/O Sheikhpora Utikoo

### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KAHSMIR**

### **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS BARAMULLA**

Subject: - Delay in Registration of Birth issuance of orders thereof

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Registrar Births and Deaths MC Baramulla ha submitted case file pertaining to Birth of Anjuman Zaira Farooq D/o Farooq Ahmad Bhat R/o Palhallan Pattan with verified date of Birth as 06-08-2022 occurred at DH Baramulla

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of orders tor registration of event may contact this office within seven days during office hour after which no objection shall be

Dated: 24-08-2024

**Executive Magistrate**, 1st Class Baramulla

Nishat Ishber Gupta Ganga Srinagar

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas I Mr./Ms Abdul Qayoom Mir Raja So Ahmad mir R/o Wani Department of tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style" M/s. Sapphire Skies to a street style (N situated at Wani Nishat Ishber Gupta Ganga, Srinagad wardes counside A

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification

Certificate Page and Experience Certificate.Pan card, Experience certificate (min manus years),the Character certificate (Police department), Bank sta balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested subregistrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of

my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation O Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general **Scient in a**cial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection,if any ward the streat should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID: ddtreg123@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper at the celevition objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained. FKO

### **GENERAL NOTICE**

This is for the information to the general public that I have lost my 5th.Pass Discharge Certificate vide Admission No. 835 D.O.B 01-03-2005 somewhere. Now I want to apply for its duplicate. In this regard anybody having any objections may contact Headmaster Government Middle School Parray Mohalla Hajin Sonawari within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained at all.

**Umar Shafi** S/O. Mohammad Shafi Khan R/O. Hajin Sonawari Bandipora

Subject:-Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S" REAL TIME SERVICES" Situated at Sector - 7, Government Housing Colony Ellahi Bagh Srinagar.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, I Mr/Ms Ahsaan Aftab Dar S/O D/O W/O Aftab Ahmad Dar R/C Fazal Haq Colony Batpora Hazratbal, Srinagar Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for the Registration of my proposed Travel uni under the name and style "M/S REAL TIMES SERVICES. Situated at Sector 7, Government Housing Colony Ellahi Bagh Srinagar, Kashmir under Touris Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card) Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as un Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12. before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, th matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financia Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail Iddirectortourismkmr@gmail.com) within a period of 15 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained. Media Lir

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial

Manager, Firozpur Division, Northern Railway invites the Expression of Interest for Operation, Renovation & Maintenance of Mela Waiting Hall a Railway station Sultanpur Lodhi on non-Mela days The parties interested are requested to visit the Railway Station

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For Further detail please visit Northern Railway website https:// nr.indianrailways.gov.in/sor the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway D. We office, Firozpur Cantt.-152001 on any working day during office Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager,

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Subject. Conduct of Jakkteran Resolution of the proposed travel unit under the name divertisement Notice No. 06/GMGAO676394149010612-2023

### On Line Open Tender (e-Tender) For

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### **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: JAKAOGAMUDD Cell No: 9622428470

# CONDOLENCE

The faculty, staff & students of Govt. Degree College, Soibugh Budgam place on record our heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of the mother-in-law of Prof. (Dr.) Sharique Zahida Deva, Principal of the College. May Almighty Allah grant her the highest place in Jannat ul Firdous and give forbearance to the bereaved family to endure this irreparable loss.

FROM: STAFF

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct my credential in my driving license bearing no. JK-0520100029361 which was wrong mentioned as Muhammad Ashraf S/oAbdul Ahad oSh@&+OGo2024ant to change them as per my Aadhar And Other Documents in which my correct credential are Mohd Ashraf Sheikh S/O Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/O Palhallan. In this regard if anyone have any objection, he/she can contact ARTO Sopore with in a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notification. No objection towil 12 e 66 to 12 14 ed afterwards.

Mohd Ashraf Sheikh S/O Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/O Palhallan

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ned in the notification. However, permission to appear in the Carlotte Annual REVISED to further verification of their documents/eligibility at aDATag Dif = 24 ion 08 de 2024

such applicants shall be rejected at any stage of process of stocking while refound to have shall be rejected at any stage of process of stocking while country is the country of the coun

concealed the material facts having a hearing on their eligibility.

For proper marketing of the Dry Silk Cocoons, the eocoon Auction Markets in Kashmir Division for the Silk Cocoons harvested during report the examination venue of hour commencement by the Sericulate Development Department as per the revised details given by the Sericulate Development Department as per the revised details given by the Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Department as per the revised details given by the Department Departmen

02	1	Srlnagar/ Budgam/ Ganderbal/ ISDP/ Pattan & Tangmarag Zones of Baramulla District	Cocoon Auction Market Srinagar	4 days 27, 30/0 <b>Prof. (Dr</b>	Ľ	8/2024 to 2024 to	Sh.Khurshed Ahmad Peer, I/C PEG DoS holding Additional Charge of DSO, Srinagar/Budgam (9682555762) to be assisted by the I/C Dev.Officer ISBP, DSP Bayamulla & Ganderbal and their local sta on the day of marketing of cocoons of their respective 1868/Zones
	2 24/ <b>3</b> ?	Kupwara 3-10-13	Cocoon Auction Market Kupwara Dated:	4 days 01/ 04/0	0:4	Principal	Sh.Mohd Abdullah Bhat, I/C Dev. Officer E&T J&K holding Additional Charge of DSO Kupwara (6005166504) Sh. Mohd Abdullah Bhat, I/C Dev.Offcier E&T
	3	Baramulla/ Bandlpora	Cocoon Auction Market Watlab Sopore	4 days 06, 09/0		′	Jak Holding Additional Charge of DSO Baramulla (6005166504) to be assisted by the DSO Bandipora and his staff on the day of Marketing of Bandipora.
	4	Pulwama/ Shopian	Cocoon-Auction - Market Nikas Pulwama	5 days 11, 15/0		9/2024 to 2024 )	Sh. Ashraf All Banday I/C PEO Kashmir holding additional charge of DSO, Pulwama/Shopian (9797780231) to be assisted by local staff of both the Districts on the day of marketing of Pulwama and Shopian.
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The Marketing Officers/DSOs shall take appropriate necessar action(s) by way of staff deployment etc. for the purpose and run the market as per established law/rules governing the subject and left ort the transaction details on daily basis to this office as well as to the Directorate. Any transaction (s) not reported in time shall be deen ed null and void. No: ADSDK/Tech/ Market/24-25/5039-5061 **Additional Director** 

2024

7 days 17/09/2024 to

23/

DIPK-5175-24 DT: 24/08/2024

nag and Kulgam

# Locals Bar Entry To Faqir Guiri Ove

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** As Muhammad and Abbas, two young men from downtown, arrived at Fagir Guiri in the outskirts of the city, they were taken aback when a local resident, Ghulam Muhammad (name changed), blocked their entry into the village.

Ghulam Muhammad informed them that the village, once a peaceful retreat, had become a source of frustration for residents. They complained of a rise in "immoral activities," disruptive behavior, and littering by visitors.

Ghulam said that the mohalla committee had deputed locals to stop the movement of people towards the village because of the social and environmental concerns. "I am doing what I am getting paid for and I will stop anyone who will visit

a village in the outskirts of Srinagar city, attracts mostly locals for its natural beauty and serene atmosphere. The lush greenery and serene atmosphere of Fakir Gujri had long been a retreat for those looking to escape the hustle

**DC Srinagar Chairs** 

**Meeting Of NCORD** 

**District Level Committee** 

and bustle of city life. However, in recent weeks, the village has become a nogo zone for visitors.

"The place was no longer about enjoying nature," said Mohammad Amin, another local. "People were ruining the peace of our commu-

"The intermixing of genders and inappropriate behavior" along with the mess left behind by visitors became too much to bear. The residents, feeling their culture and environment under threat, took matters into their own hands. They collectively decided to bar outsiders from entering for leisure activities.

"We just couldn't allow it to continue. We have our culture and our values to protect," Abdul Hameed, another villager, echoed similar concerns.

Local authorities, been filed. know, th

the Station House Officer (SHO) at Harwan Police Station, said.

"If the residents are facing issues, they should come forward and register a case with us so we can take appropriate action" he said.

### **ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS-2024**

# **DEA** Srinagar Organizes Mega Voter Awareness Program ATSKICC



awareness program at SKICC. The awareness program was held on the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

The event was aimed at educating and sensitizing the citizens, especially the students, youth about the importance of voting and ensuring their active participation in the up-

trict Election Authority Srignlary, election songs, dispoday organized a mega voter ners, etc. aimed at empor ners, etc. aimed at empowering v ers with comprehensive knowledge regarding their rights and responsibilities within the electoral process.

Furthermore, the event was enriched by captivating presentations and melodious songs performed by students of various schools, injecting a creative flair while effectively reinforcing the ethos of civic duty and the significance of voter turnout.

Speaking about the event, The Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr

ential for the vitality of democracy. He added that voter awareness campaigns are an important element of elections, serving as a cornerstone in fortifying democratic

ned and engaged citizenry,

The DEO urged the people, especially youth, to propagate the message of electoral participation to their families, relatives, and communities, emphasizing the significance of their role in nation-building through elections.

# NIT Srinagar commemorates first

**SRINAGAR:** The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Saturday celebrated National Space Day to commemorate India's Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 that scripted history by successfully landing on the lunar surface in Aug 2023.

The theme for National Space Day 2024 was "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga," highlighting the broader impact of space exploration on society and emphasizing how advancements in space technology can enhance the quality of life on Earth.

In his key message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath highlighted the extraordinary achievements in space exploration and the relentless dedication of scientists and engineers.

"On this National Space Day, let us celebrate the remarkable achievements in space exploration and the unwavering commitment of scientists and engineers who push the boundaries of our understanding. Their work inspires future generations to dream big and inspire us," he said.

The inaugural session was presided over by Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman. This day is not only a celebration of India's achievements in space but also a platform to raise awareness about the significance of space exploration, he said.

Prof. Prince Ganai served as Nodal Officer of the National Space Day, while Dr. M. Zubair Ansari and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran were the coordinators of the event.

On the occasion, Prof. G.A. Harmain, Dean Faculty Welfare, highlighted the historical significance of the first National Space Day. It marks a new era of educational focus on space sciences and need for space exploration among students,

# **National Space Day**

**Observer News Service** 



**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** In order to curb the drug menace and tighten the noose against drug peddlers in Srinagar District, the Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday chaired a meeting of NCORD here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, SP Headquarter Umar Shah and Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad, the meeting was attended by the Officers of Excise Department, Drug Control Organization, Health, IMHANS, Rehabilitation Centers, Postal Department, Airport Authority and other concerned Departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner emphasized the Officers to intensify the deterrence measures against the drug menace and its peddling across the District. besides destroying the channels/ networks and sources of drug peddling.

During the meeting, DC showed the concern regarding the drug abuse by students at coaching centers, hostels besides around colleges and educational hubs in the District.

He directed the Officers of District Administration and Police for proper regulation **J** tail and Wholesale pharmaof Coaching centers, their cies besides implementation Hostels and Households having Paid Guests.

The DC instructed for audit of coaching centers with respect to safety standards, availability of civic facilities besides verification of permission granted for running of Coaching Centers and hostels. He also directed to check the installation of CCTVs, availability of security guards, female wardens and conduct of Parent-warden meetings.

On the occasion, the Deptuted a Task Force to ensure that the safety and preventive SoPs are followed in letter and spirit in all coaching centers and hostels/ PGs.

Meanwhile, DC Srinagar instructed representatives of IMHANS to conduct capacity building training of teachers regarding identification of symptoms of drug abuse among students, counseling and give them hand on other expertise.

While directing for screening of students at schools, he sought progress of the Committees established in Educational Institutions regarding the elimination of drug menace.

Regarding rehabilitation of victims. DC designated District Social Welfare Officer as the Nodal Officer for providing logistic support for transferring of victims to rehabilitation centers besides ensuring cooperation between police, family of victim and ATF.

To ensure that all the outdoor patients/ victims receive full treatment till their complete recovery and to ensure zero drop-out, DC directs concerned representatives of IMHANS to reach out to every single drop-out individual.

Further, he directed 100% installation of CCTVs at Reof online billing.

DC also stressed on continuous drive for destruction of poppy crop and wild bung in the District and exhorted on the Agriculture Department for proving the alternate crops & seeds to farmers.

On the occasion, the Officers briefed the chair regarding the action taken by their respective Departments to achieve drug free Srinagar District.



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### This Day In History

- 1580- Battle of Alcantara, Spain defeats Portugal
- 1609- Galileo demonstrates his 1st telescope to Venetian

Magrib

**ISHA** 

7:10

8:35

- 1628- Assault on sultan of Mantarams of Batavia
- 1654- Battle of Arras: Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, failed to take Arras and withdrew to Cambra 1689- Battle at Charleroi: Spanish & English armies chase
- French 1804- Alice Meynell becomes 1st woman jockey (England)
- 1814 -British forces destroy Library of Congress, containing 3,000 books (War of 1812)
- 1825- Uruguay declares independence from Brazil (National
- 1830- Belgium revolts against Netherlands and begins the
- **Belgian Revolution**
- 1886-1st international polo meet (US vs England) 1894- Japanese scientist Shibasaburo Kitasato discovers
- the infectious agent of the bubonic plague and publishes his findings in The Lancet
- 1912-1st time an aircraft recovers from a spin
- 1920- Russia suffers a final decisive defeat in the Battle of Warsaw against Poland
- 192- US signs peace treaty with Germany 1932- Amelia Earhart completes transcontinental flight
- 1937- Japanese fleet blockades Chinese coast 1940-Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia incorporated into Soviet
- 1941- British & Russian troops attack pro-German Iran 1943- Lord Louis Mountbatten appointed Supreme Allied
- Commander in SE Asia
- 1944- Paris liberated from Nazi occupation (Freedom Tuesday)
- 1955- Last Soviet forces leave Austria 1981- Voyager 2's closest approach to Saturn (63.000
- miles/100,000 km) 1983- US & USSR sign \$10 billion grain pact
- 1988- Iran & Iraq begin talks to end their 8 year war 1988- NASA launches space vehicle S-214
- 1989-After 12-year, 4-billion-mile journey, Voyager 2 flies over cloudtops of Neptune & its moon Triton, sending back
- photographs of swamps 199-1 White-Russia declares its independence 1991- Linux was born when Linus Torvalds sent off the email
- announcing his project to create a new operating system. 2012-330 people are killed as a result of conflict in the Syrian
- 2012- 85.000 people are displaced by severe floods in
- Myanmar 2012-39 people are killed and 80 are injured after a gas leak
- in North Venezuelan refinery
- 2012- Voyager 1 spacecraft, enters interstellar space (launched in 1977), first spacecraft to do so

### From KO Archives

### **Indira Knew She Was** Going To Be Killed: Sonia

**TEW DELHI-** Indira Gandhi knew that she was going to be killed after the "Operation Bluestar" in 1984 and had had given instruction on her funeral to her family, her daughter-inlaw and Congress president Sonia Gandhi revealed

Well after "Operation Bluestar" my mother-inlaw knew she was going to be killed. She knew that her days were numbered. She had spoken to my son (Rahul) In particular, Sonia Gandhi said in an interview to 'Star Talk' programme.

The late Prime Minister then spoke to my husband and I, and gave us instructions on what to do when this would happen, Sonia Gandhi said, adding she gave us instruction on her funeral, on what she wanted to be done.

Sonia Gandhi corroborated what P.C. Alexander had written in a book that she did not want Rajiv Gandhi to become Prime Minister and had literally begged him not to take it up because he would also be killed.

My husband answered "I would be killed in any case," she said. Congress President narrated in detail the moments after the Indira Gandhi was assassinated in her Prime Ministerial residence in 9184 and how she felt when her husband was killed in Spiperumbudur in the midst of an election campaign.

Kashmir Observer, August 25, 1999)

**COMMUNITY-BASED** 

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participation in their

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own development

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development

of life for CWDs and

# Address Basic Needs of Children With Disabilities

**Mohammad Hanief** 

espite improvement in the health care system in the country, the situation of specially-abled children or children with disabilities remains deplorable, particularly in ru-ral areas and among the lower socio-economic population. Specially-abled children in India are subject to multiple deprivations and limited opportunities in several dimensions of their lives. Some of these include, not being enrolled to schools, lower employment rates, limited awareness of entitlements and services available and lack of social welfare support.

Due to stigma associated with disabilities, families become victims of discrimination and human rights abuse. When poverty, physical neglect and social marginalization intersect, the impact on the disabled can be devastating. Specially abled children are kept hidden away at their home, denied basic rights of mobility, education and employment.

The community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is a dynamic program globally for supporting specially abled children to lead better quality of life and lead life with dignity, wherein their rights are respected and guarded within their own communities and it creates platform for addressing the discriminatory practices in the community.

Such discrimination in some cases starts from the family members and spreads right up to the policy makers and state authorities. As a result of such discrimination the Speciallyabled children face chronic ill health, socio-economic burden and destitution. Sometimes it is so difficult to define the marginalization — they are outside the margin or within the community meaning, locked in the rooms, institutionalized, families isolating themselves, enrolling in special schools, not admitting that they have children with disabilities (CWDs), in the hospitals, etc.

Social attitudes and stigma play an important role in limiting the opportunities of disabled people for full participation in social and economic life, often even within their own families.

Predominantly in the cases of mental or intellectual disability, the family members are reluctant to accept the disability or refer to it as a physical illness and treatable condition. The pseudo-stigma attached to such disabilities, makes them hide the fact of having a disabled or challenged member at home ultimately leading to social isolation and restrictive behaviors.

not been given opportunities in the areas of education, training and employment. Under these circumstances it is natural that the CWDs feel rejected or unwanted in the society.

Due to differential genderbased role expectations, education is not considered a priority for disabled girls. Dropout rates for disabled girls are higher than for disabled boys. There is an over-representation of disabled boys in education, both in spein the community towards Specially-abled children, same been categorized as denial of disability, physical restraints, social boycott, denial of property rights, decreased marital life prospects due to disabled member in family, implications on sexuality of people with disability, women with disability, discrepancies in state welfare programs, and problems in

measuring disabilities.

Worldwide it is accepted to



There is a fear that they would be victims of disgrace and indignity and thereby family members lose the status or acceptance they enjoy in the community. This denial becomes a hurdle for early identification and treatment. Such persons would be hidden somewhere and they expect, unrealistically, to overcome the situation without realizing the long term consequences of such self-imposed denial.

It is preventing of CWDs participating in any social events. Even the family members of the disabled often tend to avoid such social gatherings in shame or fear that someone would ask about their family member with disability. Specially-abled children are not exposed to any social gathering nor does our community recognize the need for children participation. CWDs are

cial and mainstream schools. Parents become more protective and restrictive, especially after a disabled girl reaches puberty. Travelling to school is a huge problem, since, besides transport difficulties, the danger of sexual abuse and violation looms large.

Persons with disabilities comprise at least 4 to 8 percent of the Indian population. Children with disabilities in India are subject to multiple deprivations and limited opportunities in several dimensions of their lives. Their families and caregivers also go through lot of stress and challenges in having a person with disability at home which ultimately leads to grave discriminatory practices towards these children.

The case studies describes the various ugly forms of the discriminatory practices seen

use International Classification of Functioning (ICF), disability and health, known more commonly as ICF, as measurement for quantifying disability, classification of health and healthrelated domains. These domains are classified from body, individual and societal perspectives by means of two lists: A list of body functions and structure, and a list of domains of activity and participation. Since an individual's functioning and disability occurs in a context, the ICF also includes a list of environmental factors. Despite this common measurement tool for assessing disability are lacking. In some states Individuals with Disabilities Education Act/WHO Disability Assessment Schedule/ ICF are used.

During the last two decades, there has been a growing realization that institutional care for the disabled is not entirely suitable for their individual needs, dignity and independence. A movement towards community based rehabilitation has picked up pace and contribute toward greater independence and selfsustainability of the disabled.

Disability sector has recognized the importance of dignity, respect, inclusion, participation, equalization of opportunities and empowerment as key issues of rehabilitation. The negative attitudes and cultural representations of disability in society are challenged through vigorous awareness-generation and attitudinal change strategies. The issue of disability must consciously move beyond issues of special education and medical rehabilitation and be mainstreamed into other discourses such as the economy, polity, entertainment, sports, fashion and lifestyle.

Community-based rehabilitation as a strategy helps to address the ugly forms of discrimination existing in the community. The strategy also focuses on enhancing the quality of life for CWDs and their families, to meet their basic needs and ensuring inclusion and participation in their own development and also participating in the community development.

The CBR aims not only creates awareness about the rights of people with disabilities among the community members but also guarantees opportunities for their participation in social activities and also excising their rights within their own communities rather than getting isolated into institutions. The CBR has become a multi-sectoral approach that empowers persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social service.

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

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# India Needs A Dramatic Shift In Public Attitudes Towards Crimes Against Women

Shyamal Majumdar

The West Bengal government's handling of the horrific rape and murder of a young doctor at her workplace reflects the most basic shortcomings in governance in general and crimes against women in particular. What emerges from the latest brutal incident is a story of an unequal balance of power between the might of the state and a majority of its citizens, officials' disregard for protocol, and their seeming uncoincern for a grieving family trying

to come to terms with a tragedy. The apathy and negligence of the police and the state administration in this case is shocking, but it shouldn't surprise anybody in a country where one woman complains of police apathy every two hours, according to National Commission for Women data. It is anyway a well-established fact that the police and bureaucracy are hostage to political power in almost every state, West Bengal

being no exception.

The RG Kar episode has shaken the nation's conscience, just as the Nirbhaya case did 12 years ago and the Hathras case four years ago. The first one involved one of the most heinous crimes in the history of our country in which a 23-year-old physiotherapy intern was brutally gangraped and mutilated in a mov-

ing bus in Delhi. It led to one of the most landmark judgments of India, which has brought many

changes in the rape laws. But it's obvious that the stricter rape laws after the Nirbhaya case did nothing to mitigate the suffering of women. Data released by the National Crime Records Bureau showed a large increase in the number of crimes against women in 2022 over 2021, and nearly a 20% increase compared to the number of gender crimes reported in 2020. The chargesheet rate was a mere 75.8% in 2022. A staggering 31,516 rape cases were recorded in the country in the year and the victim count for workplace sexual harassment against women increased from 402 in 2018 to 422 in 2022.

422 in 2022.

The actual figures are likely to be much higher because such crimes mostly go unreported due to fear of reprisal, prevailing stigmas around victims, and a lack of faith in police investigation. Notably, the National Family Health Survey-5 report concludes nearly one-third of women aged between 15 and 49 years in India have experienced physical, sexu-

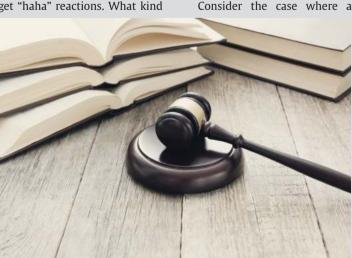
al, or domestic violence.

The reason why the stricter laws haven't worked is simple: Law can hardly change people's minds. Beyond media sensationalism and legal recourse, when it comes to violence against wom-

en, there is an underlying layer of human interaction that is much more sinister — apathy.

The insensitivity and apathy is visible on the social media itself. "Dank" memes and their host pages churn out joke after joke about rape culture, which often get "haha" reactions. What kind

vailing in society also cause under-reporting of several crimes. People have plenty to say on podiums and on their social media accounts on crimes against women, but when it comes to practical scenarios, the apathy which they display is deplorable.



of society is this?

The candle lights and the protest marches are spontaneous reactions to the horrific crime, but the question Indian middle class should ask themselves is whether the expressions of collective trauma, anger, and mourning will serve any purpose beyond the short term. It's a fact that victim-blaming attitudes and misogynistic undertones pre-

28-year-old woman was raped in broad daylight by a 21-year-old drug addict, on a busy pavement in Vishakhapatnam, and onlookers did nothing to help her. Rather some of them recorded the incident on their cell phone and the incident became "viral". It's a horrific reflection of where our society is headed towards.

Or take the incident at Hathras four years ago where a 19-year-

old Dalit girl was gangraped and brutalised. Two weeks later as the girl succumbed to her injuries in a Delhi hospital, the UP police carried her body back to her village and forcibly cremated her without the consent of her family. Despite clear statements by the victim about sexual assault the police and the government authorities kept denying the charges of rape, and the victims' family remained isolated and confined to their house and was constantly subjected to slurs by the upper caste residents of the village. Three of the four accused were acquitted later.

There's more. In May last year, a 16-year-old girl was killed by her alleged boyfriend who stabbed her more than 30 times and hit her with a concrete slab on a busy street in Delhi's Shahbad Dairy area. Most of the people chose to walk past while some stood quietly, witnessing the gruesome act.

Such bystander approach of citizens is sickening. In her separate opinion in the 2017 Nirbhaya judgment, Justice R Banumathi had hit the nail right on the head when she said, "Apart from effective implementation of the various legislation protecting women, change in the mindset of the society at large and creating awareness in the public on gender justice, would go a long way to combat violence

against women." That should be our priority.

Everyone is happy ticking the boxes. For example, the Supreme Court has set up a task force to formulate protocol for ensuring safety of doctors. What purpose would it serve? There are enough guidelines and recommendations from the ministry of health and family welfare, National Health Mission, and the National Health Policy. But these mandates and policy directives remain on paper. There have been no concrete steps or directions towards translating policy into practice.

The pre-dawn hangings of four men convicted in the Nirbhaya case had brought a semblance of closure to her parents, prompting her mother, to say, "Women will now feel safe." It's a colossal tragedy that even 12 years later, her prediction is nowhere close to reality as the biggest problem by far is silence and tolerance ingrained in our psyche. A society genuinely committed to gender equality wouldn't put up with this situation for a moment. A dramatic shift in public attitudes is the only answer.

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 Unsung Elegist of Kashmir: Mirza Abul Qasim

**Muzaffar Hussain Bhat** 

Tithin the intricate fabric of Kashmiri culture, characterized by its deep roots in mysticism, aesthetic richness, and a history of suffering, few literary figures are as significant yet overlooked as Mirza Abul Qasim of Gund Khwaja Qasim, Parspore. A prolific 19th-century composer of Marsiya, a form of elegiac poetry dedicated to the commemoration of the martyrs of Karbala, Abul Qasim devoted his life to this literary tradition. Despite his substantial contributions to Kashmiri literature, his legacy remains largely unrecognized, overshadowed by the tragic events that led to his eventual departure from Kashmir. His work, largely confined to the Kashmiri Shia community, remains obscure to the broader Kashmiri population and largely unknown beyond

Abul Qasim's Marsiya are not merely poetic articulations of grief; they represent a profound testament to the enduring resilience of a community that has long sought solace in the commemorative rituals of Karbala, particularly in times of adversity. Writing in the Kashmiri language, Abul Qasim's oeuvre deeply resonated with the local Shia community, reflecting the unique blend of Persian cultural influences and indigenous Kashmiri traditions. His verses, rich in emotive depth and cultural allusions, continue to echo the collective sorrow and perseverance of the Kashmiri people.

A distinctive feature of Qasim's Marsiya is the infusion of his personal suffering into his poetic compositions. While Marsiya are inherently vehicles for expressing collective sorrow, Qasim's works transcend the conventional boundaries of the genre by embedding his personal tragedies within the broader narrative of communal grief. His poetry not only reflects the col-



lective lamentation but also serves as a poignant mirror to his own existential anguish. For instance, in the composition 'Meeras', Qasim parallels his own harrowing experience of exile from Kashmir while leaving his 'meeras' here with Imam Hussain's tragic journey from Medina to Kufa. In the early 1840s, Qasim was compelled to leave Kashmir following a bitter incident, leading to his migration to Lucknow. This event, still vividly recalled by the residents of Gund Khwaja Qasim, was first recorded by Hakim Ghulam Safdar in the journal 'Al-Irshad,' published by Bab ul Ilm Budgam in 1962. Safdar writes:

"Mirza [Abul Qasim] was well-off, possessing substantial estates and several houses, remnants of which still exist in Gund [Khwaja Qasim]. Little is known about him, though I have come across accounts of Asad Joo. Despite being a local, Asad Joo harbored an inexplicable animosity towards Mirza and relentlessly sought to harm him. Supported by a group of miscreants, Asad Joo eventually forced Mirza Abul Qasim to leave his homeland. On his way to Lucknow, Mirza and his family were robbed at 'Tosa Maidan.''

This narrative attracted the attention of the Khwaja family from Gund Khwaja Qasim, who responded with an open letter published in a subsequent issue of 'Al-Irshad.' The letter not only presented their perspective but also further complicated the historical understanding of the incident by providing additional contextual details. Recently, Khwaja Mohammad Qasim took up this issue and compiled a whole book on the exile of Mirza Abul Qasim. I will further explore this dimension in the following sections.

Another dimension that adds depth to Abul Qasim's Marsiya is his expressed desire to be interred in Karbala, a wish that was fulfilled after his departure from Lucknow when he chose to spend his remaining years in Karbala, serving the pilgrims. The tragic end of Mirza Abul Qasim's life, marked by exile and unfulfilled longings, adds a melancholic layer to his literary legacy. On one hand, his death deprived

him of the chance to see his homeland again; on the other, his wish to remain in Karbala was fulfilled. Like many artists, Abul Qasim's life was fraught with hardship, and his death underscores the often harsh realities faced by those in the creative professions. However, it is precisely this tragic backdrop that elevates his work, imbuing it with an authenticity and depth that resonate with those who have experienced loss and found solace in faith.

In a region where the echoes of conflict and suffering are omnipresent, Abul Qasim's Marsiya provide a voice of empathy and understanding, bridging the temporal gap between the historical events of Karbala and the contemporary experiences of the Kashmiri people. His poetry serves as a reminder that, even in the darkest of times, the Kashmiri Marsiya can offer a pathway to the divine, a means of processing collective pain, and a source of meaning in the face of despair.

It is imperative that the contributions of Mirza Abul Qasim to Kashmiri literature be recognized and celebrated. His work not only enriched the literary heritage of his time but also provided a cultural touchstone for future generations. In a world that often overlooks its poets, Abul Qasim's Marsiya stand as a testament to the enduring power of the written word, serving as a beacon of hope and a repository of collective memory.

In commemorating Mirza Abul Qasim, we do more than honour a great poet; we acknowledge the pain, beauty, and resilience that define the human experience. His life and work serve as a profound reminder that, even in the face of adversity, the power of words can transcend time, offering solace and insight to those who

The author is from Gund, Kantarbugh,

# The Power of Platonic Love and Friendships

Te live in a world where from novels to movies, romantic love has been glorified through the ages across cultures, continents and communities. Thousands of words, verses, sonnets and fairytales by writers, thinkers and philosophers, waxing lyricals over time on a love that transcends all. From Shakespeare to Austen, Victorian to Bridgerton, we have read and then watched adaptations of love that may be requited or unrequited, passionate or slow burn, no matter what kind, these stories have resulted in all of us dreaming of a "one true love" that ends in a "happily ever after."

But could it be that we could be sustained and nourished by platonic love?

Our book club pick for July, Rhaina Cohen's The Other Significant Others: Reimagining Life with Friendship at the Center offers a powerful narrative on platonic partnerships and how the thrill. intimacy, and commitment we seek is often found through meaningful friendship. As we read this book, we couldn't help but reflect on how our relationships have evolved beyond societal dictation and expectations, and what that may mean for our emotional lives.

Cohen writes:

"This is a book about friends who have become a we, despite having no scripts, no ceremonies, and precious few models to guide them toward longterm platonic commitment. These are friends who have moved together across states and continents. They've been their friend's primary caregiver through organ transplants and chemotherapy. They're co-parents, co-homeowners, and executors of each other's wills. They belong to a club that has no name or membership form, often unaware that there are others like them. They fall under the umbrella of what Eli Finkel, a psychology professor at Northwestern University, calls "other significant others." Having eschewed a more typical life setup, these friends confront hazards and make discoveries they wouldn't have otherwise."

This principle highlights the importance of community and mutual support, extending beyond the confines of marital or romantic love. It reminds us that our lives are enriched by a variety of relationships, each contributing uniquely to our overall wellbeing.

The notion that one's romantic partner should fulfil every emotional checkpoint is not only unrealistic, but also unfair. No single person can be everything to someone else.

It is also essential to remember that not everyone desires to be married, nor is destined to find a spouse. We are multifaceted beings with diverse emotional needs that can be met through various relationships. Friends, family, and community members each contribute differently to our lives, providing a rich support network that a single individual simply cannot.

Take Ayesha, a 32 year old dental hygienist, whose entire day revolves around asking people to keep their mouths open but not talk, "I recently



moved to Canada, leaving all my friends behind which has been such an isolating experience. I am happily married and yet my husband and I both experience loneliness individually. We are trying our best to support each other but we both realise that we need some friends of our own. It is exhausting trying to be everyone for one person."

Society has inundated us with the notion that romantic love is the ultimate goal. This narrative is so pervasive that we often undervalue and overlook the significance of platonic relationships. We have all witnessed some way or another, friends getting married and disappearing, lost in what experts call a couple-bubble. We don't mean to be cruel, we do value our friends, so why is it so easy to dispose of them when we enter marriage? Is it because of the societal mental block that a marriage is the be all and end all of all relationships?

You can argue that the first few years of marriage are fragile, where you start trying to build a new life with someone else, trying to understand tricky dynamics, and where we are thrust into multiple roles that may carry the baggage of duty and obligations. Amongst all our individual relationships, it is easiest to let friendships slide. We expect our friends to understand our situations and circumstances the most, to make excuses for us and to cut us some slack. Perhaps this is why we underplay the importance of our friends in our lives as soon as we find a significant other, expecting them to always be there.

What we easily forget, in the rose tinted haze of the early years of coupledom, is that our mental and emotional wellbeing relies on loving and being loved not only by our spouse, but also by our chosen community of friends.

Friends who provide support, understanding, and a sense of belonging. They are often the ones that see us through various phases of life, offering a shoulder to cry on, a sounding board for ideas and being a cheerleader for our achievements. These are the relationships that carry us forward when our other relationships fall through. The ones that

quietly provide us with strength in ways that may not always be tangible.

However, as people grow older, they often move on and drift apart. Adulthood pulls us in different

directions, and that childhood friend you spoke to every day may now only send you a customary birthday message once a year. This shift can be quite painful, highlighting the challenge of making friends as an adult. Unlike the effortless connections of childhood, building meaningful relationships later in life requires more effort and intention. This is why it's important to recognise and appreciate the value of platonic love wherever we may find it.

Fatima, a 40 year old mum of three, shared that it was only after she made two friends at her local mosque that Canada started feeling like a home, "All you need is one to two good friends whom you can rely on, who you know will have your back. No matter how busy or hectic our lives get, my friends and I always meet up for dinner every two weeks. We rant, we vent, we unload, but we also celebrate. The little stuff as well as the big stuff with an enthusiasm that makes the others feel cherished and loved. Don't get me wrong, I love my husband and kids, but they cannot fill up the nooks and crannies of my soul like my friends do."

Despite all this, the love that binds us with our tribe is not celebrated widely nor proclaimed in a similar manner. With many getting married later in life, it raises questions about what that shift means for our relationships. If you aren't getting married or having a baby, will you ever receive the same level of celebration?

There is no fanfare attached nor endless songs sung when a platonic friend shows up for us time and time again. No friend anniversary celebrations and wishes, except for a Facebook notification that usually goes ignored and only happens if you are a Millennial or Boomer.

Humans are social animals, we are not meant to do life alone. Consider the concept of "ukhuwah" in Islam, which emphasises brotherhood and collective care, highlighting the importance of a close knit village. The first Muslim society was established on the basis of brotherhood, where the Ansaar of Madinah welcomed the Muhajireen of Makkah with open arms and hearts, a bond rooted in faith and platonic love.

It is true that true friendship is irreplaceable. But it is also true that true friendship cannot be taken for granted. It requires nurturing, time, and effort - elements that cannot be replicated or rushed. It is important to remember that love comes in many forms, and while romantic love is beautiful and significant, it is not the only kind of love that merits our attention. Perhaps it is time to redefine love and embrace all forms of it equally.

So the ultimate question remains— are we going to defy the societal constructed parameters of relationships and finally give our "other" significant others the respect and time they deserve?

> This article was originally published by Amaliah

## **Exploring** the Legacy of Samad Mir: Kashmir's **Mystical Sufi Poet**

**Syed Amjad Hussain** 

new chapter in the appreciation of Kashmir's rich cultural and spiritual heritage unfolds as research delves into the life and work of Samad Mir, a distinguished Sufi poet whose verses continue to resonate with readers today. Born in 1894 in Narwara, Srinagar, Samad Mir's contributions to Sufi literature have garnered renewed interest, particularly through recent compilations and scholarly analyses.

Samad Mir, the son of the dervish Khaliq Mir and Noor, emerged from a background deeply rooted in Sufi tradition. Khaliq Mir, originally from Nambalhar, Budgam, had migrated to Srinagar in search of livelihood, working at a sawmill before establishing his family. Samad Mir grew up surrounded by spiritual and poetic influences that shaped his later

Despite his lack of formal education, Samad Mir's poetry, which was transcribed by Ali Shah of Wagar, Budgam, reflects profound Sufi themes. His works explore abstract concepts such as beauty and truth, often portraying them as manifestations of the divine. A strong theme in Mir's poetry is the veneration of Prophets, Walis, and other Sufi saints, highlighting his deep spiritual engagement.

Samad Mir's life took him from Srinagar back to his ancestral village of Nambalhar, where he lived and wrote until his death on January 9, 1959. His legacy has been preserved in the 'Kulyaat-e-Samad Mir', a comprehensive compilation edited by Moti Lal Saqi and published by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. This collection has undergone several revisions, reflecting the ongoing scholarly interest in his work. Additionally, a monograph published by Sahitya Akademi further contributes to the understanding of Mir's influence.

Samad Mir's personal life included the challenge of navigating his family dynamics, with his younger brother Rahim Mir remaining in Narwara and his third brother Muhammad Mir passing away at a young age. His own family, comprising three sons and a daughter, witnessed his deep commitment to both his poetic and spiritual pursuits.

The enduring impact of Samad Mir's poetry is evident in the continued interest and academic attention it receives. His burial site at Agar, Nambalhar, now features a shrine, marking the place where this revered poet and mystic rests.

As research continues, Samad Mir's contributions to Sufi literature and his unique perspective on divine and worldly themes remain a testament to Kashmir's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

Syed Amjad Hussain is a bihar-based Author and Independent Research scholar on Sufism

# Sports Gadheer Pishoo Clinches Inaugural Goma Premier League

KARGIL: The Goma Kargil Play Ground witnessed an exhilarating finale of the first-ever district-level cricket tournament, the Goma Premier League. The final match, played between Gadheer Pishoo and Kako Shilikchey, culminated in a thrilling victory for Gadheer Pishoo.

The tournament was organised by youths of Goma Kargil led by Nissar Tom and Imtiyaz Khan.

The tournament, in which 42 teams across the district participated, marked a significant milestone in the promotion of sports in the region. The event attracted thousands of spectators, creating an electrifying atmosphere at the newly constructed Goma Kargil Play Ground.

The Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon,

was the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony. Others present on this occasion include Abass Ali Khan, President Youth NC Kargil, Anayat Ali Shotopa, International Player and General Secretary of Ladakh Taekwondo Association, former Ward Member Mohd Ali Lamboo, and well-known businessmen from Goma Kargil Haji Hussain and Mohd Amin. (Ladakh News Service)

### England Make Shaky Start Chasing Target Of 205 Against Sri Lanka

Agencies

LONDON: England limped to 82 for three after Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope fell early chasing a target of 205 to beat Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the first Test on Saturday.

Sri Lanka started the day at 204-6 and Kamindu Mendis and Dinesh Chandimal batted through the rainhit first session to forge a 117-run partnership for the seventh wicket and get Sri Lanka past the 300-run mark.

But Kamindu, on 113 after completing his third test century, nicked Gus Atkinson to Root soon after lunch as England made the most of the new ball, despite fast bowler Mark Wood being ruled out for the day with a thigh injury.

Matthew Potts dismissed Chandimal, who scored 79 despite playing through pain after suffering a blow to his thumb, to end Sri Lanka's innings on 326, with the visitors adding only 19 runs for the last three wickets.

Duckett was dropped on two by keeper Kusal Mendis, but the opener was caught by Mendis for 11. Captain Ollie Pope soon followed him back to the pavilion, caught at slip for six.

Dan Lawrence (34) was next to go, trapped lbw by Milan Rathnayake to leave England teetering on 70-3.

Harry Brook joined Joe Root and they steadied the ship but England still need 123 for victory with seven

### CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

### **Centre Launches**

employees after minimum 10 years

As per the current pension scheme, employees contribute 10 per cent while the central government contributes 14 percent, which would be increased to 18 percent with the UPS.

"Some central employees met with the Prime Minister today. They were with the UPS in the meeting," said Vaishnaw.

Last year, a committee under Finance Secretary TV Somanathan was set up to review the pension scheme for government employees and suggest changes in the light of the existing framework and structure of the National Pension System

The finance ministry formed the committee after several non-BJP-ruled states decided to revert to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and calls by employee organisations for the same.

Under the OPS, retired government employees received 50 per cent of their last-drawn salary as monthly pensions. The amount keeps increasing with the hike in the Dearness Allowance (DA) rates. **'Will Resolve K-Issue** 

The party put thrust on improving relations between India and Pakistan, promising to advocate for diplomatic initiatives between the two neighbours, emphasising conflict resolution, CBMs, and regional cooperation.

The manifesto titled 'People's Aspirations' promised to establish full connectivity across the Line of Control (LoC) for trade and social exchange.

It advocated for a regional free-trade area and shared economic market.

The party strives for the opening of old and traditional trade routes to central and south Asia through Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

The manifesto strives for revocation of the Public Safety Act (PSA), Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Enemy Act, and said it committed the revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

It also promises to revisit and address the cases of "unjust" job terminations -- referring to the sacking of J-K government employees over terror abetment charges.

Promising to protect the land and employment rights of the people of J&K, the party said locals will have the first right in all government tenders as well as mining contracts.

It said, if elected to power, the party would accelerate the process to identify and fill all government vacancies

on a fast-track basis within one year. "Sixty thousand daily wagers to be regularised within one year," the manifesto read, adding to launch initiatives to create jobs in key sectors like tourism, agriculture, and technology.

On the issue of the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, the PDP's manifesto said the party is committed to the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland, "ensuring they are welcomed back as honoured members of our community'

"We will strive to take all the stakeholders on board to secure an end to this humanitarian crisis. This is not just a return, but a restoration of the cultural and spiritual essence of Kashmir," it said.

The party promised revoking the current one-BHK scheme to minimum allocation of two-BHK apartments for every returning family, and to strive that Kashmiri Pandits are the first beneficiaries of the Centre's scheme of five marlas of land for landless families.

It also said the party would advocate for the opening and promotion of Sharda Peeth across the LoC as a fullfledged religious pilgrimage site.

"This initiative aims to reconnect people with their cultural and religious heritage, fostering greater understanding and peace between communities on both sides of the LoC," it added.

The PDP in its manifesto had promised free 200 units of electricity to every household if voted to power, besides one time settlement for pending electricity bills.

The manifesto also highlighted free water to every house and abolishment of the meter system for water. "12 cylinders of LPG free of cost per year to every household. Bringing back sugar and kerosene under PS. No stamp duty for women purchasing property. Abolish property tax for all households," the manifesto reads.

The party said that it will strive for

opening of old traditional trade routes to central and south Asia through J&K. Besides, it vows for revocation of PSA and UAPA and Enemy Act to put an end to unjust arrests of political and social

activists, journalists, civil society and

concerned citizens. It also mentions protecting the land and employment rights of the people of J&K, re-establishment of J&K human rights commission, revisit and address cases of unjust job terminations to ensure fair treatment and job security for

all employees. "Transfer Hydro Power projects to Jammu and Kashmir, free legal aid for prisoners to be enforced, Restore Darbar Move and Waqf Board to their former excellence with transparency and community focused approach," reads the manifesto.

"We will establish a dedicated cell to assist youth and their families with passport related difficulties, shift academic session in winter zone from March to its original timing in November, free electricity to all temples and shrines with sarai facilities to promote religious circuit, including Punjabi in official language schedule,"it said.

The PDP will restore Autonomy and dignity of Press Club, revisit policy of selective curtailment of advertisement to newspapers by the current regime, and dedicated budget allocation for Muharram, it added.

The party also talked about eliminating undue harassment of individuals on highways to promote safer and more respectful road experiences. "Committed to protect free speech and support for independent media in the face of unprecedented government repression.'

PDP will double funds under social security schemes like old age pension, widow pension and pension for disabled from Rs 1000 to 2000. "OT scheme for J&K Bank loan customers to be reviewed. First right to locals in all government tenders. Revisit mining contracts and with special preference to locals," the party highlighted in its manifesto.

It also talked about increasing PM Kisan installment from 2000 to 4000 quarterly by adding state shares.

Besides promising amnesty and waiving of all KCC loans for genuine farmers it said that the party will create a dedicated corridor for the smooth movement of trucks during harvest season and provide toll tax relief for horticulture produce to ensure timely and cost effective transportation for farmers.

"Strive to reinstate the old pension scheme for all government employees, replacing the current national pension scheme, and increase the honorarium of cooks in the school education department from 1000 to 2500."

The party also said that it will increase the honorarium of Voluntary Home Guards at par with other states. "We will devise a transfer policy for ReTs, distributing area allowance for I&K police, regularization of SPOs and implementation of Minimum Wages Act," the manifesto reads.

### 'Will Not Contest

and the National Conference (NC) are ready to accept our agenda -- that resolution of the Kashmir issue is necessary and on opening of routes -- we will tell them to contest on all the

seats and we will follow you," she said. The poll manifesto was released by the party president and the former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti at PDP head office here, setting a precondition for accepting the pre-poll alliance between National Conference and the Congress.

The former Chief Minister asked the two parties to endorse PDPs agenda, which prioritizes the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

"It's not about elections, statehood, and seat sharing only; I think the Kashmir issue is still very much alive. This is a human issue. Situation in J&K worsened following the abrogation of Article 370, and we want this matter to be settled 'undoubtedly' within the ambit of the Indian constitution," said Mehbooba.

Taking pot shots at the National Conference and the Congress for reducing the Kashmir issue to mere seat sharing and statehood, she said, for PDP the resolution of Kashmir issue is far more important to bring J&K out of political uncertainty

Mehbooba, the PDP president, said the dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which "was being trampled on", was important for her party.

"Whether you give me three or four seats, it does not mean anything to me. When we entered into an alliance with either the Congress or the BJP, it was on our agenda. The NC and the Congress have not entered into an alliance on any agenda but for seatsharing and we will not talk of such an alliance, which only talks about seatsharing," she said.

"Our alliance should be based on an agenda and our agenda is to find resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir issue... No doubt within the Constitution of this country but a resolution," she added.

When asked if the PDP would forge an alliance with BIP after elections, she replied "No, our alliance was with the BJP government and not the party. We formed an alliance to protect Article 370 which they agreed upon. But what good is it to forge an alliance with them if Article 370 is no more?

Mehbooba accused the central government of turning an influential legislature of the former state into a civic body and a Chief Minister into the head of a municipality.

"PDP is not in fray for seat sharing and statehood but we have much bigger cause, that is Kashmir issue, we are fighting for the dignity of the people of J&K," the PDP leader claimed.

Replying to another query whether elections have become unnecessary for the PDP, she replied, "No, elections are the only way to address the Kashmir issue in a long-term manner; it's about J&K's development. Come what may, we shall demonstrate our victory by contesting elections."

The PDP in its manifesto promised to pursue the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and advocate for diplomatic initiatives between India and Pakistan.

It also aims to establish full connectivity across the Line of Control for trade and social exchange.

The manifesto also talks about striving for the revocation of the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as well as its commitment to revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were last held in November 2014, resulting in the PDP and the BJP Mufti Mohammed Sayeed.

His death in 2016 led to his daughter Mehbooba taking up the mantle of leadership as chief minister of the coalition government.

The BJP pulled out of the government in June 2018 and the state was put under governor's rule.

On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led Centre abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and reorganised the erstwhile state into two Union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Terrorist Killed**

hilly districts of the Jammu division came in, the army deployed over 4,000 trained soldiers including the elite Para commandos and those trained in mountain warfare to secure the mountain tops in the Jammu region.

Terrorists have carried out ambush attacks against the army, security forces and civilians in Kathua. Doda. Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi and Udhampur districts during the last 2 months.

The modus operandi of the terrorists has been to carry out surprise attacks and then disappear into the densely foliaged and forested areas of these distrusts.

The deployment of the army and the CRPF inside the densely forested areas is meant to deprive the terrorists of this element of surprise.

Senior security forces officers believe that the revised anti-terrorism strategy is working well as the security forces have been able to keep the terrorists engaged in encounters so that they cannot carry out sly attacks.

### Art 370 Will Never

autonomy resolution passed by the erstwhile assembly in 2000 are among the National Conference's 12 guarantees announced in its manifesto for the upcoming polls.

"We strive to restore (Articles) 370-35A, and statehood as prior to August 5, 2019," the NC poll document said.

In June 2000, the National Conference government under Farooq Abdullah passed a resolution in the J-K Assembly seeking to restore the pre-1953 constitutional position in the

It was, however, rejected by the

Union Cabinet headed by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Article 370 was abrogated by the Narendra Modi government on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two UTs - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The PDP on Saturday released its manifesto for the Assembly elections, promising to pursue the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir to its "original status", and advocate for confidencebuilding measures (CBMs) and regional cooperation between India and Pakistan

"The PDP is resolute in its pursuit of restoring the constitutional guarantees that were unjustly scrapped, and is committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir to its original status, ensuring that the voices of its people are heard and their rights are safeguarded," it

The PDP manifesto said the "unconstitutional and illegal revocation" of Articles 370 and 35A in 2019 has "further complicated the Kashmir issue, deepening the alienation felt by the people of the region".

On Friday, Shah slammed the Congress for its alliance with the National Conference for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls, accusing the party of repeatedly risking the country's unity and security in its greed for power.

The Congress has once again "exposed its ulterior motives by allying with the Abdullah family's National Conference," Shah said. Posing 10 questions for the Congress

and Gandhi, Shah had asked, "Does the Congress support the National Conference's promise of a separate flag for Jammu and Kashmir?

"Do Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party support the JKNC's decision to restore Article 370 and 35A, and thereby pushing Jammu and Kashmir back into an era of unrest and terrorism?"

The full name of Farooq Abdullahled party is Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC).

### **Ensure AMFs Across**

available at the Polling Stations. CEO, Pandurang K Pole exhorted upon the officers present in the meeting to ensure the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) across all the Polling Stations He also directed the officers to send an Action Taken Report along with the Geo-tagged photos of the polling stations to the office of Chief Electoral Officer in a week's time.

Pertinently, there are 11,838 total Polling Stations including 2332 in urban and 9506 in rural areas with each polling station averaging 735 electorates.

The officers were also directed to ensure continuous drinking water and power supply including lighting facilities should be provided by the concerned department across all the Polling Stations which are going to poll on 18 September 2024 in Phase-1. Moreover, the sanitation and plantation drives should be taken well in advance in the premises of all the Polling Stations.

The availability of accessible approach roads at various Polling Stations located in remote areas and at the tough terrain and snow bound areas across J&K also came under the discussion and it was directed that both J&K Rural Development Department (RDD) and J&K Housing and Urban Development Department will take required steps in this regard.

Additionally, the officers must take care of ramp construction leading to a particular Polling Station to facilitate the Persons with Disability (PwDs) in voting and sufficient steps should be taken well in advance by the departments, the statement reads.

The availability of Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs), Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) and Voter Awareness Forums and their roles in attracting various voter groups in a particular Assembly Constituency were also discussed and deliberations were held to strengthen them at the Booth Level.

In the first phase, 24 Assembly Constituencies both in Jammu and Kashmir divisions are going to election on 18 September, 2024

The notification has been issued for Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam districts in Kashmir Division; and Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts in Iammu Division.

In Kashmir Division, 16 Assembly Constituencies comprising Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, DH Pora, Kulgam, Devsar, Dooru, Kokernag (ST), Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangus-Anantnag East, Pahalgam; whereas in Jammu Division, 8 Assembly Constituencies including, Inderwal, Kishtwar, Padder-Nagseni, Bhadarwah, Doda, Doda West, Ramban and Banihal are scheduled to go for polls in the Phase-I of the Assembly Election

### **Apni Party Rules**

secret alliance with NC and Congress, adding that some parties are openly forging an alliance while some are behind the curtains.

Assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir in three phases September 18 and 25, and October 1, while results will be declared on October 4.

### 2 Get Lifer For 2011

Vs. State of Rajasthan AIR 2015 which compensation has held to be integral to just sentencing.
"In the instant case, the convicts

have been behind the bars for the last more than twelve years and a long incarceration has an effect upon their social and economic status, in such a situation, convicts cannot be compelled to pay fine or compensation to the victim but under the Victim Compensation Scheme, 2013 formulated by the Government of J&K, as per SRO 394 of 2013, the victim of the offence can be compensated." the court said, adding, "The occurrence has taken place on 28-10-2011 and the scheme applicable to the case of the victim is as per SRO 394 dated 09-09-2013. Therefore, the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, shall release an amount of Rs. 3.00 lacs as compensation in favour of the parents of the deceased."

On August 17 last, in a detailed judgment running 233 pages, the court had acquitted two other accused- Abid Hussain Bhat and his wife MahaJabina of Tangan Nowgam in the case. Also, the prime accused, Nazar Muhammad Dar of Rakh Shalina Nowgam who escaped from police custody in 2016 while being taken for treatment to SMHS has already been declared as proclaimed offender and proceedings under section 512 of CRPC stand initiated against him.

According to police, on October 28. 2011 Javaid Ahmad Qadri of Gousia Colony Pampore lodged a missing report of his son, Kaleem Qadri in Police Station Pampore. During the investigation it was found that he had travelled towards Srinagar in his Car Ford Figo bearing registration number JK01Q-1711 at about 5:30 PM after dropping his father at Frestabal.

At about 10:30 PM, father of Kaleem informed the Police Station that he received a phone call from the mobile number of his son and the caller identified himself as a kidnapper belonging to Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit and threatened him not to inform the Police. The kidnapper demanded a ransom of rupees one crore from the father for the release of his son.

Subsequently a case FIR No. 169/2011 under relevant sections of Law was registered in Police Station Pampore. A joint team of Awantipora and Srinagar Police was constituted to investigate the case.

During investigation of the case. the finger of suspicion went towards Nazar Muhammad Dar of Rakh Shalina Nowgam who was last seen with Kaleem in the car. A Police party was dispatched to the

residence of Nazar to call him for ques-

tioning. During sustained questioning, he revealed that he was a close friend of Kaleem but for some time their relationship was strained. Nazar developed ill intentions towards Kaleem and hatched a conspiracy along with his brother Younis

Ahmad Dar and his friend Javaid

Ahmad Bhat to kidnap the deceased and demand ransom from his father. Acting upon the conspiracy hatched, Nazar lured Kaleem to move towards Srinagar where he promised him to sell his I-Pad for a good amount. On reaching Lasjan bridge, the other two accomplices namely Javaid and Younis also boarded the Car and moved towards Nowgam. Enroute, Kaleem was strangled to death in the vehicle with a waist belt which was brought by the

accused with them. Thereafter they moved towards village Wapora of district Budgam and wrapped the dead body in a bed sheet that was already brought by the accused persons along. The accused put the body in the dickey of the vehicle and moved towards Bemina, Shalteng area to pass the time as they were waiting for the darkness to descend, so as to dispose of the body.

Further police said that at about 9:30 PM they brought the body at Sheerbagh Lasjan where it was loaded on a boat and thrown in the middle of the river with some stones tied with it. The car of the deceased was taken to Jawahar Nagar and was parked near the FootBridge, the police said.

After parking the vehicle, the accused made a phone call to the father of the kaleem, telling him that the vehicle was parked near a footbridge. He was also told not to inform the Police and demanded Rs one crore from him as ransom for which, he said, a call would be made next morning.

During the investigation Nazar and Younis made disclosure statements upon which the belongings of the deceased including his I- Pad, cell phone etc and the same were recovered and also the body of Kaleem was retrieved from river Jehlum.

### **Congress Chairs**

party is brewing against surrendering in front of NC.

The source further said that party high command, especially Rahul Gandhi, was informed by few party leaders from Jammu and Kashmir of not keeping the interests of party workers paramount while going for seat-sharing with the NC.

The meeting was attended by senior leaders G A Mir, Vikar Rasool Wani, Shahnawaz Choudhary, and others and

a decision is expected by tomorrow. "Randhawa will be taking the findings of the report to Congress president Malikarjun Kharge and then to Rahul Gandhi after which a decision will be taken whether there will be a friendly contest between Congress and NC or things will remain as it is," the source added.

Since the alliance was announced by NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah, no formal list of candidates has been released by either party but few leaders have claimed to have gotten the alliance mandate.

The major issue is on eight seats of the Chenab valley, few seats of the Kashmir Valley and some seats of Pir

### Will Safeguard

National Conference, which, in its manifesto, talked about removal/ review of reservations to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) -- whether it is political reservation or reservation for jobs -- to deprive them of their constitutional rights," Rana told reporters.

He added, "The Congress has always played with the destiny of the people for its greed for power and now it has exposed its designs to go against the reservations granted to Dalits, Gujjars, Paharis and OBCs, some of whom got this right only after the abrogation of Article 370 by the BJP-led (central) government."

promised to review the reservation policy to correct "any injustice and imbalance", without mentioning any specific group. Rana said his party was committed to protecting the interests of these

In its manifesto for the assembly

elections, the National Conference has

machinations of the Congress and the National Conference succeed". "We will not allow them to play with the destiny of the SCs, Gujjars,

communities and "would not let the

Paharis and OBCs," he said. Rana also alleged that the National Conference intended to rename Shankaracharya Hill as "Takht-e-Suleiman" and Hari Parbat as "Koh-e-Maran" and said "both the places are a matter of faith for us and we will not

allow this to happen". "The Congress has joined the National Conference in its nefarious design for its own political gains ... We will not allow the Congress to play with the people who have suffered a sense of deprivation and discrimination under various Congress-National Conference governments in the past,"

Rana said. He said the BJP was committed to upholding the Constitution, as drafted by BR Ambedkar, and would not allow any

#### discrimination with the Jammu region. **Abandoned By Allies**

come, the PDP could be expected to further harden its political stance to show the NC as more accommodating of the post-Article 370 reality. It remains to be seen how the NC responds to the challenge.

### 800 Officers Trained On Election Expenditure Monitoring In J&K

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir department of election conducted a one-day online training programme on election expenditure monitoring on Saturday for nearly 800 officers, an official said here.

The training programme was inaugurated by J&K Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pandurang K Pole and was attended by district nodal officers and assembly constituency nodal officers of all the 22 enforcement agencies, along with in-charge officers of flying squads, static surveillance teams, video viewing teams and video surveillance teams.

The official said the CEO exhorted the trainee officers to work with zeal and dedication to ensure the purity and trans-

parency of the assembly election process.

Pole also chaired a separate meeting of director-level officers to review the overall preparations of the polling stations to ensure the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the three-phased election beginning September 18.

The meeting discussed the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) to be made available at the polling stations, the official said

Pole directed the officers to send an action-taken report, along with geo-tagged photos of the polling stations, to his office in a week.

There are 11,838 polling stations -- 2,332 in urban areas and 9,506 in rural areas -- with each polling station averaging 735 electorates.

## Another PDP Leader Syed Bari Andrabi Quits party



**Observer News Service** 

**PULWAMA:** District President Pulwama of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and DDC Chairperson Pulwama, Syed Bari Andrabi Saturday resigned from the party.

Andrabi said that he is resigning as the party is giving mandate to family members from safer seats.

He said that he had quit his job in 2014 to work for the welfare of the people and will continue to do so, adding that he will not further divide people but will work on consolidation so that people won't get divid-

On being asked whether he will contest elections, he said that he will decide about it in

the next two days after taking

workers into confidence.
He said that decisions being taken by PDP won't damage the party only but will affect the people of J&K in general.

Bari questioned that if leaders were leaving PDP on the directions of BJP then on whose directions they are joining PDP back.

He said that politics is not confined to mandate only but when a party makes such decisions that are against the will of people, then there remains

no option other than to exit. Sources said that Bari is going to extend his support to NC's candidate on Pulwama seat.

Earlier, PDP leaders Aijaz Ahmad Mir, Raja Waheed, Dr Harbaksh Singh, and Abdul Qayoom Mir resigned from the party.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

# Massive Scale Walkathon & Town Hall Events Held In Anantnag



**Observer News Service** 

ANANTNAG: A Town Hall meeting with voters and a Walkathon were part of a mega SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) event held in Anantnag today. The events were presided over by District Election Officer Anantnag Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid and were attended by a cross section of voters including traders, general public, vendors, women, old and first time voters. In attendance were also, the Returning Officer 44-Anantnag, Chief Education Officer (Nodal Officer SVEEP), Chief Executive Officer Municipality Anantnag, District Information Officer

among others.

During the Town Hall event, the election video song "Main Bharat Hoon" (Kashmiri version) which persuades the voters to participate in the elections was played and enjoyed by the participants. The District Election Officer in his address exhorted the people to come

out to vote in Anantnag in a massive turnout in the upcoming elections. He informed all the participants about the facilities that the district administration has provided to facilitate elections. He educated them about the role of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and other functionaries. The Town hall concluded with the administering of Voters' pledge.

Later, the DEO flagged off the Walkathon in which a large number of participants marched with banners. They concluded their march at the GhantaGhar in Lal Chowk Anantnag. Along the course of the march, many other participants joined in. The aim of the walkathon was to persuade the voters to participate in the electoral process enthusiastically. Participants raised slogans such as "I Vote for Sure",

"Nothing like Voting"
Notably the district Anantnag with seven assembly segments is slated to go to polls
in the first phase to be held on
18th September.

# 134 Brick Kilns Operating In Kashmir Despite Closure Orders: JKPCC



**Agencies** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Regional Officer and Member Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee has filed an affidavit to the National Green Tribunal that 134 brick kilns in three districts of Kashmir have started operating against the halt orders passed by the respondents.

The officer said the administration is yet to recover environmental compensation of Rs 84.8 lakh from 21 of its affiliated brick kilns in Jammu & Kashmir.

The newly impleaded respondents were served with notices in terms of the order of NGT made on May 21, 2024, and the JKPCC has filed an affidavit with NGT as per the timelines, after which a copy of the NGT's order was provided.

The JKPCC has mobilised legal actions against the 21 violators and requested the Regional Director in Jammu to provide proper papers on the environmental compensation with reference to the specified brick kilns.

The compensation formats for brick kilns in the districts of Jammu and Samba were also directed by the Regional Director on 31/07/2024. These 21 violators received notices on the 3rd of August 2024 with directions that the respondents should respond in ten days.

But the offenders have not responded and as a result of the same, environmental compensation orders have been made against the offenders, the officer claimed.

The Regional Director of JK-PCC at Kashmir said he came to avail of the present situation and said that 134 brick

kilns in Budgam, Anantnag and Kulgam districts have again started the work which is against the NGT orders and JKPCC closure orders.

The JKPCC submitted the list of such illicit activities to the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir and District Collectors of the concerned districts to implement the orders of NGT in letter and spirit. This had been after the JKPCC had directed its regional and divisional officers to report the matter to the legal prosecution bodies under the Water and Air Pollution Acts.

The case so far has been that complaints have been made against 20 brick kilns and many more are under process. Environmental compensation will be recovered from the defaulting units in consideration of their level of offences. (KNO)

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## Over 2 Lakh Voters To Cast Ballots In Shopian

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Shopian administration is fully prepared for a significant, participatory, and inclusive Assembly election during the first phase of voting, scheduled for September 18.

Shopian district is divided into two Assembly constituencies, Zainapora and Shopian, with a total of 2,09,039 registered voters.

This electorate includes 1,04,882 males, 1,04,150 females, and 7 transgender voters. To facilitate the voting process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has es-



tablished 251 polling stations across both constituencies, ensuring that every registered voter has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Assembly Constituency (AC)
37 - Shopian has a balanced voter distribution, with a total

of 1,00,546 registered voters. This constituency includes 50,748 male voters, 49,793 female voters, and 5 transgender voters. To accommodate these vot-

ers, 122 polling stations have been allocated, underscoring the constituency's importance in the district's electoral landscape.

Meanwhile, AC-36 Zainapora has 1,08,493 registered voters, consisting of 54,134 males, 54,357 females, and 2 transgender voters.

The ECI has set up 129 polling stations in this constituency to ensure comprehensive and inclusive electoral participation.

## **Escalating Gold Prices Hits Marriages In Kashmir**



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The escalating gold prices have started hitting marriages in Kashmir with the yellow metal gradually becoming unaffordable to people.

In August, the marriage season in Kashmir takes off and lasts till November. As such the sales of gold and silver usually pick up during this season given its significant cultural role in Kashmiri society.

Gold prices are currently touching skies in India, which is affecting the marriage season in the valley.

son in the valley.

The cost of 24 carat gold is Rs.7288.8 per gram while the price of 22 carat gold is

Rs.6676.6 per gram.

Dealers said the demand for the gold has gone down in Kashmir by more than 70 percent due to its escalating prices.

"We don't get many customers now. Gold prices have hiked across India and it has directly impacted our sales during current time when the demand for the gold tends to be high in the valley," Bashir Ahmad Rather, President of the All Kashmir Valley Gold Dealers and Workers Union.

Jewellers said mostly middle-class families struggle to keep up with the soaring prices. "Gold has always been an essential part of Kashmiri weddings, but the current prices are pushing people to rethink how much they can afford," Rather said.

Sameer Ahmad, another jeweller said with prices now reaching record highs, families are opting for lighter designs, or even turning to alternative materials.

"Often we hear from families to make lighter designs which become affordable for them. We have even heard that people are now turning to other options like gifting cash and other kitchen appliances and clothes instead of gold to the brides," he said.

Ahmad said the escalating gold prices will result in delaying weddings or reducing the scale of celebrations in Kashmir.

Gold, traditionally, is an essential part of Kashmiri weddings. Families of bride and groom keep on exchanging gold during various functions till marriage.

Prospective buyers have voiced concerns about the sharp rise in gold prices, noting that the cost has nearly doubled over the past two years.

"Gold prices have skyrocketed over the years. For middle- and upper-middle-class families, investing in gold has become increasingly difficult," said a prospective buyer Parvez Ahmad Khan.(KNO)

### Case Registered After Woman From Baramulla Converts To Hinduism, Marries Non-local

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Police have registered a case after a woman from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district went missing and then allegedly converted to Hinduism to marry a non-local man, an official said on Saturday.

an official said on Saturday.

A police official said the Kreeri police station in the north Kashmir district lodged a report after a complainant alleged his daughter had been missing since the morning of August 16.

"On Friday, it was learnt that on August 19, the said girl converted and married Sagar Pradeep Singh of Navi Mumbai (other details withheld)," the police official said, adding a case of kidnapping was registered under relevant sections of the BNS.

However, he said, the police's

cyber patrol unit has noticed that

many miscreants and anti-social elements are creating/sharing posts attempting to use this incident to cause disturbance. Sharing misleading/inflammatory content violates various

Sharing misleading/inflammatory content violates various laws and will lead to strict legal action, including initiation of criminal proceedings, he said. "All are advised not to share

misleading/inflammatory content about this incident. If such content has been shared/reposted, it is advised to delete the same," the police said.

# 2-Day Inter University Academic Brainstorming Concludes At SKUAST

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Two Day inter University Academic Brainstorming on the theme "Sustainable Development through Innovation and Startup Ecosystem" concluded at SKUAST Kashmir's Shalimar campus. The event saw the participation of leading scientists, researchers, entrepreneurs, scholars from diverse backgrounds discussing and deliberating on the critical aspects of sustainable future vis-à-vis Jammu & Kashmir and developing science and technology action plan for a future-ready J&K.

In an impressive valedictory function held at new Shalimar Convention Centre, the Chief Guest Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, President INSA, appreciated the efforts of University in successful conduct of programme on an quite relevant theme. Prof. Sharma called to have a type brainstorming Triple helix involving Academia, Industry and Government. for a road map to sustainable development. Prof. Ashutosh briefly highlighted the major recommendations of the programme and the sectoral reforms needed thereof. He again reiterated the need for selection of best global practices for solutions to local problems. All this would primarily focus on innovation driven Bio -economy with enhanced role of modern technology & incubators in its ecosystem. He further highlighted the important concepts of the role of University in collaborations and diversity for a sustainable

development.
Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice
Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir in his

address appreciated the efforts of all the contributors of the programme and hoped that the recommendations will serve in developing a roadmap for sustainable development. Prof. Ganai said that the basic aim of the programme was to chart out the way to have new age technology driven resilient J&K overcoming the barriers in development of next generation infrastructure to its robust and sustainable ecosystem in place. All this will go a long way in positioning J&K as a progressive and developed region.. Prof. Nazir hoped that participants from other parts of the country would act as ambassadors of J&K in general and SKUAST-K in particular.

Prof. Akhilesh Gupta, former Secretary SERB, in his address mentioned the participation in the programme as rewarding and quite satisfying. Prof. Gupta apprised the audience about the various key issues deliberated and debated during the course of the last two days, that not only seem to be quite relevant in current times but have long lasting impact. Prof. Gupta believed the further uptake of these issues and recommendations with make this region a knowledge driven scientific economy of high repute and be a touch bearer to the rest of the country.

Earlier, the organizing Secretary Prof. Syed Mudasir Andrabi presented the detailed summary of the two day event. completion report while other organizing secretary Prof. Khursheed Ahmad presented the welcome speech at the valedictory function. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. H.R. Naik.

JAMMU CABBIE'S KILLING

## 11-member Gang Of Interstate Criminals Arrested

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: An 11-member gang of interstate criminals, mostly from Haryana, were arrested for killing a cab driver whose body was recovered from here, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

Saturday.

The body of Mangal Singh, a resident of Jammu, was recovered from Bajalta forest on Friday, five days after he was reported missing while returning from Katra in Reasi district to drop passengers at a railway station.

"Police have successfully resolved the case of the abduction and murder of the cab driver by apprehending a gang of interstate criminals from Ratia Fatehbad

Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh told reporters here.

He said a missing report was filed on August 19 by Singh's brother after he failed to return home from Katra.

On August 21, the case

was escalated with the filing of an FIR under relevant sections of law when it was suspected that the cab driver had been abducted along with his vehicle, based on CCTV footage, he said. The SSP said the police

The SSP said the police teams collected and analysed CCTV footage from various locations, along with call data records and hotel records in Katra.

After getting an actionable lead, a police team travelled to Sirsa, Haryana, where raids were conduct-

ed at multiple locations with the assistance of the local police and counterintelligence unit, leading to the arrest of 11 accused -- 10 residents of Haryana and one from Punjab.

The stolen vehicle be-

longing to the cab driver was also recovered, the officer said. He identified the arrested accused as Gurpreet Singh

accused as Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi, Sukhvinder Singh alias Preet, Gursavak Singh, Gurdeep Singh alias Bana, Lucky Singh, Sahil alias Tara Singh, Arjun alias Katiya, Lucky Singh, Gopal Kumar alias Gopi and Gurjeet Singh -- all residents of Nagal Tehsil Ratia of Fatehabad district of Haryana -- and Kuldeep Singh alias Kala of Khusla Sardulgargh in Punjab.

area oi	нагуапа,	Jammu where raids were conduct- in Punjab.								
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EAFZR- SLR24-49	10.09.24 at 11:00 Hrs	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No /SLR compartment: 22424/F1, 14674/F1, 12460/F1, 15212/F1, 14604/F1, 12498/F1, 15532/F1, 14618/F1, 15212/R1, 19326 14650/F1 & 22552/F1.	/F1,							
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THANK YOU, GABBAR

# Shikhar Dhawan's Retirement **Brings Waves Of Tributes**

**Press Trust of India** 

NEW DELHI: The cricket fraternity hailed Shikhar Dhawan's infectious positivity and unshakeable team spirit, and fans remembered his iconic thigh-five celebrations and thanked 'Gabbar' for his cricketing journey that ended on Saturday.

Dhawan, a premier top-order ODI batter in the post-Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Sourav Ganguly era, announced his retirement two years after his final appearance in the national team. He featured in 34 Tests, 167

ODIs and 68 T20Is. It was Sehwag who Dhawan had replaced and the explosive opener of his times from Najaf-

garh took to X to pay his tribute.
"Badhaai ho Shikkhi. Ever since the time you replaced me in Mohali, you did not look back and some top performances over the years. May you continue to have fun and



him well.

Instagram story.

live life to the fullest. Very best wishes always," posted Sehwag. His former India teammate

and current head coach, Gautam Gambhir, also wished him a happy retirement.

"Congratulations, Shiki, on a fantastic career! I know you will spread the same joy through everything you take up in the future," wrote Gambhir.

Indian cricketers Hardik Pan-

SDhawan25! Wish you the best for the next chapter. Happy retirement!" The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI)

gratulations on a fantastic career, @

also congratulated the left-handed batter: "As Shikhar Dhawan retires from international and domestic cricket, we wish him all the very best for the road ahead."

Former India batter and National Cricket Academy head VVS Laxman said Dhawan was not just a great cricketer but also a good person off-field.

A player of the tournament in the ICC U19 World Cup triumph in 2004, Dhawan made steady progress and made a low-key ODI debut in 2010.

He went on to become the player of the tournament in India's Champions Trophy victory in 2013 by scoring the most runs (363).

Across formats, he made 10,867 runs in international cricket - the 12th most for India - with 24 centuries and 79 fifty-plus scores.

## **Baramulla Lifts Under-14 Provincial Cricket Tournament**



wickets at Wanpora Sports Ground

in Qazigund, Anantnag. Batting

ma's Mehran Gulzar took 3 wickets.

**Observer News Service** 

ANANTNAG: District Baramulla on Friday lifted the title of Under-14 Provincial Level Inter District Cricket Tournament 2024 organised by Department of Youth Services and Sports and hosted by DYSSO Anantnag. In the final match, District

Baramulla defeated Pulwama by 3

first, Pulwama set the target of 137 runs, in which Musadik Younus scored 30 runs. From Baramulla, Mohd Mudrik took 3 wickets. In reply, Baramulla chased down the target with 3 wickets in hand. Ifham Iftikhar scored 41 runs to guide his team to the win. Pulwa-

In the post match presentation. DYSSO Anantnag Raja Yaqoob was the chief guest along with ZPEO Qazigund, who gave away the trophies and medals to both the teams. Mohd Mudrik was declared as man of the match.

Earlier, the Under-17 Cricket Tournament was inaugurated by Principal BHSS Bijbehara Nasreena Akhter at Bijbehara venue.

## **YSS Budgam Celebrates National Sports Day In** All 12 Zones



**Observer News Service** 

BUDGAM: On the eve of National Sports Day, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam organised a series of sports activities on Saturday as part of the ongoing week-long sports and awareness programs across all 12 zones of the district.

These events, held on the second day of the week-long celebration, are being conducted under the guidance of Director General YSS, Rajinder Singh Tara, to foster enthusiasm and active participation among the youth.

The activities, which are taking place across zones including Narbal, Chadoora, Beerwah and others, have brought together young athletes and students to participate in various sports.

Rajinder Singh Tara, the Director General of YSS, expressed his excitement about the widespread engagement of the youth in these activities. "National Sports Day is a significant occasion to remind our young people of the importance of staying active and healthy. Through these sports activities, we aim to inspire a lifelong commitment to physical fitness and teamwork," he said.

## **Local Athletes Shine** At Kashmir's First Int'l **Gymnastics Camp**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The ongoing international gymnastics camp at Srinagar's Indoor Stadium has drawn significant attention, especially towards the local athletes from Jammu and Kashmir, who have taken center stage as the event unfolds.

dya and Shreyas Iyer also wished

paa. Congratulations on a won-

derful career," wrote Hardik in his

ficial paa. All the best for what

the future holds for you," wrote

coach Anil Kumble posted: "Con-

Indian spin wizard and former

"Only the best for you, Shikhi

"Congratulations, @shikhardof-

This marks a historic moment, as it is the first time such a highprofile event has been held in the

Organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council in collaboration with the Gymnastics Federation of India and the Gymnastics Association of J&K, the camp features national-level gymnasts and international coaches, making it a major event

on the region's sporting calendar. The camp began Saturday and will run until September 13th at the Indoor Sports Hall, Polo View

Srinagar. According to the details, local athletes, particularly from Jammu and Kashmir, have captured the spotlight with their impressive performances and confidence on the very first day of the camp. This enthusiasm reflects the growing prominence of gymnastics in the region.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary of Youth & Sports, expressed his pride, saying Gymnastics holds significant value for us, and our athletes have consistently performed well, securing national medals. "Hosting this international camp in Kashmir is a proud achievement for us," he said.

The camp also highlights the contribution of Kiran Wattal, Vice-President of the Gymnastics Federation of India, who acknowledged the support from the sports ministry of Azerbaijan, saying the Azerbaijan sports ministry's MOU with India facilitated the presence of an international gymnastics coach, further enhancing the camp's significance.

A young gymnast from Jammu said, this camp is a gamechanger for us. Training under an international coach is an incredible opportunity, and it's motivating us to reach new heights. "We aim to showcase Jammu's talent on a global stage," she said.

Similarly, the event not only showcases local talent but also represents a significant step in fostering international sports relations and improving regional athletic standards. (KNO)

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