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J&K ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

PM Modi Among BJP'S 40 Star **Campaigners**



Press Trust Of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the BJP's campaign in the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the first such democratic exercise after the erstwhile state was downgraded to Union Territory in August 2019.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP national president P Nadda and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were also included in the list of 40 star campaigners submitted by the party to the Election Commission for the first phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Manohar Lal Khattar, G Kishan Reddy, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Jitendra Singh and former union

ministers Anurag Thakur and Smriti Irani and Gen (Retd.) V K Singh besides Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur are other prominent faces who will visit Jammu and Kashmir during the campaigning.

The three-phased assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled for September 18, 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be taken up on

October 4. In a letter addressed to the Election Commission, BJP national general secretary and in-charge headquarters Arun Singh said the list of the 40 star ing phases "unless we forward an amended list" within the prescribed time limit. | More on P10

NC, Congress Crack J&K Seat-Sharing Deal



Majid Nabi

Following Srinagar: days of 'standoff' over seat sharing, National Conference and Congress have reached a deal to share Jammu and Kashmir's 90 Assembly seats ahead of the upcoming elections.

Speaking at a joint news conference at NC President Farooq Abdullah's residence, the alliance leaders announced that the two

JKNC 51 seats

INC 32 seats **Friendly Contest**

5 seats CPI(M) 1 seat

Panthers Party 1 seat

parties agreed to run together in the elections following deliberations over some contentious constituencies.

The National Conference (NC) and the Congress Monday agreed to contest 51 and 32 seats respectively for the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

One seat each has been allotted to the CPI(M) and the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), the allies announced at a joint press conference at NC president I More on P10

ational Conference (NC) Vice President and former chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state,

Omar Abdullah on Monday hinted at participating in the upcoming assembly elections, saying that he is

list of candidates is public. Talking to the reporters after the joint press conference of NC and INC leaders, Omar

said that he is presently discussing the issue of participating in the polls with his colleagues. "I have realized

presently in discussion with the party leaders in this regard and the people will come to know once the

List Of NC Candidates Released

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After its seat-sharing arrangement with the Congress was finalised, National Conference (NC) Monday issued its first list of 18 candidates for the first phase of the three-phased assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party in a post on X said the list was approved by NC president Farooq Abdullah.

The party named its former MP from Anantnag, Justice (Retd) Hassnain Masoodi, as its candidate from Pampore and former legislator Mohammad Khalil Bandh from Pulwama.

The NC announced the names of Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Mir from Rajpora, Showkat Hussain Ganie from Zainpora, Sheikh Mohammad Rafi from Shopian and former minister Sakina Ittoo from DH Pora.

It also named Peerzada Feroze Ahmad from Devsa, Chowdary Zaffer Ahmad from Larnoo, Abdul Majeed Larmi from Anantnag West, Bashir Ahmad Veeri from Bijbehara, Reyaz Ahmad Khan | More on P10

Ladakh Gets 5 New Districts

Thankful To Centre: Sonam Wangchuk **Press Trust Of India**

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Monday the creation of five new districts in Ladakh, raising their number to seven in a decision welcomed by local people as fulfilment of their long-pending demand.

The new districts are: Zanskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.

However, the Leh Apex Body, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) is fighting for their four major demands including granting of statehood and extension of the sixth schedule of the Constitution, said they will continue their peaceful struggle.

In a post on X, Shah said the Union Home Ministry has decided to create the five new districts in pursuit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh.

"The new districts, namely Zanskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang, will take the benefits meant for the people to their doorstep by bolstering governance in every nook and cranny," he said.

Leh and Kargil were the only two districts in Ladakh, the largest union territory

in terms of area but the second least populous. It has an expanse of 86,904 square kilometers bordering China and Pakistan, with | More on P10

campaigners of the party may be treated as valid for the remain-

'Internal Rumblings'

BJP Trims List Of Candidates From 44 To 16

Agencies

New Delhi: The BJP on Monday named 16 candidates for the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, considerably pruning an initial list of 44 following protests by some party cadres who alleged that "parachute can-didates" were favoured over dedicated workers.

The original list, which Remaining

Seats To Be

Next CEC

included candidates for 36 segments in the Jammu region and eight in the Kashmir Valley, sparked significant dissatisfaction among party workers. A group of disgruntled

members protested at the BJP headquarters in Jammu.

While Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina attempted to downplay the discontent, the protests highlighted a growing rift within the party ranks. | More on P10

haratiya Janata Party is likely to hold its next Central Election Committee meeting on August 29 in which Haryana along with Jammu and **Discussed In** kashmir will be discussed in the meeting. Earlier, the first CEC meeting | More on P10

that how the people could cast their vote and how my colleagues would seek votes for the | More on P10 Support Us We'll Support You: Mehbooba

KO Web Desk

Omar

Hints At

Contesting

Elections

Srinagar: Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday said that her party is willing to support a Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir elections, provided they are ready to accept the PDP's agenda.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have given an answer to the BJP government from the Lok Sabha polls that there are issues in Jammu and Kashmir and by removing Article 370, it has become more complicated...Whenever we allied with any party we had a motive, an agenda---what we have to do...That's why I said that if they (Congress) are ready to accept our agenda, we are ready

AAP, DPAP

Announce

First List Of

Candidates



to support them," Mehbooba

Mufti told reporters. Mehbooba Mufti remarked that for her, the upcoming assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir is not about statehood or seat sharing but a "bigger goal."

During a press conference to launch the PDP manifesto for the upcoming assembly

he Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

announced its first list of seven

candidates for the Jammu and

Kashmir Assembly elections on Sunday.

The party has fielded Fayaz Ahmed Sofi

from Pulwama, Muddasir Hassan from

polls, Mehbooba Mufti said, For me, this election (upcoming Assembly elections in J&K) is not about statehood or seat sharing... We have a bigger goal... We are fighting for dignity, for resolution."

She further noted that alliances and seat sharing "are distant considerations" and indicated that if the National Conference and Congress are willing to adopt her agenda, she would support them, as "solving the problem of Kashmir is more important than anything else

In their election manifesto, the PDP promised efforts to restore Articles 370 and 35A, initiate diplomatic dialogues between India and Pakistan, and ensure the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley. Notably, in | More on P10

Rajpora, and Sheikh Fida Hussain from Devsar. Mohsin Shafkat Mir has been selected for Dooru, Mehraj Din Malik for Doda, Yasir Shafi Matto for Doda West, and Musassir Azmat Mir for Banihal.

This will be the first | More on P10

Over 3.28 lakh Voters To **Cast Ballots In Kulgam**

Observer News Service

Kulgam: With the announcement of Assembly Elections 2024, Kulgam district is gearing up for the first phase of Elections with 3.28 lakh electorates set to exercise their right to franchise on 18th September 2024.

The district comprises three constituencies, namely D.H.Pora, Kulgam and Devsar with 3.28.740 tered voters, including 1,64,829 male, 1,63,898 female and 13 Transgender voters.

A comprehensive network of 372 polling stations has been established by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for free, fair and transparent elections.

39-Kulgam Constituency emerged as the largest constituency within the district, with a total of 1,17,322 voters, including 58,477 male and 58845 female voters. 134 polling stations have been designated to facilitate smooth and inclusive voting experience for all registered voters. In 40-Devsar, there are a to-

tal 1,12,381 voters, including 56,199 male, 56,175 female and 7 transgender voters. 127 polling stations have been established in Devsar AC. Likewise, in 38-D.H.Pora, a

total of 99,037 voters are set to exercise their right to franchise, which includes 50,153 male, 48.878 female and 6 transgen der voters

The ECI has set up 111 polling stations in this constituency to ensure comprehensive and inclusive electoral participation.

Kulgam District is fully prepared to manage the voting process with precision and

accessibility. Dedicated rooms are properly functioning. equipped with voter helplines and tasked with monitoring Flying Squad Teams and Static Surveillance Teams. These control | More on P10



Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Tuesday | 27-08-2024

Study Looks At How **Brain 'Resets' Itself** While Sleeping, Allows Lifelong Learning

Press Trust Of India

While sleep is known to help with forming and storing memories during the day, a new study has found answers to how this continues to happen over one's lifetime without running out of neurons or brain cells. Researchers found that at certain times during deep sleep, certain parts of the hippocampus—one of the brain regions involved in learning new things and forming memories-go silent, allowing those neurons to 'reset'.

"This mechanism could allow the brain to reuse the same resources, the same neurons, for new learning the next day," said Azahara Oliva, an assistant professor of neurobiology and behaviour at Cornell University, US, and corresponding author of the study published in the journal Science.

While we sleep, the brain cells go over everything we learn or experience during the day by repeating the patterns that were activated the first time, thereby helping with how memories are stored. The process is called 'memory consolidation', following which the memories are then stored in a large area in the brain called the cortex. Both the hippocampus and the cortex play a role in memory, with the hippocampus transferring temporary or 'short-term' information to the cortex to form permanent or 'long-term'

The researchers said that the hippocampus is divided into three regions, two of which are well-known to help form memories related to time and space. The third, they said, is involved in silencing and resetting parts of the hippocampus during sleep, which this study found. "We realised there are other hippocampal states that happen during sleep where everything is silenced. The (two) regions that had been very active were suddenly quiet. It's a reset of memory, and this state is generated by the (third) region," Oliva said. For the study, the researchers implanted electrodes into the hippocampi of the brains of mice, which are commonly studied as they are known to bear genetic material similar to

NOTICE I Taria Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul

Gani Bhat have lost my Driving Licence bearing Licence No: JK- 0320090008388. Now want to its Duplicate. Regarding this, if anybody is having any objection may file the same to the RTO office Ganderbal within a week time after that no objection will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform everyone that I have lost a CDR vide no 3691669 while traveling from Gokhama to tangmarg on date 24.08.2024 . Now it is requested to general public if any body has found the same please return back.

Irfan Ali Sheikh R/O Gokhama kunzer Call No 99065 69497

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance eof Fertilizer and Seed License under Name & Style M/S Sheikh Agro Chemicals Kawoosa Khalis, if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Cheif Agriculture Officer Budgam & Directorate Of Agricultural Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be enter-

Saima Razaq R/O Kawoosa Khalisa

41 ARSHID AHMAD

KHANMOH

tained.

ICMR-Led Study Estimates 10-Year Risk Of Developing Heart Disease In Adults In India

Press Trust Of India

An ICMR-led study, which estimated risk of adults in India developing heart disease over a 10-year period, found that those unemployed were at a significantly higher risk, followed by those having high blood sugar levels. Researchers analysed nearly 4,500 adults aged 40-69 years, about half of whom were younger (40-49 years old). Data was collected using surveys and questionnaires, including those developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), such as for gauging one's physical activity levels. Among the study group, about 85 per cent were at a very low-to-low chance of developing cardiovascular diseases,

cent were at a moderate and high-tovery high chance of developing these conditions, respectively, they found. Twice as many men as women had a higher than 10 per cent risk of developing heart disease over 10 years, the researchers, including those from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, Bengaluru,

we, the undersigned

while about 14.5 per cent and one per



Notice For Extra-Ordinary General Council Meeting

Federation Of Chamber Of Industries Kashmir(FCIK)

General Council members of the Federation of Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK), hereby request and call for an Extra-ordinary General Council Meeting to be held on

The primary agenda of the meeting shall be to deliberate / resolve the current and impending crises confronting the organization, particularly in view of the Election

In exercise of the powers vested under Article 27, heading (iii) and sub-heading (i) of the Memorandum & Articles of Association governing the (FCIK)

A very low-to-low chance meant less than 10 per cent risk of experiencing heart-related diseases, while moderate and high-to-very high chance indicated 10-20 per cent and over 20 per cent likelihood, respectively, according to the study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research.

Among the participants having high blood sugar levels, women had an 85

Saturday the 14th September 2024 at 10.30 AM at the FCIK Headquarters, Sanathnagar.

Commission's expressed inability to conclude the elections reason being as the matter remains sub judice.

per cent increased risk of getting heart conditions over 10 years, while men were at a 77 per cent higher risk, the researchers estimated.

They also said that among the participants who were obese, women and men had a 71 per cent and a 55 per cent higher chance of developing heart conditions, respectively, compared to those who were not obese.

The researchers also found that the participants living in urban areas were at a higher risk of heart diseases, with 17.5 per cent having more than 10 per cent risk, compared to 13.8 per cent of those living in rural places. About twothirds of the study group was from rural backgrounds.

Further, urban women participants had an 86 per cent higher probability of having elevated 10-year CVD risk than rural women participants, the authors

However, the researchers found that the unemployed participants were at a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular diseases compared to the employed ones or homemakers.

"While 87-88 per cent of the latter two groups had a low risk of (cardiovascular diseases), only 54 per cent of the unemployed population had a low risk," the authors wrote.

They said that previous studies assessing cardiovascular disease risk in India were conducted using geographically localised samples and, therefore, a national estimate was missing.

This study was the first one to estimate risk in India using the non-laboratorybased WHO charts, the team said.

Biostadt India Limited organised Biozyme Pragati **Scholarship 2024**



Biostadt India Limited has organised "Biozyme Pragati Scholarship" programmes in Srinagar Territory of Jammu Region, where twenty students from two different schools were awarded the Scholarship under corporate social responsibilty (CSR) initiative.In this regard events were organised at Govt Boys Higher secondary School Chrar I Sharief & Govt Higher Secondary School Goshbugh. The scholarship were awarded to the students in presence of their parents and the school staff by the Company's Regional Bussiness Manager -Mr Faroog Ahmad Quarishi, Territory Manager- Mr Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat and the staff. The Biozyme pragati scholarship is a

PAN india initiative where the scholarship are awarded to the students coming from

underprivileged farming community to support them in pursuing their education and

career goals with a pool of money set aside by the company every year. For last 7 years

the company is distributing the scholarship on the occassion of the anniversary of its

flagship product 'BIOZYME', celebrated as the Biozyme D-DAY across the country. Every year

students along with their parents participate in this programme.

fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: - Application of Abdul Majeed Ahanger S/o Ghulam Ahmad Ahanger R/o Doulatpora

Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance Of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in favor of Daughters Danishta Majeed, Ifshana Majeed and AzmaltMajeed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwari halga concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Doulatpora and belongs to the Ahanger Community having annual income of Rs 382356/-(Three lack Eighty Two thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Six rupees) the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S. No	Name Of the Family Member	Relationship with the Ap- plicant	Age	Occupa- tion	Annual Income
01	Abdul Majeed Ahanger	Self	49	Labour	382356/-
02	Shameema Begum	Wife	47	H/W	
03	Danishta Majeed	Daughter	27	Govt Employee	
04	Ifshana Majeed	Daughter	25	Student	
05		Daughter	23	Student	

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/ she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Application Of Aaliya Rasool , Humiara Jan, Zenab Nazir Daughters of Nazir Ahmad Ahanger adn Ovais Nazir Son of Nazir Ahmad Ahanger R/o Palhallan for **Obtaining OBC Certificate**

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining OBC certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Palhallan tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 5,81,400 /-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupa- tion
1	Nazir Ahmad Ahanger	S/o Gh Ra- sool Ahanger	56	Pvt Job
2	Mehbooba Heemal	W/o Nazir Ahmad Ahanger	48	H/W
3	Ovais Nazir	S/o	29	Student
4	Humaira Jan	D/o	25	Student
05	Aaliya Rasool		21	
06	Zenab Nazir	D/o	19	

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

Naib Tehsildar fko

Given the critical nature of this meeting, all General Council members are hereby urged to attend this important Extra-ordinary General Council Meeting to deliberate and determine the future course of action. Your presence and active participation is crucial in our collective effort to strengthen our Mother Organization.

Please note that attendance at the upcoming Extraordinary General Council Meeting is strictly limited to General Council members only. Basic members are not permitted to attend the meeting.

.NO	Name of Deligate	Address	S.NO	Name of Deligate	Address
1	DAWOOD AHMAD DAR	RANGRETH	42	MUKHMOOR GOWHER	BABDEM
2	TARIQ RAZAQ	RANGRETH		FEROOZ AHMAD ZULLA	NAIDKADEL
3	MOHAMMAD YASEEN SUMDANI	RANGRETH	44	MASOOD AHMAD MAKHDOOMI	NAIDKADEL
4	ROUF AHMAD	RANGRETH	45	SHOWKET AHMAD GANIE	ASTAN SHARIEF KHANYAI
5	FAROOQ AHMAD	RANGRETH	46	MANZOOR AHMAD NAJAR	BARAMULLA
6	NASRULLAH JAN	RANGRETH	47	BASHIR AHMAD GATOO	ANANTNAG
7	WAHEED JEELANI	RANGRETH	48	MOHAMMAD SHAFI MAKHDOOMI	KHANYAR
8	SHOWKET HUSSAIN	RANGRETH	49	MANSOOR AHMAD KHAN	KHAN KHAHI MOULA
9	NISAR AHMAD BABA	RANGRETH	50	SYED UMER	ВАМК
10	MUSTAFA MASOODI	RANGRETH	51	LATIEF AHMAD SHAH	ВАМК
11	GH JEELANI	RANGRETH	52	SHAH ASIF ZAHOOR	BAMK
12	SYED MUMTAZ JEELANI	RANGRETH	53	TARIQ AHMAD KHAN	SHOPIAN
13	SHRI GULCHARAN SINGH	WAYUN	54	AANISH MANZOOR WANI	SHOPIAN
14	MOHAMMAD ALTAF AHANGER	SANAT NAGAR	55	SHOWKET AHMAD SHAH	SHOPIAN
15	SHAZAN ALATAF AHANGER	SANAT NAGAR	56	SAMIULLAH	SHOPIAN
16	RAJA NAYEEM KHAN	SANAT NAGAR	57	MIR CHEMICAL WASHING & FINISHING	SHALIMAR
17	NAZIR AHMAD BHAT	SANAT NAGAR	58	LONE DYING	ZAKURA
18	ZAINUL ABIDEEN	SANAT NAGAR	59	AKTHER HUSSAIN	ZAKURA
19	WASEEM AHMAD KHATEEB	SANAT NAGAR	60	KHALID ZEHGEER	ZAKURA
20	SYED MUSHTAQ AHMAD	ANANTNAG	61	MOHAMMAD JEELANI	ZAKURA
21	MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MIR	SANAT NAGAR	62	ZAHOOR AHMAD SHEIKH	ZAKURA
22	MANZOOR AHMAD KHAN	SANAT NAGAR	63	ZAHOOR AHMAD RATHER	ZAKURA
23	NASIR BUKHARI	SHALTENG	64	MOHAMMAD RAFIQ	ZAKURA
24	ASHFAQ AHAMD	SHALTENG	65	DANIYAL QURESHI	КНАММОН
25	PARVAIZ AHMAD MIR	SHALTENG	66	MUZAFFAR AHMAD SHAH	BUBHERA
26	AB QAYOOM BHAT	SHALTENG	67	ABDUL RAHIM AHANGER	BUBHERA
27	SHOWKET AHMAD	SHALTENG	68	450.02500.000.00000000000	SRINAGAR
28	IRFAN AMIN	SHALTENG	69	GH MOHAMMAD BHAT	POULTRY
29		кнаммон	70		FOOD PPROCESSING
30		PATTAN	71		
31		AGLAR	1	ABDUL MAJEED	BAMK
32		LASSI PORA	73		
			74		GANDERBAL
33		KHANMOH			LASSI PORA
34		KHANMOH	75		LASSI PORA
35		SAZI PORA BUDGAN	T		LASSI PORA
36	MANZOOR AHMAD ALLIE	KAKPORA	77	SABZAR AHMAD BHAT	LASSI PORA
37	BILAL AHMAD SHAGOO	LASSI PORA	78	AIJAZ AHMAD WANI	LASSI PORA
38	RIYAZ AHMAD PAMPORE	PAMPORE	79	BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH	LASSI PORA
39	FAISAL MEHMOOD BHAT	LASSI PORA	80	MOHAMMAD SHAFIGANIE	LASSI PORA
40	ZUBAIR AHMAD BHAT	KHANMOH	81	FAROOQ AHMAD RAWANDA	LASSI PORA

AIRPORTS

RAILWAYS

Weeklong Exhibition On 'Arbaeen' Kicks Off At Arts Emporium

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Mashq-e-Ar-SRINAGAR: baeen, Dark'e Azadari a weeklong exhibition on Arbaeen was kicked started on Monday at Kashmir Arts Emporium here.

The Art, Photography, Calligraphy and Poetry exhibition grabbed the attention of Art lovers who thronged the exhibition on Friday.

The 12th Edition of the exhibition is organized by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir in



1446 - is curated by Syed the Sacrifice of Imam Hus-Iliyas Rizvi, a Craft and Heritage Consultant.

According to Rizvi, the exhibition features the works of the Artists and other Creative participants including students of different educational institutions under the theme of "Mashq-e-Arba'een ... Dark-e-Azadari".

"It will explore different dimensions of Azadari, and understand how the people and the spaces feel during the mourning months of Muharram and Safar. It is our humble tribute to Imam Hussain (AS) and the Martyrs of Karbala through Art and other creative mediums." Rizvi said.

He further said that the exhibition will serve as an opportunity to study the multidimensional aspects of the observance of the mourning traditions during Muharram in general and Kashmir in particular.

"For the next few days, through the series of creative works we will feel and discuss different historical places and meet people and experts of elegies, poetry, photography, paintings, calligraphy, connect emotionally and share our own experiences and to get first-



sain (AS), the Grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), and the Message of Karbala. "The Exhibition, which

started from the lawns of University of Kashmir in 2013 has seen a journey of 12 Years. Through these times, each Exhibition has witnessed changes be its concept, creativity and the works on display. With 12 Editions, the Exhibition has showcased over 50 Participants with more than 500 works in these 12 years."

"It is really an emotional space where every one of us from different backgrounds get one to pay tribute to Imam Hussain," said Javid Parsa, a visitor.

SKIMS Hosts Directors Conclave



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: SKIMS today hosted a historical event entitled Directors Conclave with a round table discussion to deliberate "SKIMS Legacy and Way Forward".

This is the first such event where all former directors have been brought together to share their first hand experiences and their journey at SKIMS in leading this Institution of Excellence.

These administrators were requested to brainstorm that how SKIMS can regain its glory and compete in the international arena through transformation in health care, research and academics not only in the country but at the global level.

The programme started with a warm welcome to the dignitaries by Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Director & Ex-Officio Secretary to

Government. Dr. Muzaffar Magsood Wani, Professor Nephrology and Secretary Faculty Forum SKIMS while welcoming the guests convened the felicitations of the guests and lauded the efforts of these stalwarts for

making to the event. Director SKIMS & Ex-Officio Secretary to Government expressed deep sense of gratitude to all the stalwarts of SKIMS including the founding Director Dr. A.K Nagpal. He said these builders of SKIMS legacy deserve a great applaud and admiration.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Ganie said that these doyens envisioned SKIMS as institution of excellence and contributed immensely to the growth of this Institution despite several challenges. The rich experiences of these stalwarts will act as a guiding light to me to run this Institution, he added.

ASSEMBLY Polls-2024

DM Srinagar Imposes Ban On Carrying Licensed Arms

Observer News Observer J. Suraksha Sanhita of 2023.

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the coming Assembly elections in, District Magistrate Srinagar has issued prohibitory orders for carrying licensed arms within the district till the completion of elections.

In an order, a copy of which also lies with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), district magistrate Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi Ud Din Bhat said the directive has been issued under Section 163 of the Bhartiya Nagarik

"I Dr Bilal Mohi Ud Din

Bhat, IAS, District Magistrate, Srinagar do hereby issue Prohibitory Orders under Section 163 of Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita of 2023 and impose complete ban on carrying of licensed arms within the district till the completion of election process," said the order.

It said that the move has been taken in order to ensure maintenance of law & order so essential for ensuring free and fair elections.



paeen in Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Thousands of Shia mourners participated in the Zuljanah procession on Monday, marking the occasion of Arbaeena day of great contemplation and mourning in the Islamic calendar.

The procession was carried out through Khumeni Chowk in Bemina Srinagar. Arbaeen is celebrated 40 days

after Ashura and serves to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, grandson of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (SAW), who was martyred in the Battle of Karbala in 680 AD.

The evewitness told the news agency-KNO, with a large number of mourners present, the Zuljanah procession was carried out in which thousands of people participated and paid homage to the martyrs of Karbala.

"I have been participating in this procession for many years. It is our way of connecting ourselves to the great sacrifice that Imam Hussain made," said Ali Abbas, a local.

He added every step in the procession reminds about the bravery and strength of Imam Hussain and his companions.

Kifayat Ali, another local said, Arbaeen is a day when individuals should remember the values upheld by Imam Hussain. "It is one of sorrow, but also a time for reflection on how we can live by those values," he said.

Similarly, the procession passed peacefully amidst the tight security arrangements. Also, the traffic was diverted in some areas to facilitate the smooth flow of the procession.

Blood Donation Camp Help In Bemina

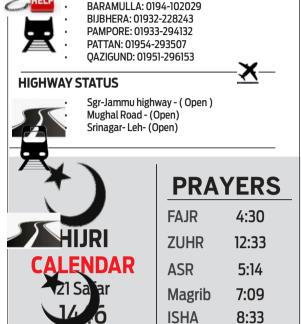
SRINAGAR: On the occasion of Arbaeen, which commemorates 40 days after the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), young people in Srinagar actively participated in a blood donation drive at Khumani Chowk in Bemina.

The event, organized by the New Global Care Foundation in collaboration with SMHS Hospital, JVC Hospital and the Red Cross, saw a huge turnout, with 260 blood pints donated throughout the day. The majority of these donors were young individuals eager to contribute to the community. Hilal Ahmad, a medical representative present at the camp, spoke with the news agency—KNO and expressed his appreciation for the youth's involvement.

"We're honored to see so many young people step up to donate blood today. Their enthusiasm and willingness to help others reflects the true spirit of Arbaeen, which is about sacrifice and caring for the community," he said.

Imran Ahmad, a young donor, shared his motivation for participating in the blood drive: "Donating blood on this day is our way of honoring the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA). It's important to give back to society, and I'm proud to be a part of this effort."

Ahmad also hailed the "impressive" turnout, saying, "The turnout today has been exceptional. The youth are setting an example of compassion and civic responsibility, which is inspiring to see."



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

This Day In History

- 663 Battle of Baekgang: Tang Chinese and Silla Korean forces defeat Korean Baekje forces and their Yamato Japanese allies on the Geum River in Korea. Last Japanese invasion of Korea for 900 years.
- 1799 British invasion army lands in North Holland 1813 - Battle of Dresden: Napoleon defeats Austrians
 - 1828 Uruguay gains independence during Brazil-Argentina peace talks
- 1828 The Russians defeat the Turks at the Battle of 1883 - Krakatoa volcano, west of Java in Indonesia, erupts
- with a force of 1,300 megatons and kills approximately 40,000 people. 1900 - Battle of Bergendal: General Buller defeats the Boer
- under general Louis Botha 1913 - Swedish engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken
- applies to patent all-purpose zipper 1916 - Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary
- 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact, 60 nations agree to condemn 'recourse to war for the solution of international controversies!
- 1941 Shah of Iran Rez Shh Pahlavi abdicates throne in favour of his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
- 1942 Cuba declares war on Germany, Japan & Italy 1945 - US troops land in Japan after Japanese surrende
- 1955 "Guinness Book of World Records" 1st published
- 1958 USSR launches Sputnik 3 with two dogs aboard 1962 - Mariner 2 launched: first probe to fly by Venus
- 1962 USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR 1979 - 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and last Viceroy of India, is killed along with three companions, two of them children by the IRA when his boat
- is blown up near Sligo, Ireland 1982 - Soyuz T-7 returns to Earth
- 1984 USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1984 -War Against Indiscipline is launched by the Buhari regime in Nigeria
- 1985 20th Space Shuttle Mission (51-I)-Discovery
- 1985 General Ibrahim Babangida overthrows Major General Muhammadu Buhari's regime in Nigeria 1990 - Market prices plunge as OPEC nears informal
- agreement to increase output to cover shortfall due to invasion: cash market trading experiences abrupt decline 1991 - Moldavia declares independence from USSR
- 2003 Mars makes its closest approach to Earth in nearly 60,000 years, passing 34,646,418 miles (55,758,005 km)
- 2006 Comair Flight 5191 crashes on takeoff from Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky, bound for Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia killing 49 of 50 on
- the first African-American to be nominated by a major political party for President of the United States



Commandos Deployed In Sensitive Areas

Observer News Service

AMMU- The Union Home Ministry has made all possible security arrangements to ensure incident free Lok Sabha elections in the state with the deoyment of trained commandos of different paramilitary forces for the protection of VVIPs and candidates visiting sensitive areas of the state, especially Doda, Udhampur, and Rajouri-Poonch areas in the Iammu region.

According to well placed official sources, these measures have been necessitated in the wake of escalation of attacks on security posts and VDC and SPO pickets in these areas and Kupwara, Handwara and other places in the Kashmir valley.

The sources said that trained foreign infiltrators,

who had withdrawn from Kargil, had reportedly managed to reinfiltrate in the Kupwara and Poonch sectors with a 'definite plan of escalating violence and subversion in the state during the coming Lok Sabha elections.' They had formulated a special contingency plan of subversion and were waiting for the green signal from their masters from across, they sources said.

Besides deployment of commandos and additional troops in sensitive areas, the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) have been equipped with highly sophisticated and automatic weapons to counter possible attacks during the forthcoming elections, the sources said and added that constant vigilance was being exercised in sensitive border areas of the state.

(Kashmir Observer, August 27, 1999)



More Than 70 Killed In Multiple Armed Attacks In Pakistan's Balochistan

Islamabad: More than 70 people have been killed in four assaults amid several reported incidents of violence in Balochistan province in southwestern Pakistan, according to military and police

The country's military said 14 soldiers and police, as well as 21 militants, were killed in fighting after the largest of the attacks, which targeted vehicles on a major highway in Bela, a town in Lasbela district.

In a separate attack in Musakhel district, local officials said at least 23 civilians were killed after attackers determined they were from Punjab, with 35 vehicles set ablaze

And in Kalat, 10 people were reported to have been killed - five Pakistan, as well as on a rail link to neighbouring Iran, railways official Muhammad Kashif said.

Police said they had found six as yet unidentified bodies near the site of the attack on the railway bridge.

Balochistan province has had a simmering rebellion for years, with several armed groups present. Rights groups have denounced Pakistan's response to the movement, which they document as including enforced disappearances and other forms of state repression.

The attacks, along the highway that connects to the province of Punjab, came shortly after the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) warned people to stay away from highways in the province.

'Vehicles travelling to and from Punjab were inspected,



police and five civilians – after a police post and a highway were

On the same day, rail traffic with Quetta was suspended following blasts on a rail bridge in the town of Bolan, linking the provincial capital to the rest of

and individuals from Punjab were identified and shot," Najibullah Kakar, a senior official in Musakhail, told the AFP news agency.

The injured were moved to a hospital in Dera Ghazi Khan, the nearest large medical facility.

Media Groups Call On EU To Suspend Treaty, Impose Sanctions On Israel

PARIS: Some 60 media and rights organizations Monday urged the European Union to suspend a co-operation accord with Israel and impose sanctions, accusing it of "massacring journalists"

"In response to the unprecedented number of journalists killed and other tions by the Israeli authorities since the start of the war with Hamas, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and 59 other organizations are calling on the European Union to suspend its Association Agreement with Israel and to adopt targeted sanctions against those responsible," the groups said in a joint statement.

The call came ahead of a meeting by EU foreign ministers in Brussels on August 29.

The period following Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023 and Israel's devastating retaliatory assault on the Gaza Strip "has been the deadliest for journalists in decades," the letter said.

"More than 130 Palestinian journalists and media pro-

fessionals have been killed by the Israeli armed forces in Gaza since 7 October. At least 30 of them were killed in the course of their work, three Lebanese journalists and an Israeli journalist have also been (killed) during the same period," it says.

'The targeted or indiscriminate killing of journalists, whether committed deliberately or recklessly, is a war crime," it said.

EU's association agreewith non-member countries are treaties that govern bilateral relations, including trade.

The agreement's Article 2 stipulates "respect for human rights and democratic principles," said Julie Majerczak, the head of RSF's Brussels office.

"The Israeli government is clearly trampling on this article. The EU, which is Israel's leading trade partner, must draw the necessary conclusions from this and must do everything to ensure that the (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu government stops massacring journalists and respects the right to information and press freedom by opening media access to Gaza," she said.



Patients Flee Gaza Hospital After Latest Evacuation Order From Israel

Agencies

DEIR EL-BALAH: War-weary Palestinians on Monday pushed wheelchair-bound and bed-ridden patients through the streets of central Gaza, evacuating a hospital in a frantic bid to stay ahead of feared Israeli bombardment.

The Israeli military had told people the day before to "evacuate immediately" a part of Deir el-Balah city because it planned to "act with force against Hamas and

terrorist groups" there. Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital sits in the middle of the area described in the warning, setting in motion a rapid exodus even though the Israeli military said medical facilities would not be affected by its operations.

Speaking to AFP on Sunday from her hospital bed outside the facility, Tamam Al-Raei said she did not know where to seek safety.

"I have a war injury. I have broken bones and have had an amputation, and I have been receiving treatment for that," she said.

"But now they're telling us to evacuate Al-Aqsa. Where do we go? Where do I get treatment?" All around her, families tried

to flee, the wealthiest among them hiring donkey-drawn carts to transport their belongings.

Others carried patients in

Washington: The United States has

been sending arms and ammuni-

tion to the Israeli regime while

claiming to work for a ceasefire in

that the US had completed the air

delivery of its 500th consignment

of weapons and munitions to Israel

since it launched its genocidal war

Aviv regime 50,000 tons of weapon-

ry despite claims by US President

Joe Biden and VP Kamala Har-

ris that the White House has for

months been working for a cease-

equipment airlifted to Israel since

7 October, Washington has sent

Tel Aviv 107 shipments of military

In addition to the weapons and

A statement released by the

In total, the US sent the Tel

on Gaza in early October.

Media reports said on Monday

the Gaza Strip.

fire in Gaza.

supplies by sea.

their arms, including one teenager who had lost the use of his legs and was clutching a bag of intravenous fluid.

The Israeli military said on Monday it was targeting "terror operatives" in Deir el-Balah and working to dismantle the "remaining terrorist infrastructure" of Hamas, whose October 7 attack on southern Israel triggered the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

"As part of these efforts, a temporary local evacuation of the population in eastern Deir el-Balah... was carried out, for their protection," the military said in a statement

"It should be emphasized that the evacuation efforts did not include the evacuation of hospitals and medical facilities in the area."

Gaza's hospitals have been raided by Israeli forces numerous times during their campaign to destroy Hamas.

Israel has accused Hamas of using hospitals in Gaza as a cover for military operations, claims the militants have rejected.

Memories of past violence in and around hospitals made it difficult to reassure patients and medical workers that Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital would be safe, said Gaza health ministry spokesman Khalil

"The citizens, patients and

Israeli War Ministry said on Mon-

day that the US shipments to Tel

Aviv included "armored vehicles,

munitions, ammunition, person-

al protection gear, and medical

equipment, which are crucial for

sustaining ... [the regime forces]

operational capabilities during the

Israeli regime forces have used the

arms and munitions supplied by

the US for the onslaught of Pales-

used by the Israeli regime forces to

massacre over 40,400 Palestinians,

mostly women and children, in the

Gaza Strip, while making the land

uninhabitable for the Palestinian

er, claim the US Democratic presi-

dential candidate and current Vice

President Kamala Harris has been

"working tirelessly" for a Gaza

MAKERS

ceasefire agreement.

White House officials, howev-

Over the past ten months, the

These shipments have been

ongoing war.

tinians in Gaza.

residents.

N E W S

some of the medical crews were struck with panic and fear as a result of the announcement that the areas surrounding the hospital are operational areas," Dagran said. "Therefore, a large number of

patients left the hospital. Hamas's October 7 attack on

Israel resulted in the deaths of 1,199 people, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Israel's retaliatory military

campaign has killed at least 40,435 people in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, which does not break down civilian and militant deaths.

The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.

Throughout Gaza, hospitals including Al-Aqsa Martyrs have faced crippling shortages of the fuel they need to function after the territory's only power plant went out of service and Israel cut the electricity supply in the early days of the war.

Gaza's 2.4 million people, nearly all of whom have been displaced at least once, have only 16 hospitals still functioning, all of them partially.

The health situation became even more dire after authorities this month announced Gaza's first polio case in 25 years.

The Gaza ceasefire talks be-

Turkish Justice Minister

tween Hamas and Tel Aviv -- medi-

ated by the United States, Egypt,

Yilmaz Tunc has slammed the

United States and Israel over

blocking a ceasefire in the Gaza

Strip and committing genocide in

of military supplies to the Israelis,

coupled with Washington's diplo-

matic support for the zionist lead-

ers are among the key obstacles

to achieving a ceasefire to stop

the mass killing of the Palestinian

people and the destruction of the

Gaza Strip, according to experts of

regional and international affairs.

"complete siege" of the Israeli re-

gime forces where the zionist war

machine started its genocidal war

on October 7 after Hamas con-

ducted Operation al-Agsa Storm

against the occupying entity.

The Gaza Strip is under the

The United States' provision

the besieged territory.

and Qatar -- have failed till now.

US Sending Arms, Munitions To Israelis While Claiming To Push For Gaza Ceasefire

jailed for 16 years and eight months, and Amandeep Rishi, 42, faces imprisonment for 11 years and two months for their role in the conspiracy to supply class A banned drugs and money laundering at Birmingham Crown Court

court they seized 400kg of "highpurity" cocaine as well as GBP 1.6 million in illegal cash as investigators dismantled the wholesale supply chain, which saw the 10-strong gang transporting the drugs in pallets of raw chicken.

tion covered the importation, exportation and wholesale national supply of cocaine and money laundering," said Detective Chief Inspector Pete Cooke from the West Midlands Police's Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU).

"We were able to expose the gangs' activities which were both sophisticated and on a commercial scale, with them using a network

Israel Minister Says Would Build

From Delhi Does Not Make Any Sense: Rahul Gandhi

Running Jammu And Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday said running Jammu and Kashmir from Delhi does not make any sense, and reiterated the demand for the restoration of its statehood.

His remarks came during an interaction with Kashmiri women during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir last week, a video of which was released by the party on

"My problem with the PM (Narendra Modi) is that he does not listen to anyone. I have a problem with someone who from the beginning believes that they are right. Even if he sees something that is showing him that he is wrong, he will not accept it. So then that type a person will always create some problem or the other,' Gandhi tells the Kashmiri women students.

In the video, Gandhi also talks about the upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir and tells the students that it is the first time in Indian history that statehood has been taken away from a state.

'We are clear, the way it was done, we did not like. But, now for us the principle is to get the statehood back and that includes represen-



Kashmir and Ladakh. This status of running Kashmir, running Jammu from Delhi does not make any sense, Gandhi says.

In a message accompanying the video he posted on his YouTube channel, Gandhi said that during his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, he had the opportunity to meet several Kashmiri students in Srinagar.

"These girls are enrolled in various colleges, studying subjects like law, physics, journalism, and political science - I understood their expectations and challenges deeply. We spoke about the Kolkata incident and its broader implications, particularly regarding the harassment of women," Gandhi said in his post.

The students shared their concerns about how such incidents reflect systemic issues that need addressing and how they impact women's safety and dignity across regions, he said.

Drugs Gang Of Indian-Origin Men Using Frozen Chicken As Cover Busted In UK

Press Trust Of India

London: A gang involving Indian-origin men that used frozen chicken consignments among their many covers to smuggle drugs has been busted by UK police and now its members face prison sentences ranging between 16 and two years each.

Maninder Dosanjh, 39, was last week

West Midlands Police told the

"This far-reaching investiga-

of highly trusted individuals and a fleet of vehicles with hidden compartments," he said.

"We believe they were responsible for importing hundreds of kilos of cocaine, estimated to be over a tonne, resulting in them making huge sums of cash, thought to be over GBP 10 million," he added.

Some of the illegal cash recovered by West Midlands ROCU was found stashed in vehicle tyres and industrial machinery inside vans disguised as mechanical service vehicles. The police also recovered 225kg of cocaine destined for export to Australia that had been stored at a warehouse in Sutton Coldfield, in the West Midlands region of England.

"But all this enterprise was illegal and was putting large quantities of drugs, which we know destroy many lives and blight many communities, onto the streets both here in the UK and overseas. Our teams were able to trace the activity, identify the criminals and ultimately put them behind bars with considerable jail terms," DCI Cooke added. The gang communicated with

each other using the Encrochat platform, an encrypted messaging app that criminals believed couldn't be accessed by law enforcers. It has since been shut down by investigators as part of a major UK-wide operation.

Who Is Telegram Founder Pavel Durov? All To Know About His Arrest In France

elegram co-founder Pavel Durov was detained at the Paris-Le Bourget airport on Saturday, after arriving by a private plane from Baku, Azerbaijan.

He is accused of having failed to moderate criminal activity on the platform. Here is what we know

about Durov, Telegram and Who is Durov and why

was he detained? Russian-born Durov, 39, co-founded what became one of Russia's most popular social media networks, VKontakte, in his native St Petersburg, in 2007. He has been compared with Facebook co-

founder Mark Zuckerberg. In 2013, he grabbed glob-



al headlines by publicly offering a job to whistleblower and former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

In an interview with US journalist Tucker Carlson earlier this year, Durov claimed that he was under pressure to give Russian authorities access to data from accounts of Ukrainian pro-democracy activists in 2014 and that he refused to do so.

As the Russian government tightened its grip on the internet and President Vladimir Putin's allies start-

ed to take control of VKontakte, Durov sold his stake in the platform in 2014 and fled the country.

He then shifted his focus to Telegram, an app he co-founded with his brother Nikolai when he was 28. Durov has been living

in Dubai and is a citizen of the United Arab Emirates and France, according to Telegram. It is unclear whether he has given up his Russian citizenship. Durov has maintained

a hands-off stance on moderation, positioning the app as private and censorship. Nonetheless, some experts have cautioned that this approach has led to Telegram becoming a hotspot for illicit activity and extremism.

Synagogue At Flashpoint Jerusalem Site

right Israeli minister sparked fresh outrage on Monday by saying he would build a synagogue at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound if he could, once again challenging government policy.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, who has repeatedly ignored the government's long-standing ban on Jews praying at the site, told Army Radio that if it were possible he would build a synagogue at the Al-Aqsa compound, known to

Jews as the Temple Mount. The Al-Aqsa compound is Islam's third holiest site and a symbol of Palestinian national identity, but it is also Judaism's holiest place,



revered as the site of the second temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

"If I could do anything I wanted, I would put an Israeli flag on the site," Ben Gvir said in the interview.

Asked several times by the journalist if he would build a synagogue at the site if it were up to him, Ben Gvir finally replied: "Yes." Under the status

auo maintained by Israeli authorities, Jews and other non-Muslims are allowed to visit the compound in Israeliannexed east Jerusalem during specified hours, but they are not permitted to pray there or display religious symbols.

In recent years, the restrictions at the compound have been increasingly flouted by hard-line religious nationalists like Ben Gvir, prompting sometimes violent reactions from Palestinians.

The Al-Agsa mosque compound is administered by Jordan, but access to the site itself is controlled by Israeli security forces.

J&K's MILK PRODUCTION SOARS

Output Rises From 25 To 45 Lakh Metric Tons

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir have seen a significant rise in milk production and collection over the past five years, thanks to the increasing entrepreneurship in this sector

According to official data, milk production in the Union Territory has surged from 25 lakh metric tons to an impressive 45 lakh metric tons during this period. This growth marks a significant achievement in meeting local demand and enhancing the region's agricultural productivity.

In addition to the production increase, the daily milk collection and chilling capacity have also seen a notable jump. The collection has risen from 2 lakh litres per day (LLPD) to 8.5 lakh LLPD. This significant improvement in milk processing capabilities reflects better infrastructure, modernization of dairy farming practices, and efficient cold chain management in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the officials, dairy farmers and cooperatives have benefited from government initiatives aimed at improving livestock quality, providing financial assistance, and encouraging the adoption of modern technology in farming.

These efforts, they said, have played a crucial role in boosting milk output and ensuring that more dairy products reach local markets and consumers.

In addition to the government intervention, the growth of entrepreneurship in this sector has led to the booming of this business.

The dairy farming industry is now undergoing a renaissance as more educated young people view it as a viable and rewarding career option.



In the Kashmir Valley, the dairy sector has experienced substantial growth over the past two decades, underscoring the region's focus on agricultural progress and the pursuit of self-reliance.

Adil Ahmad is one such example of growing investment in this sector. Three years before he bought three cows to support his family.

Ahmad, who now owns five cows, sells 100 litres of milk daily which fetches him a good sum to grow his business.

"I am now planning to buy three more cows this winter. will buy hybrid cows which give milk in good quantity so that my business grows further," he said.

Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government has launched the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing the challenges faced by these sectors and fostering their growth.

At the core of the HADP is a visionary plan for dairy development in Jammu and Kashmir over the next five years. This initiative includes a strategic focus on boosting milk pro-ductivity through the broader adoption of Artificial Insemination (AI), with an emphasis on engaging private AI workers to ensure widespread implementation—(KNO)

Sikh Outfit Decides To Contest Assembly Elections From Three Seats



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee Kashmir (APSCC) on Monday said that it has decided to contest assembly elections from three seats of Kashmir valley.

The APSCC said that the committee has decided to field S Pushvinder Singh from Tral in Pulwama district while the candidates from Central Shalteng in Srinagar and Baramulla will be announced later on.

APSCC Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said that the committee is banking on the

support of the majority community for the success of the candidates from the seats where they are contesting elections.

He appealed to the members of the majority community to come forward and support the members of the Sikh community.

Raina said that support from members of the majority community will ensure the victory of community members. "It will send a positive message from Kashmir and it will change the narrative that Kashmiris pursue separatism and are anti-national," Raina added. (CNS)

Enquiry Ordered Into Alleged Misconduct By Police Officer

BARAMULLA: An enquiry has been ordered into an incident where the Station House Officer (SHO) of Kreeri Police Station allegedly used disrespectful language with a doctor at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kreeri in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

As per an order issued by the SSP Baramulla, on 25 August 2024 information was received by police station Kreeri that a male dead body had been brought to SDH Kreeri by locals and relatives of the deceased. It was not clear from initial information whether death was suspicious or attributable to natural causes. Parties from PS Kreeri swung into action to get further details about the matter.

During preliminary enquiry, it was discovered that locals and relatives of the deceased had taken the dead body for last rites and the medical team at SDH Kreeri were also unable to definitively inform police whether the death was suspicious or attributable to natural

causes. Following this, a police party rushed to the concerned village, enquired in detail, examined the body and concluded that since the deceased had been under long term care at Soura Institute and death was most probably- not suspicious.

It was later learnt that during the episode, SHO PS Kreeri talked in a disrespectful manner with Dr Jehangir Ahmad posted in SDH Kreeri which caused distress and anguish to Dr Jehangir. The matter was telephonically reported to the SSP Baramulla by various medical professionals who demanded stern action into the

Following this, SSP Baramulla ordered an enquiry to examine the incident in detail, ascertain facts, recommend disciplinary action, and ensure that such an incident does not happen.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Baramulla, Syed Yasir Qadri, has been tasked with conducting the enquiry. The findings and recommendations will be submitted within three days. [KNT]

Majalis, Processions Mark Arbaeen In Kashmir



Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Tens of thousands of people on Monday participated in majalis and took out processions to mark the Arbaeen (Chehlum) of martyrs of Karbala.

Arbaeen, (Arabic for forty) marks the end of forty day mourning period for the family of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) led by Imam Hussain who were brutally massacred in the deserts of Karbala after having refused to pledge allegiance to the corrupt and tyrannical Umayyad caliph, Yazid bin Muawya.

From early morning, devotees converged at various Imambargahs across Kashmir Valley, including Srinagar to attend Arbaeen majalis.

The largest gathering, reports said, was witnessed in Bemina in Srinagar outskirts wherein a large number of mourners commemorated the sacrifices of the noble family of holy Prophet (Pbuh).

On the occasion Agha Syed Hadi Musavi, president of Anjuman Sharie Shiayan delivered a sermon at the Imambargah Agha Syed Yusuf. A big Zuljinah procession was taken out from Imambargah Budgam where Agha Syed Hassan al Musawi addressed the mourners at the end of a grand majlis.

In Sajjadabad Chattabal, Ittehadul Muslimeen president Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari delivered a sermon at the end of the day-long Majlis. "The unparalleled battle of

truth and falsehood that took place on the land of Karbala in the year 61 AH will live on forever and the world of humanity will have a spirit of perseverance against injustice."

Large number of people visited Astana-Babul Hawaij, Imam Musa Kazim (A.S) here to have a glimpse of the rare manuscript of the holy Quran written by the 7th Imam during his imprisonment period.

Later a Zuljinah procession was taken out from the Bemina crossing which culminated at Sajjadabad Augaf grounds.

Similar processions were also reported in Zadibal and Has-

Hundreds Of Kashmiris Attend Arbaeen Pilgrimage At Karbala

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of Shia Muslims from Kashmir joined millions of other pilgrims from across the world for the Arbaeen pilgrimage, one of the largest religious gatherings globally.

The mourners, most of whom went in groups from Kashmir, participated in the rituals honoring the 40th day after the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in the battle of Karbala.

For many Kashmiri pilgrims, the journey involved walking on foot from the holy city of Najaf to Karbala, a spiritual trek undertaken by millions of Shia Muslims each year.

According to local tour and travel operators, the number of Kashmiri pilgrims partici-pating in Arbaeen has been steadily increasing,

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Karrar Hussain, a tour operator based in Kashmir, said that this year, around twelve to fifteen groups of mourners from Kashmir attended the pilgrimage.

"Although the exact number of Kashmiri pilgrims is difficult to calculate, we are seeing a steady rise in participation each year. It's heartening to see this growth in devotion," Karrar Hussain said.

sanabad areas in Srinagar, while mourning processions were also carried out in Shilwat in Baramulla and Udina area of Bandipora

district in north Kashmir. While paying glowing tribites to the martyrs of Karbala people were seen reciting traditional Kashmiri Nohas. Additionally, there were blood donation camps and food distribution stalls set up in several areas on the occasion.

At Zadibal, Srinagar, a large number of mourners from Srinagar and adjacent areas

attended the Majlis. Later, a procession was taken out from Mohalla Syed Afzal to Imam-

Imam Bargah Hassanabad.

Reports of Arbaeen Majalis and processions have also been received from other parts of the Valley including Uri in North and Devasar in



a cart serving free food and the pilgrimage route. The

The gesture resonated deeply with many Kashmiri pilgrims who expressed their surprise and excitement at seeing their traditional beverages being served during the holy journey.

brethren in service of our mourners" aaid Hakim Riyaz who posted a picture of them serving mourners.

As the growing number of Kashmiri pilgrims in Karbala continues to grow each year, pilgrims say it reflects the spiritual bond between the Kashmiri Shias and the sacred land of Karbala.

bargah Zadibal. A large gathering was held at

Zaildar Mohalla, Saida Kadal, where a procession was taken out that passed through different areas before culminating at

Kashmir Kumail Hussain Joo and his wife who have settled in Kuwait set up a Sabeel drinks to pilgrims - along Sabeel offered traditional Kashmiri tea, including Nun-Chai and Kehwa, which was warmly welcomed by fellow

"Good to see our Kashmiri

Environment Policy Group Slams Political Parties For Neglecting Env. policy

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Experts at the Environment Policy Group (EPG) meeting here slammed the political parties for not mentioning environmental policy in their political manifestos, saying the valley produces 800 metric tonnes of waste daily. They said Kashmiri was heading towards an "environmental disaster".

According to details, the EPG held an interactive meeting on Sunday here in which concerned citizens, along with experts from across the valley participated to share their thoughts on the various environmental issues that are assailing the region.

During the meeting, the experts recalled the lessons from the devastating floods of 2014.

It was resolved that all necessary measures will be taken to save Kashmir's fragile environment, said Faiz Ahmad Bakshi, Convenor, EPG

"There was an emerging consensus that while development was all-important, it was time to restore and conserve its critically vital wetlands," he added.

The speakers expressed re-

sentment that there was no mention of any environmental policy in the political manifestos of various political parties.

Quoting research, they expressed concern over the 800 metric tonnes of waste generated every day in Kashmir.

"We are moving towards disaster by not planting trees and destroying our environment," said Dr Raja Muzaffar, RTI Activist and Chairman RTI Movement.

The meeting concluded with a strong appeal to save the wetlands of Kashmir and place more emphasis on environmental conservation in the region.

Kashmir, often celebrated for its stunning natural beauty and diverse ecosystems, is facing an alarming environmental decline. The region's wetlands, forests and water bodies have been severely impacted by rapid urbanisation, poor waste management and shrinking

natural habitats. The 2014 floods, one of the worst natural disasters in recent history, highlighted the fragility of Kashmir's environment and prompted calls for urgent and sustained conservation efforts-(KNO)

DDC Chairperson Among 2 PDP Leaders Quit Party In Shopian

Agencies

SRINAGAR: District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Shopian along with DDC member Harmain Monday resigned from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and extended their support to former MLA Wachi Aijaz Ahmad Mir.

DDC Chairperson Shopian Bilquees Bano said that she has resigned from the party and will support Aijaz Ahmad Mir, who is scheduled to contest elections as an Independent candidate from Wachi (now Zainapora) constituency.

DDC member Harmain, Abdul Rashid Lone said that he is resigning from basic membership of PDP and will support Aijaz Mir.

Lone said that they can't expect anything from the party that has not done justice with Aijaz Ahmad Mir, who has worked day and night for the betterment of the party.

Notably, Aijaz Mir resigned from PDP last week and would likely contest the assembly polls as an independent candidate. He is expected to file his nominations paper tomor-

Sajad Lone Welcomes Jamaat-e-Islami's Return To **Electoral Politics**

Agencies

be an outpouring of emotions, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) President Sajad Gani Lone today expressed his satisfaction over the news that individuals affiliated with Jamaat Islamia will

be contesting in the upcoming assembly elections. He stated that Jamaat has a history of struggle and a deep understanding of pain and suffering, which puts them in a

better position to empathize with and represent the plight of Kashmiris. "I am extremely pleased if

the news that some individuals affiliated with Jamaat Islamia are contesting elections is true. I sincerely hope it is. While my party and Jamaat have coexisted in the mainstream political space before 1989, we rarely agreed politically and often fought each other bitterly in elections. Ideologically there was never an overlap. Many of Jamaat's prominent leaders spent years in jail, sometimes alongside my late father. Today, we will be contesting against them on the ground once again. But despite our political differences, I am glad to see a party with such a history of struggle participating in these elections", he remarked.

Reflecting on the struggles of JeI leaders, Lone stressed that "Jamaat's leaders have experienced imprisonment, torture, and some of the most harrowing times. They know what pain is and are therefore in a better position to understand the suffering of others", he added.

Lone also revisited the debate between "VICTIMS and VICTORS." He stated that the mainstream space has been dominated by those he described as "victors"-individuals responsible for jailing, killing, and torturing people during the worst times of vio-

"These victors, being in the banded and pretended to be victims. Whenever a genuine victim enters the mainstream, these victors gang up and launch slanderous campaigns.'

Lone further noted that the 'Victors' occupied the sacred Victim space purely because they were in a brute majority within the mainstream camp, effectively crowding

out the real victims. "In their worldview. a victim must remain a victim forever. If a victim dares to rise above their suffering, they are quickly branded as collaborators", he added.

He expressed hope that the sacred Victim space is cleared of these trespassers, allowing true victims to represent themselves.

"The greatest insult to victims is when those who caused their suffering pretend to speak on their behalf. Those who have died cannot protest when the very victors who sent them to their graves claim to represent them", he added

He further warned Jamaat of the potential challenges they might face from the dominant mainstream political forces, stating, "Very soon, these mainstream victors will launch a sustained slander campaign, both covertly and overtly. They will be supported by a section of the media, which will publish stories based on so-called sources, especially in the national media. The so-called secular media will be the first to spread such canards-they will, in essence, write to kill", he added.

Concluding on a note of solidarity despite political differences, he said, "But once again, a very warm welcome from me and my party. We will fight each other on the ground, but with my hand on my heart, I am glad that a group among the victims will contest. May Allah bless us all." (KNS)

Altaf Bukhari Promises Youth-Centric Reforms If Elected To Power

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari said that if the Apni Party receives a public mandate in the upcoming elections, it will ensure a dignified life for the people, especially the youth, who have been struggling with various challenges in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bukhari was addressing a public gathering in the Hyderpora area of the Chanapora constituency, where he is preparing to contest the upcoming assembly polls.

He said, "A large number of

young people remain in jails, with thousands facing charges related to stone-pelting and other offenses. Also, the job seekers are being denied police verification reports because of their past mistakes or the mistakes of their relatives. Similarly, passports are not being issued to many youths. The lack of job opportunities has left lakhs of young boys and girls struggling with unemployment. All these problems need to be resolved, and I assure you that if you give the Apni Party a mandate in the upcoming elections, it will ensure the quick redressal of these issues, which are affecting our younger generation."

'Why should our youngsters be called to police stations on



the occasions of August 15 and January 26. This must be stopped. And, I promise that Apni party will make sure such practices are stopped once for all. Our youth deserve a better life. Our youth is our future," he added.

Outlining his plan, if his party gets a public mandate, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "If Apni Party forms the next government in J&K, it will announce a general amnesty for the youth facing charges. Those who are not involved in heinous crimes like murder will be pardoned, and this initiative will relieve approximately five thousand young people. Additionally. our government will fill all job vacancies in the government sector within six months of taking office, providing employment to approximately two lakh people. We will also

regularize 1.25 lakh daily wagers within three months of assuming office.'

He further said, "You should review our manifesto to see that we have planned a series of initiatives designed to ensure political, social, and economic empowerment for the people of J&K."

He added, "We will offer 300 units of free electricity each month during the summer and 500 units during the winter to every household. We will also increase the widow and old-age pension from the current Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month. Similarly, we will raise marriage assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh for girls from underprivileged families. In addition, we have a variety of other initiatives planned. I urge you to give us the opportunity to implement these people-centric policies.'

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday | 27-08-2024

Unending suffering of Palestinians

lmost eleven months after the war between Israel and Palestine began, there are no signs of a ceasefire. True, in recent weeks, there have been intensiied efforts to arrive at truce through the mediation of Qatar, Cairo and even the United States, and it appeared that things were headed in the right direction. More so, after the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh while he was in Iran as a guest to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Iran Masoud Pezeshkian. But it looks that the world will have to wait longer for the truce. Hamas on Monday rejected new Israeli conditions for a ceasefire in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, casting further doubt on the chances of a breakthrough in the latest US-backed effort to

Key sticking points in the talks include Hamas's opposition to Israeli presence in Gaza. Hamas demands that Israel be bound by a plan laid out by US President Joe Biden and a UN Security Council resolution in July. The group has confirmed its readiness to implement that deal to halt the destruction of the Gaza Strip, It has stressed the need for any agreement to include a permanent ceasefire and a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

The war has inflicted unimaginable suffering on Palestinians, with over 40,000 Palestinians killed and widespread devastation across the Gaza Strip. The human toll, combined with the destruction of infrastructure and the severe humanitarian crisis, underlines the urgent need for a sustainable resolution. Israel's assault has aggravated the dire situation in Gaza, leading to mass displacement and severe shortages of food, medicine, and other essentials.

Hamas's cautious response, expressing a desire for amendments while broadly supporting the deal, signals a willingness to negotiate. However, skepticism remains high, particularly regarding Israel's commitment to fully implementing the terms. The mutual distrust between the parties is a significant barrier to peace, necessitating robust mediation and confidence-building measures.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza cannot be overstated. The war has pushed the enclave to the brink of starvation, with over a million people facing extreme hunger. The immediate cessation of hostilities and the delivery of aid are imperative to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. Moreover, allegations of potential war crimes by Is-

raeli forces further complicate the situation, necessitating accountability and justice.

In recent past, students from the elite western universities had tried their best to draw the world's attention to the horrors of the war inflicted on Palestinians. They understood that helping the headlines and estatistics are recently as the statistics are recently as the statist stood that behind the headlines and statistics are real people, families torn apart by violence and displacement. Their demand for a ceasefire was a demand for humanity, for com-passion, and for the recognition of the dignity and rights of all people, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. But so far the world has done precious little to end the unmitigated suffering of Palestinians.



Did You Know?

Why Mutual Funds are Ideal for First-Time Investors

Irshad Mushtaq

'utual funds are perfect for first-time investors looking to enter the market with ease and professionalism . Learn about the different types of equity mutual funds and how to invest effectively.

Let's discuss first why Mutual funds represent an attractive option for first-time investors, particularly for those who may not possess comprehensive knowledge of the stock market. Here's a deeper look into their appeal and functionality: **Understanding Mutual Funds**

A mutual fund amalgamates investments from multiple investors, creating a diversified pool of assets. These funds are professionally managed by fund managers and are subject to oversight by Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and regulatory bodies such as the Securities -findia (SEBI) and the Association of Mutual Funds

Investors have the flexibility to purchase mutual funds either directly or through registered distributors, commonly referred to as mutual fund advisors. These advisors are instrumental in guiding investors according to their specific financial goals, risk tolerance, and investment horizon. The advisors assist in fund selection and provide continuous support, typically through online platforms and apps, allowing investors to monitor their portfolios and track performance

Types of Equity Mutual Funds Equity mutual funds, which invest in shares, can be categorized as

1. Large Cap Funds: Focus on investing in large, well-established

2. Mid Cap Funds: Target medium-sized companies with substantial growth potential

3. Small Cap Funds: Invest in smaller companies with higher growth

4. Flexi Cap Funds: Allocate investments across companies of vari-

5. Multi Cap Funds: Diversify investments among large, mid, and small-cap companies 6. Balanced or Hybrid Funds: Combine equity and debt instruments

to provide a balanced approach. 7. Sectoral Funds: Focus investments in specific sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, tourism, or manufacturing.

AMCs provide multiple options, enabling investors to opt for funds aligned with their capital availability and future outlook.

Benefits of Using Trusted local Advisors

Fund managers and mutual fund advisors offer significant expertise, essential for constructing a robust investment portfolio. They recommend systematic investment plans (SIPs) as an optimal method for investing, which allows for regular, disciplined investments over time.

In summary, mutual funds offer a structured, professionally managed, and diversified investment avenue suitable for first-time investors. By leveraging the expertise of fund managers and financial advisors, investors can effectively navigate the stock market and work towards fulfilling their financial objectives.

Learn from the insights of @IrshadMushtag, writer, investor, entrepreneur & Founder of MI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com

Unemployment in Kashmir is Still Unaddressed

Rayees Ahmad

The gravity of this problem can be gauged by the fact that the number of applicants applying is more than hundred times the number of advertised posts every time when the notifications are issued by the within minutes and every Tom, Dick and Harry passed comrecruiting agencies



ouple of days ago a video went viral across social media platforms in which a P.hD scholar was seen selling dry fruits on a cart. Every individual with a mic in one hand and a smartphone in another was taking interviews from him and posing a series of unnecessary, trivial and worthless questions. These pseudo-journalists who are completely devoid of journalistic ethics and whose number is surging with each passing day across every corner of the valley were trying to garner wide viewership and inviting comments on an issue which is shattering the dreams of thousands of highly qualified and passionate individuals of this region who have burnt their midnight oil only to see themselves earning an honorable livelihood and living a respectable life in their later years. This video was made viral

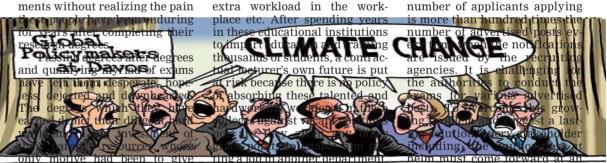
sity and qualifying the NET/ SET the eligibility exams for Lectureship should have ensured jobs in educational institutions. However, there are no vacant teaching positions due to which efficient and highly qualified people leave empty handed and find themselves unemployed even after spending years to be the most qualified in

their respective disciplines. In very rare cases, if some research scholars manage to secure contractual positions in colleges and universities, this opportunity too is a losing game. Opting for contractual jobs in colleges and universities is further worsening their condition rather encouraging them to embrace this somewhat prestigious job. There are many reasons behind this. Lack of job security, disparities in the monthly salaries being paid to them in colleges/universities against what UGC has set in its guidelines and norms and assigning them extra workload in the work-

few private companies available and the rest try to get adjusted in other private sector sectors like schools. In schools too, they are paid extremely low. Private schools pay abominably low salaries and there's no regulation in place to address this problem.

Even after compromising and taking a hit on what they truly deserve, some professionals fail to secure a job at all. They roam from pillar to post to get work.

From our colleges and universities, an army of unemployed pass outs are produced each year which add to the already unemployed kitty of UT. To address this issue, the newly introduced NEP 2020 stresses for learning skill based courses while in schools and colleges. It won't transform the system overnight, however, if given a positive direction and implemented judiciously can do wonders to redress this grave issue. The gravity of this problem can be gauged by the fact that the number of applicants applying



their children better education sattemak their education er current their capaciton er plo missionsthem at

-due to meager opportunities in the government sector and tough competitions for every job, the younger generation here is a firm with no light in sight.

Their life has become onerous and arduous, they are considered a burden even by their own family members. After failing to grab a government job these highly qualified youth are caught in a tricky situation. After spending years of their precious time and years in gaining higher qualifications, they are having to fall back on doing odd jobs.

Gaining a P.hD degree after strenuous efforts from a univer-

The salary they're paid is so low that it can barely cover their monthly living expenses. This specially true for those with kids — a complete household to cover basic expenses It becomes nelise our efforts in the right tougher or them to manage with each passing day as inflation is

touching skies every other day. After applying even for the contractual jobs only a fixed lot gets an opportunity to work on adhoc basis in colleges and universities while the rest of them opt for other jobs.

Unemployment isn't restricted to PhD scholars only but a huge chunk of our well qualified youth is failing to make ends meet. Many work in the

earliest to safeguard the future comes challenging for them to get married even in their 30s PhDs who are likely to have family lies, old parents, partners and lies, partner

Therefore, we need to chandirection instead of sensational izing such stories for attention and more traction. We must encourage people trying to make ends meet despite odds instead of putting them up for a show.

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

> The author can be reached by rayeeskumar31@gmail.com



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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India's Elderly

ccording to the United Nations report, "India Ageing Report 2023", the share **■**of the elderly population – people above 60 years – will reach 20.8% of the total population at the national level by 2050, compared with 10.1% in 2021. Increasing longevity and falling fertility have resulted in a dramatic increase in the population of adults aged 60 and above in India, resulting in complex health, social, and economic challenges, to which this diverse and heterogeneous coun-

try must rapidly adapt. Ageing issues being multi-disciplinary in nature, no single-disciplinary focus can give a holistic understanding of the same. Therefore, approaches to understand these issues from a multi and interdisciplinary perspective need to be initiated. Studies on nutritional aspects, impact of migration on the elderly, strengthening communitybased institutions, and family support systems should receive greater attention so as to enhance the quality of life of the elderly people. To suc-

cessfully address these challenges, it requires complex and ambitious changes and innovations in health, fiscal and social policies.

Across the world, elderly persons are largely dependent on their family members, but sadly find themselves at the receiving end in the sunset years of their life. In the good olden davs elders in families were respected a lot due to their wisdom and wealth of life experience. With changing times, sadly they are seen as millstones and neglected by their

own family members. We need to reform our approach towards elderly persons by bringing care closer to where they live, and where it costs less to deliver and does more good. Acknowledging seniors' contributions will help to make ours a more age-inclusive society that does not pit one generation against the other. Also, the central government must bring needful policies and programmes to socially protect the elders of our country. Ranganathan

Have We Kashmiris Forgotten Kindness?

Our community was once defined by exceptional kindness, community service and a sense of belonging. All that seems to be history now

Farhad Ahmad Pir

There was a time when neighbors in Kashmir would visit each other's homes early in the morning to inquire about one another's well-being. Our first cup of tea was often shared within our own homes, but soon after, we would move on to our neighbors' or relatives' houses for more. The evenings had their own charm; we would stay up late, gathering in our neighbors' homes, sharing stories, gossiping, and sipping tea brewed in the samovar. This sense of community kept us awake all night, united by shared happiness and sorrow. We couldn't be content if a neighbor was in distress, and our hands were always ready to help. We exchanged goods and services freely, offering assistance without hesitation. Visitors to Kashmir often remarked on the warm, compassionate nature of its people, and students studying in other parts of India reported that locals there were always pleased to meet someone from Kashmir, eager to engage with us due to our reputation for hospitality.

Once upon a time, even if a person was not closely related, we wouldn't let them leave without offering tea. If they declined, we would pull on their coat sleeves or Pheran so persistently that the stitches threatened to come undone, all to ensure they stayed for a cup. Serving a guest was a point of pride. Reflecting on those days, we remember the strong bonds of love and affection that tied our communities together. People would go to great lengths for one another, often forgoing their own meals if a neighbor was hungry. Help was always at hand, and no one could stand to see another per-



son in trouble.

But today, this spirit of selflessness is fading. Our first responsibility should be to live generously with our fellow beings, especially our neighbors and loved ones. While it's commendable that we extend kindness to strangers and tourists, our charity should begin at home. Unfortunately, this generous spirit is increasingly rare. A pitiless nature has replaced the kindness that once defined us, and we now encounter unkindness everywhere, from hospitals and banks to schools and other institutions. The harsh and intolerant behavior we face daily is disheartening, and it's impossible to catalog every hurtful attitude we encounter.

To illustrate this decline in selflessness, consider the simple act of giving someone a lift. Today, it's common for every wealthy family to own a car, often obtained through bank loans. Yet, many car owners see offering a

lift as a burden. While it's true that car owners have no obligation to offer rides, and some may fear giving a lift to strangers due to safety concerns, in Kashmir, we've taken this caution to an extreme, treating it almost like a religious ruling. We've flipped the law on its head, often giving lifts to strangers especially women while ignoring acquaintances or fellow villagers at bus stops.

Some car owners intentionally avoid giving lifts, perhaps out of pride or a lack of humility. Of course, not all car owners are the same. Sometimes there's no room, or the driver is in a hurry. But more often than not, people consciously ignore those who wave for a lift. Offering a ride now seems like a trivial thing, but it's a small, selfless service that reflects the broader decline in our cultural values. In contrast, I've visited places like Leh, Ladakh, where giving a lift is common practice, and people see it as a noble

WHILE IT'S **COMMENDABLE THAT WE EXTEND KINDNESS TO STRANGERS AND**

TOURISTS, our charity should begin at home. Unfortunately, this generous spirit is increasingly rare. A pitiless nature has replaced the kindness that once defined us, and we now encounter unkindness everywhere, from hospitals and banks to schools and other institutions

deed. The residents of Leh don't distinguish between rich and poor when offering a ride and this simple act of kindness has left a lasting impression

This experience made me realize that such selflessness was once more prevalent in Kashmir, but it is now becoming increasingly rare. Our culture is built on these acts of selflessness. and it's our responsibility to prevent the erosion of this important cultural trait. This quality once distinguished us, earning us admiration wherever we went. It's crucial that we revive this spirit of humility and self-service on a personal level. After all, culture is shaped and maintained by our actions, and it's up to us to ensure that our actions reflect the ethos and values for which our culture is known.

The author is a student of English

Sunita Williams Stuck in Space

Why did NASA schedule her return to Earth in 2025?

Live Mint

Amid months of speculations and assurance, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) finally confirmed the date of Sunita Williams's return space flight to Earth on Saturday. The US space agency said that the Boeing Starliner capsule will return from the International Spac Station without Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore. Meanwhile, the two astronauts will return to the Earth in February 2025 aboard the Dragon capsule of SpaceX, owned by Elon Musk.

Why did NASA postpone Sunita Williams's return flight to 2025?

On Saturday, NASA officials said that it is "too risky" to bring the astronauts, Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams, back to Earth currently. Hence, the Starliner spacecraft will return to Earth without the two astronauts.

"Wilmore and Williams will continue their work formally as part of the Expedition 71/72 crew through February 2025. They will fly home aboard a Dragon spacecraft with two other crew members assigned to the agency's SpaceX Crew-9 mission. Starliner is expected to depart from the space station and make a safe, controlled autonomous re-entry and landing in early September," ANI quoted NASA in a statement.

How has Elon Musk's SpaceX come to the rescue?

Elon Musk's SpaceX is currently the only American company capable of sending astronauts to the International Space Station. Although a SpaceX capsule is currently parked at the ISS, it is reserved for the four residents who have been there since March. They are scheduled to return in September this year. SpaceX's next spaceflight is scheduled for launch in September this year.

There is another spaceship docked at the ISS, Russian Soyuz capsule. But the Russian capsule is even tighter, as it can fly only three astronauts. The capsule is scheduled to take back two Russians wrapping up a yearlong stint.

The next SpaceX taxi flight was earlier scheduled to carry four astronauts, but it will now carry two to make room for Wilmore and Williams on the return flight in late February.

Helium leaks at Boeing Starliner

There were repeated glitches with the Boeing Starliner even before its launch from the Earth earlier this year. NASA and Boeing discovered helium leaks and there were complaints of issues with spacecraft reaction control thrusters on June 6.

Since then, engineering teams have completed a significant amount of work, including reviewing a collection of data, conducting flight and ground testing, hosting independent reviews with agency propulsion experts, and developing various return contingency plans. However, the uncertainty does not meet with the safety standards making it 'risky' for the return of Williams

Umeed Abhi Baqi Hai – Hope Lives On

Bashir Ahmad Buch

meed Abhi Baqi Hai, a riveting collection of dramas and features, was released by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, last month in Srinagar. The book aims to rekindle the hope that the right and timely action can bring about positive changes in the victims of evils like female feticide and extremism. Besides advocating for the adoption of the Gandhian principle of nonviolence to seek redressal of grievances and demands, the author, Sh. Bashir Ahmad Buch, also calls for applying a healing touch on the wounds inflicted by untoward incidents, in order to rehabilitate the ravaged lives of the victims of terrorism. On climate change which affects one and all, the author pitches for use of alternative sources of Energy and environment-friendly technology to conserve the Nature. The book offers food for thought and prescribes certain ways and methods for a better future.

"Aurat-Baqa-e Qainaat" (Women, The Essence of the Universe)

The feature focuses on grave issues of female feticide and depriving education to the girl child, thus suffocating her all-round growth. It offers an insight into the numerous challenges that the woman has to face right from the time her existence is established in the womb. Hence, it is a spontaneous tribute to the girl child and an impetus to the Government of India's Campaign, (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao).

"Dard Ka Ehsaas" (Feel of the Pain)

The drama revolves around the themes of extremism, violence and non-violence. The writer skillfully explores the necessity of handling disillusioned youth who have succumbed to anti-social elements, with utmost care and the potential to alter their mindset through rehabilitative measures echoing the Gandhian principles of nonviolence and truthfulness.

"Lafzon ka Safar" (Words Work Wonders)

The feature illustrates how a backward

mindset can hinder the pursuit of justice for women, denying them opportunities for holistic growth and development. It identifies the factors contributing to an unjust and absurd divide between men and women, relegating women to a position of insignificance. "Words Work Wonders" emphasizes, in its unique way, that the progress of any society is intricately linked to the status of its women.

"Fitrat Se Qurbat" (Close to Nature)

The feature emphasizes the age-old principle of simple living by advocating for the use of alternative sources of Energy and environment-friendly technology. The feature emphasizes that the best way to preserve nature is to make people aware of it.

"Aao Ahed Karein" (Let Us Pledge)

The informative and Educative dramatic presentation depicts the rural scenario and how the lives of people are changing with the introduction of MGNREGA and related schemes. The programme provides a comprehensive picture of the benefits of MGN-REGA, educates about the Gandhian principles of Rural Development and highlights the importance of Nationalism and Nation

"Sher Dil-Insaan" (Human with Lion's Heart)

The drama lays stress on adopting the children of the innocent people who become victims of communal riots and terrorism in order to change their mindset of vengeance through reformative measures like proper guidance and education. Sher Khan, a retired army officer is the model character who along with his friend (in neighborhood), namely Pradhan follow the norms of persuasion through education. After retirement both have a temptation to work as social workers. These sentiments get impetus when the solitary son of Sher Khan is killed in a bomb blast during communal riots. The drama identifies the factors that promote communalism, hatred and peculiar gulf among different communities/sects.

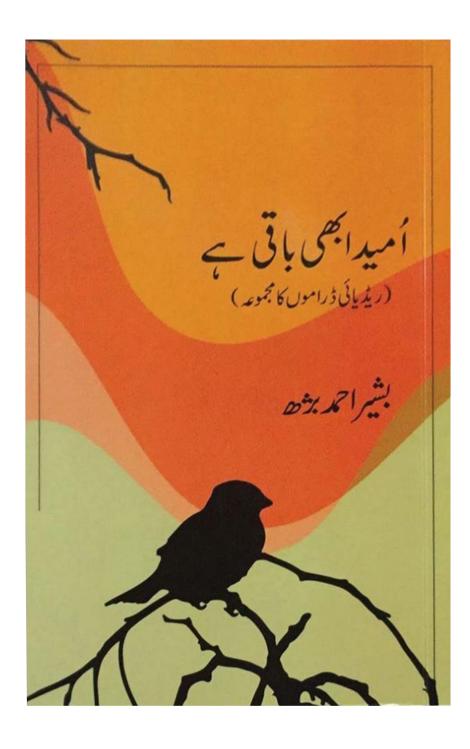
"Piyas Aur Panah" (Thirst and Shelter)

This promo focuses on the environmental issues with seriousness, but in a friendly and non-formal atmosphere, where parents and grandparents share their experiences with children. The purpose is to bring home the seriousness and the gravity of the situation we are facing today regarding the en-

To conclude, the book highlights nationalism, brotherhood, communal harmony, environmentalism, curbing social evils and issues like gender sensitivity in a dramatized script having a great influence for

> The author is a writer and former broadcaster of All India Radio

he feature focuses on grave issues of female feticide and depriving education to the girl child, thus suffocating her all-round growth. It offers an insight into the numerous challenges that the woman has to face right from the time her existence is established in the womb. Hence, it is a spontaneous tribute to the girl child and an impetus to the Government of India's Campaign, (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao)



Can AI Pick IVF Embryos As Well As A Human? First Randomised **Controlled Trial Shows Promise**

The Conversation

uring in vitro fertilisation (IVF), a number of different embryos are produced from eggs and sperm.

Then, embryologists choose, which one of the embryos is most likely to lead to a successful pregnancy and transfer it to the patient.

Embryologists make this choice by using their expertise to apply a set of widely accepted principles based on the appearance of the embryo. In recent years there has been a lot of interest in using various artificial intelligence (AI) techniques in this process.

We developed one such AI system and tested it in a study of more than 1,000 IVF patients. Our system chose the same embryo as a human expert in about two-thirds of cases, and had an overall success rate only marginally lower. The results are published in Nature Medicine.

Can deep learning help IVF?

Over the past few years, with colleagues in Sweden, we have been developing software to identify which embryos will have the best chance of IVF success. Our system uses deep learning, an AI method for finding patterns in large amounts of data.

While we were developing our system, we carried out retrospective studies comparing the system's choices with past real-world decisions made by embryologists. These early results suggested the deep learning system might do an even better job than a human expert. So the next step was to test the system properly with a randomised trial.

Our trial involved 1,066 patients at 14 fertility clinics in Australia and Europe (Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom). For each patient, both the deep learning system and a human expert selected an embryo to be implanted. Then, a random choice was made of which of the two to use.

This study is the first randomised controlled trial ever performed of a deep learning system in embryo selection. Deep learning may have many medical applications, but this is so far one of only a few prospective randomised trials of the technology in any area of healthcare.

What we found

What we found in the study was that there was virtually no difference between the two approaches. The clinical pregnancy rate (the likelihood of a fetal heart being seen after

transfer of the first embryo) was 46.5% when the deep learning system chose the embryo and 48.2% when the embryologist chose the embryo.

In other words, there was very little difference. Indeed, 65.8% of the time, the deep learning system chose the same embryo as the embryologist. However, we also found that the artificial intelligence system did the task of embryo selection ten times more quickly than the embryologist.

One aim of our study was to prove the "non-inferiority" of our deep learning system. This is common in medical research, as we always want to make sure that a proposed new technique doesn't lead to worse results that the existing standard.

Despite the fact the deep learning system produced very similar results to those of human experts, our study did not quite clear the hurdle of proving "non-inferiority".

As it happened, the overall success rates in the study were much higher than we had expected. This changed the statistics of the situation, and meant we would have needed a much larger study – with almost 8,000 patients – to prove the new method is non-inferior.

No significant differences

male or female embryos

- through biased selec-

tion by the deep

learning model.

However, we found no alteration in the sex ratio as a result of deep learning embryo selection.

We concluded from our study that there is no significant difference for the pregnancy rate between having an embryo chosen by a deep learning system or having the embryo chosen by an experienced embryologist.

It seems from this that the use of a deep learning tool for embryo selection will not radically change the outcome (as it mostly chooses the same embryo) for a patient undergoing IVF. However, the use of a reliable automated tool of



A number of

ethical concerns have previously been raised about deep learning in embryo selection. One of these concerns is a potential alteration of the sex ratio – that is, ending up with more male or female embryos - through biased selection by the deep learning model.





One aim of our study was to prove the "non-inferiority" of our deep learning system. This is common in medical research, as we always want to make sure that a proposed new technique doesn't lead to worse results that the existing standard.

FSSAI Withdraws Advisory On Removal Of Claims Of 'A1', A2' Types Of Milk, Milk Products



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Food safety regulator FSSAI on Monday withdrew its recent advisory wherein food businesses were directed to remove claims of 'A1' and 'A2' types of milk and milk products from packaging.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FS-SAI) said the advisory has been withdrawn to carry out further consultations with stakeholders. It would imply that food business operators (FBOs) can continue to sell and market their products with claims of 'A1' and "A2' types of milk. A1 and A2 milk differ in their

beta-casein protein composition, which varies based on cow breed.

In a fresh advisory issued on Monday, the regulator said, "the advisory dated August 21, 2024... stands withdrawn for further

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Stock market bench-

mark indices Sensex and Nifty

Monday, propelled by intense

buying in metal, IT and con-

sumer durable stocks amid hopes that the US Federal Re-

serve will start cutting interest

Renewed Foreign fund in-

flows and buying in frontline

stocks HDFC Bank and Reliance

Industries further bolstered in-

vestor sentiment, traders said.

day, the 30-share BSE Sensex

jumped 611.90 points or 0.75

per cent to settle at 81,698.11.

During the day, it surged

738.06 points or 0.91 per cent

A total of 2,189 stocks ad-

vanced, while 1,860 declined

and 148 remained unchanged

The NSE Nifty soared 187.45

points or 0.76 per cent to

25,010.60, registering gains for

Among the 30 Sensex firms,

HCL Technologies, NTPC, Bajaj

Finserv, Tech Mahindra, JSW

the eighth session in a row.

to 81,824.27.

on the BSE.

Rising for the fifth straight

Markets Extend Winning

Momentum On US Fed Rate Cut

Hopes; Sensex Rallies 600 Pts

with the stakeholders".

The FSSAI, in its advisory dated August 21, had asked FBOs to remove claims of 'A1 and A2 from their products. Ecommerce platforms were also told to remove these claims from products and websites immediately.

The regulator had said that the claims of 'A1' and 'A2' types of milk and milk products do not conform with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

After examination, the FS-SAI had found that A1 and A2 differentiation is linked to the structure of beta-casein protein in milk. However, current FSSAI regulations do not recognise this differentiation.

In the August 21 advisory, FBOs were also asked to exhaust pre-printed labels within six months, with no further extensions to be granted.

Steel, Titan, Mahindra & Ma-

hindra, Tata Steel, Larsen &

Toubro and Tata Consultancy

Services were the biggest gain-

On the other hand, Kotak

Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank,

Maruti and Hindustan Unilever

In the broader market, the

BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.66

per cent and the smallcap in-

cut in September, reflecting in

the decline in US treasury yields

and the dollar index, which has

led to a rally in global markets

despite there being no indica-

tion of the size of cuts. Indian

markets hit a new high led by a

change in FII stance to positive

from negative, along with con-

was positive, large caps out-

perform on account of healthy

earnings and relatively fair

valuation compared to broader

markets. IT, Realty, FMCG and

Consumption gained on ac-

count of improved outlook,"

Vinod Nair, Head of Research,

Geojit Financial Services, said.

"Although the overall trend

tinued strong DII inflows.

were among the laggards.

dex soared 0.20 per cent.

"US Fed has signalled a

consultation and engagement

Conclave & Awards 2024.
The conclave themed "Leading in the Digital Paradigm", organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), took place in Delhi, and brought together thought leaders, regulators, and banking professionals from across the BIMSTEC region.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has once

again proven its mettle in the

banking industry by securing the prestigious "Best Perfor-

mance on Profitability" award

in the category of Private Sec-

tor Bank (Mid Size) at the 2nd

ICC Emerging Asia Banking

On behalf of the Bank, General Manager (Rest of India) Rajesh Gupta received the award, which recognizes the Bank's outstanding performance in profitability among mid-sized private sector banks in the country.

Expressing his gratitude, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, said, "We are deeply honored to receive this prestigious award, which honours the unwavering dedication



J&K Bank Shines At ICC

Emerging Asia Banking

Conclave & Awards 2024

Bags Award For 'Best Performance On Profitability'

and commitment of our staff. Their relentless pursuit of excellence has enabled us to achieve this milestone and emerge as a leader in this particular category in the industry."

He further added, "This recognition not only celebrates our past achievements but also aligns with our strategic vision to transform J&K Bank into an institution that serves the needs of all generations. We are committed to our journey of innovation, customer-centricity, and sustainable growth, which will continue to drive our success in the years to come."

ammu & Kashmir

Notably, the Bank earned its highest-ever net profit of Rs 1767 Cr for the financial year 2024 thereby registering the record profit consecutively for second year.

The Conclave featured international speakers discussing the impact of technological advancements on the banking industry while providing a platform for knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices among delegates and regulators participating in the conclave.

RBI To Launch ULI For Frictionless Flow Of Credit To Small, Rural Borrowers

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Buoyed by the success of digitalisation of financial services, the Reserve Bank will be launching Unified Lending Interface (ULI), a platform to ensure frictionless flow of credit, especially for smaller and rural borrowers.

Last year, the Reserve Bank had launched a pilot of a technology platform which enables frictionless credit in two states.

"From now on, we propose to call it (platform) the Unified Lending Interface (ULI). This platform facilitates seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including even land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders," said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at the RBI@90 Global Conference on 'Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies' here.

He emphasised that the 'new trinity' of JAM-UPI-ULI will be a revolutionary step forward in India's digital infrastructure journey.

In the inaugural speech, Das said Unified Payments Interface or UPI, a real-time payment system launched in India in April 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has played a significant role in the growth of retail digital payments in India.

NPCI was promoted by banks under the guidance of the Re-

While initial participants on the UPI platform were banks, non-bank third party app providers and use of QR codes have all combined in popularising UPI.



It has since emerged as a robust, cost-effective and portable retail payment system and is attracting active interest across the globe, Das said.

He said the ULI will cut the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers. The ULI architecture has common and standardised APIs, designed for a 'plug and play' approach to ensure digital access to information from diverse sources.

This reduces the complexity of multiple technical integrations and enables borrowers to get the benefit of seamless delivery of credit, quicker turnaround time without requiring extensive documentation, he said.

Das said by digitising access to the customer's financial and non-financial data that otherwise resided in disparate silos, ULI is expected to cater to large unmet demand for credit across various sectors, particularly for agricultural and MSME borrowers.

"Based on our experience from the pilot project, a nationwide launch of the ULI will be done in due course. Just like UPI transformed the payments ecosystem, we expect that ULI will play a similar role in transforming the lending space in India," Das said.

Over 23 Lakh Govt Employees Under NPS Get **Option To Choose Unified Pension Scheme**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The just-announced Unified Pension Scheme for central government employees will be available only for those who are currently subscribers of the New Pension Scheme (NPS), including retirees.

The new scheme guarantees employees 50 per cent of their average basic pay over the last 12 months before retirement as a pension for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years against a market returns linked payout under the NPS.

According to the scheme approved by the Union Cabinet, the pension will be proportionate for a lesser service period of up to a minimum of 10 years. Also, assured pension of Rs 10,000 per month on superannuation after a minimum of 10 years of service.

The scheme has been brought out to address the concerns of government employees over NPS, which came into effect from January 1,

Under the old pension scheme (OPS), effective before January 2004, employees got 50 per cent of their last drawn basic pay as pension.

Unlike the old pension scheme, UPS is contributory in nature, wherein employees will be required to contribute 10 per cent of their basic salary and dearness allowance while the employer's contribution (the central government) will be 18.5 per cent.

Under the NPS, the employer contribution is 14 per cent,



tion is 10 per cent. However, the eventual payout depends on the market returns on that corpus, mostly invested in government debt.

Employees, under the OPS, were not required to make any contribution. They, however, contributed to the General Provident Fund (GPF). The accumulated amount, along with interest, was paid to the employee at the time of retirement.

As the NPS was less attractive than the OPS, several non-BJP-ruled states decided to go back to the old pension scheme, which offered a DAlinked benefit. This prompted the Centre to constitute a committee in April 2023, under former Finance Secretary and now Cabinet Secretarydesignate TV Somanathan to suggest improvement in the NPS architecture.

Fulfilling the long pending demands of government employees ahead of assem-

bly elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Cabinet on August 24 approved the UPS, which will provide assured pension to 23 lakh eligible central government employees.

Those opting for the UPS will not be able to switch back.

The LIPS will put an additional burden of Rs 6,250 crore on the exchequer per year. The expenditure will vary every year according to variations in the number of employees. In addition, there will be an

arrear of Rs 800 crore that has to be paid under the National Pension System (NPS) to employees retiring before March 31, 2025. If these retirees opt for UPS, they will receive ar-

"UPS is being implemented by the Central Government, benefitting 23 lakh central government employees," Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on X on Sunday.

GST Taxpayers Without Valid Bank Account To Be Barred From Filing GSTR-1 From Sep 1

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GST taxpayers who do not furnish bank account details to GST authorities will be barred from filing outward supply return GSTR-1 from September 1, GST Network (GSTN) has said in an advisory.

As per GST Rule 10A, a taxpayer is required to furnish details of a valid bank account within a period of 30 days from the date of grant of registration, or before furnishing the details of outward supplies of goods or services or both in Form GSTR-1or using Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF), whichever is earlier.

"From 1st September, 2024 this rule is being enforced. Therefore, for the tax period August-2024 onwards, the taxpayer will not be able furnish GSTR-01/IFF as the case may be, without furnishing the details of a valid bank account in their registration details on GST portal," GSTN said in an advisory dated August 23.

The GST Council in its meeting in July last year, had approved amendment to Rule 10A to strengthen the registration process and to effectively



deal with the menace of fake and fraudulent registrations in goods and services tax (GST).

As per the amendment, a registered taxpayer was required to furnish the details of bank account having his name and PAN within 30 days of grant of registration or before filing of statement of outwards supply in Form GSTR-1/ IFF (invoice furnishing facility), whichever is earlier.

In the advisory, the GSTN asked all the taxpayers who have not yet furnished the details of a valid bank accounts to add their bank account information in their registration details by visiting the GST portal.

"...in absence of a valid bank account details in GST registration, you will not be able to file GSTR-1 or IFF as the case may, be from August 2024 return period," the GSTN advisory added.

Rupee Closes 3 Paise Higher At 83.87 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee pared its initial gains and settled for the day 3 paise higher at 83.87 against the American currency on Monday, weighed down by a surge in crude oil prices.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee gained in morning trade on rise in domestic markets and a weak US dollar. However, a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains for the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.83 and touched an intra-day high of 83.80 against the US dollar and a low of 83.91. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.87, 3 paise higher from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee traded in a narrow range and settled higher by 3 paise at 83.90 against the American

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07 per cent higher at 100.78. The US dollar had witnessed a sharp correction and fell to the lowest level since July 2023, on dovish comments by Fed Chair Jerome Powell at the Jackson Hole Symposium.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on risk in global risk sentiments amid dovish Fed speak and rising expectations of a rate cut by the Fed in September. However, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and rising crude oil prices may cap sharp upside," said Anuj Choudhary -- Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.92 per cent to USD 79.75 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 611.90 points, or 0.75 per cent, to close at 81,698.11 points. The Nifty rose 187.45 points, or 0.76 per cent, to 25,010.60 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 483.36 crore, according to exchange data.

India's forex reserves had jumped USD 4.546 billion to USD 674.664 billion during the week ended August 16, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. In the previous week, the forex kitty had dropped USD 4.8 billion to USD 670.119 billion.

Cabinet Likely to Approve 12 **New Industrial Cities This** Week to Boost Manufacturing

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet is expected to approve this week 12 new industrial cities in different states on the lines of Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, and Dholera in Gujarat to boost domestic manufacturing, an official said.

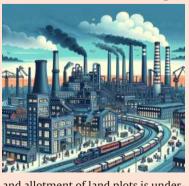
Out of the 12 industrial cities, two are coming up in Andhra Pradesh and one in Bihar, the official said.

The government in the Budget has announced the development of 'plug and play' industrial parks in or near 100 cities in partnership with states and the private sector to boost manufacturing.

The Department for Promotion of

Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh earlier told PTI that eight such cities are already under different stages of implementation.

Trunk infrastructure has been created in four cities - Dholera (Gujarat), Auric (Maharashtra), Vikram Udyogpuri (Madhya Pradesh) and Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)



and allotment of land plots is underway for the industry.

Similarly, in the other four, the government's special purpose vehicle is in the process of constructing the basic infrastructure like road connectivity, water and power supply.

With eight already under the development stage and the announcement of 12 new in the Budget, the total count of these cities in the country will reach 20.

The move will help increase the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP and create jobs.

Housing Prices Rise 12% in Q2, NCR Leads with 30% Growth

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Average housing prices grew by 12 per cent annually during the April-June quarter across eight major cities with Delhi-NCR witnessing a maximum 30 per cent appreciation, according to a report by CREDAI, Colliers and Liases Foras.

Realtors body CREDAI, property consultant Colliers and data analytic firm Liasas Foras have released 'Housing Price-Tracker Report Q2 2024'. On an annual basis, the average

housing prices at the end of June quarter have shown a 12 per cent growth across the eight major cities. Interestingly, 7 out of 8 cities under review witnessed annual price appreciation, with Delhi-NCR witnessing the highest price rise at 30 per cent YoY (year-on-year).

CREDAI President Boman Irani said that the "real estate sector has been experiencing a bull run in the past few quarters, substantiated by the volume of transactions across top 8 cities as well as the prevalent positive sentiments towards housing. There has been a direct impact on housing prices - signifying not just the underlying demand but the definitive shift towards real estate as a preferred asset class.

According to data, housing prices in Ahmedabad rose 13 per cent to Rs 7,335 per square feet in April-June 2024 from Rs 6,507 per square feet in the year-ago period.

Bengaluru witnessed a 28 per cent appreciation to Rs 11,161 per square feet from Rs 8,688 per square feet. Prices in Chennai remained flat at

Rs 7,690 per square feet. Delhi-NCR saw a maximum 30 per cent price rise to Rs 11,279 per square feet from Rs 8,652 per square

Housing prices in Hyderabad grew 7 per cent to Rs 11,290 per square feet from Rs 10,530 per square feet.

In Kolkata, the rates appreciated by 6 per cent to Rs 7,745 per square feet from Rs 7,315 per square feet.

Housing prices in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) increased 6 per cent to Rs 20,275 per square feet from Rs 19,111 per square feet.

In Pune, the prices of residential properties rose 13 per cent to Rs 9,656 per square feet in April-June 2024 from Rs 8,540 per square feet in the year-ago period.

The list also included former BJP general secretary and recently appointed election incharge for Jammu and Kashmir Ram Madhav, party national general secretary incharge Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, Rajya Sabha member Ghulam Ali Khatana, General secretary (organization) Ashok Kaul and Jammu and Kashmir BJP vice president Sofi Yousuf.

NC. Congress

Farooq Abdullah's residence here after daylong negotiations.

According to their seat-sharing formula, the NC will contest 51 seats in J-K and the Congress

They also said there will be a "friendly contest" on five seats of the Union Territory.

"To fight against the forces hell-bent upon dividing people of India, including J&K, along communal lines was the only goal of forming the INIDIA Bloc. To fend off these forces, the NC and Congress launched a campaign in J&K. Now that the negotiations between the two parties are over, we have decided to fight elections together in J&K," Dr. Farooq said.

"We have chosen to contest friendlier elections after narrowing down on a few controversial seats where we previously had difficulties. The two parties had amicable negotiations while taking into account each other's sensitivities," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president and former minister, Tariq Hammed Karra said, adding, "we finally came to an agreement after a fresh evaluation in a much disciplined manner."

"We have narrowed down the friendly contest to five seats and the alliance will fight on 24 seats in first phase, followed by 26 seats in second phase and 40 seats in the third and final phase of elections. In every phase we have stated numbers for NC and mandates will be announced accordingly from today onwards,'

Speaking to the media, the senior Congress leader K.C Venugopal claimed that there would be an NC-Congress government in J&K soon and the two parties will strive for the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who he alleged, were betrayed by the ruling dispensation.

"They (BJP) cheated on people of J&K, they always tried the nation to be divided on communal lines, while our party always fight for the rights of the people as we believe in unity and equality and are committed for employment of youth and the development of the state which was reduced to a union territory from a state," the Congress leader added.

Earlier, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi met the Abdullahs and the two sides reached an agreement on contesting the elections together. But differences over seatsharing emerged and the negotiations have hit a roadblock. The Congress then rushed Venugopal and Khurshid to put an end to the impasse so that the parties can focus on prepping for the key election.

Omar Abdullah last week said seat-sharing with the Congress has been finalised for most assembly seats and talks are on to reach consensus over the ones remaining.

J&K will hold its first Assembly election in a decade over three phases beginning September 18. Voting will also take place on September 25 and October 1, with the results due on October

List Of NC

from Anantnag East and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo from Pahalgam. All these seats are in south

For the seats in Jammu region, the NC announced Mehboob Igbal from Bhaderwah, Khalid Najeeb Soharwardy from Doda, Arjun Singh Raju from Ramban, Sajad Shaheen from Banihal, former minister Sajad Kichloo from Kishtwar and Pooja Thokur from Pader-Nagsani.

After hectic negotiation, the NC and the Congress Monday agreed to contest 51 and 32 seats respectively for the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

One seat each has been allotted to the CPI(M) and the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), the allies announced at a joint press conference at the NC president's residence here after day-long negotiations.

They also said there will be a "friendly contest" on five seats of the Union Territory.

The first phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held on September 18, second on September 25 and the third on October 1. Counting of votes will be undertaken on October 4.

Ladakh Gets 5

a population of 2.74 lakh according to the 2011 census.

The home minister said the Modi government is committed to creating abundant opportunities for the people of Ladakh.

Ladakh was carved out of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and declared a UT after the state was divided into two UTs on August

On that day five years ago, Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state, was also abrogated. Being a UT, Ladakh comes under the direct administrative control of the union home ministry.

Prime Minister Modi hailed the creation of the new districts as a step towards better governance and prosperity.

Zanskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang will now receive more focused attention, bringing services and opportunities even closer to people, he said, congratulating them.

He said on X, "Creation of five new districts in Ladakh is a step towards better governance

Former BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal ermed the centre's announcement a 'Janmashtami' gift for the people of Ladakh.

"In 2018, the BJP granted Ladakh a separate division and also fulfilled the demand for UT next year besides enhancing the budget to Rs 6,000 crore. We welcome the decision which is in accordance with the aspirations of the people," he said, highlighting his role for raising the issue with the government during his tenure between 2019 and 2024.

He also praised the Ladakh Lt Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mirsha for his efforts in granting the five new districts to the region.

"I am thankful to home minister and Modi government on behalf of the people of Ladakh for announcing five new districts to Ladakh which was a long pending demand of the people, especially Zanskar region," said Sonam Wangchuk, a climate activist and a member of the Leh Apex Body.

He said the decision is in accordance with the promise made by the BJP to the people of these areas but "we have to see whether these are just administrative districts or democratic units wherein they have autonomous district

councils like Leh and Kargil". Wangchuk reminded the BJP of its promise of extending sixth schedule of the Constitution to the region and said the government must address the primary demand of the people for safeguards otherwise the struggle of the locals would continue.

The Congress' Ladakh president Nawang Rigzin Jora also welcomed the Centre's decision but said just creating administrative districts would not save environment, culture and identity of the people of Ladakh for which they are on the streets for the last over four years.

"Creating five more districts further strengthens our demand for statehood because the UT of Pondicherry with only four districts has a legislative assembly. Ladakh is strategically located and the demands of its people are justified," Jora, whose party is also part of the LAB, said, adding the LAB will continue its struggle in support of its four-point agenda.

He also demanded democratically elected autonomous hill councils for the newly created districts and a separate budget for the new

Buddhist Association President Chering Dorje Lakrook, who is also co-chairman of the LAB, said the government's decision fulfilled the justified demand of the people.

"This decision will benefit the people especially living in far-flung areas by getting all facilities at their doorstep," he said

He said there will be no impact of the decision on the ongoing struggle in support of their four demands. "The creation of new districts is not the demand of the LAB and KDA, so we stand by our decision to undertake foot march from Leh to Delhi beginning September 1."

Omar Hints

assembly, which I am trying to devalue by not contesting in the elections, which was my mistake," he said.

However, he said he doesn't want to give a bad signal to the people, therefore, sought some days to decide about his participation in the polls. "My participation in the polls will be cleared once the list of candidates is out," Omar said.

Asked about the discussion on the party's manifesto by Congress leaders, Omar said that there was no discussion on the manifesto. "Let me be categorical, at no point in time did the Congress party raise any objections to our manifesto. In the initial stage of the discussion at the local level, they had asked whether we would consider some sought of common minimum programme, we told them very clearly that the common minimum programme always arrives after you receive the verdict from the people," he said.

Therefore, we are fighting this election to win and if NC and Congress receive the support of the people then we will form a common minimum programme for the governance for next five years. But we didn't discuss our manifesto with Congress nor have we asked them what they are going to include in their manifesto," Omar added.

Furthermore, while replying to a query, Omar stated that the statements from BJP are expected. "BJP should think about its own house first. It is for the first time that the BJP has deleted the list of candidates within ten minutes. The situation is different at their office as the people even broke the chairs. They should look into their own house," he said.

About the exclusion of PDP in the alliance, Omar said that the Congress is the main party in the INDI Alliance and it was their choice to meet NC and forge an alliance. "I am nobody to ask Congress about forging an alliance with PDP. The Congress didn't talk about the party and thus the issue is over," he said. (KNO)

Support Us We'll

the 2014 Assembly elections in Jammu and

Kashmir, the PDP won 28 seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 25, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference won 15, and the Congress won 12.

The PDP and BJP formed a coalition government led by Mehbooba Mufti Mohammed Sayeed. However, in 2018, the BJP withdrew its support from the alliance after Mehbooba Mufti took over following Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's demise.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1, according to the Election Commission of India. The counting of votes will take place on October 4.

These are the first assembly elections to be held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article

AAP, DPAP Announce

time AAP contests the assembly polls in the state, scheduled to be held in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1.

Meanwhile, Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) also announced its first list of 13 candidates.

"Announcing our 1st list of candidates for the assembly elections. Our best wishes to them as they prepare to serve and represent our people!" read a post from DPAP.

The party has fielded former minister Abdul Majeed Wani from Doda East and ex Advocate General Mohd Aslam Goni from Bhaderwah assembly segments in Jammu region.

From Kashmir region, former MLA Mohd Amin Bhat will contest from Devsar; DDC member advocate Saleem Parray from Dooru: Muneer Ahmed Mir from Lolab; DDC member Bilal Ahmed Deva from Anantnag West; Gh Nabi Wani (Nellora) from Rajpora (Nellora); Mir Altaf Hussain from Anantnag; Qaiser Sultan Ganai (Jin) from Ganderbal; Gh Nabi Bhat from Eidgah; Amir Ahmed Bhat from Khanyar; Nisar Ahmed Lone from Gurez and Peer Bilal Ahmed from Hazratbal assembly constituencies.

The Congress has allied with Farooq Abdullah's National Conference for the assem-

The pre-poll alliance was announced soon after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge met NC chief Faroog Abdullah. After the meeting, Farooq Abdullah stated that the Congress-NC alliance would contest all 90 seats in the assembly polls.

The formal announcement of the tie-up was made by NC patron Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar. "United we stand," JKNC posted on X. The announcement was made after Farooq Abdullah and his son, Omar, met Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

The Election Commission has issued a notification for the first phase of assembly seats, covering 24 constituencies. This will be the first assembly poll in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370.

Over 3.28 lakh

rooms also manage violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) reported through the C-Vigil

A dedicated permissions cell has also been established to issue permissions related to campaigning and rallies

Notably, Kulgam Administration is committed to ensure a transparent, fair, and efficient electoral process for all its residents.

BJP Trims List

Some angry BJP workers from different assembly constituencies staged a protest at the party headquarters over the leadership "ignoring" hardworking workers and giving the mandate to "parachute candidates".

Jagdish Bhagat, president of the BJP's Scheduled Caste Morcha, asserted that longtime members of the party felt overlooked.

"I have been associated with the party for the last 18 years and have worked day and night to strengthen it but the mandate was given to a person who joined the party only a few days back," Bhagat said.

Welcoming the withdrawal of the initial list, he said, "We hope that party leaders would be given the mandate instead of those who have done nothing for the party.

"If they ignore us, there will be serious consequences. We will not allow any wrongdoing and will protest against this injustice within the party," he added.

The revised list of candidates includes three former MLAs and Shagun Parihar, a woman candidate whose family has faced violence due to their political affiliations. Her father and uncle were killed by terrorists in Kishtwar district in November 2018.

Other notable candidates in the list are former ministers Sunil Sharma and Shakti Raj Parihar from the Jammu region and BJP vice president Sofi Yousuf from the Kashmir Valley.

Former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh was among the prominent leaders dropped by the BIP On the internal rumblings within the Jammu

and Kashmir BJP, party unit chief Raina said, "The BJP is fully prepared for the elections... our mission is ensuring the victory of our party." He assured that the names of candidates for the second and third phases of the Jammu

and Kashmir elections would be announced BJP chief spokesperson Sunil Sethi echoed Raina's sentiments.

"There is no heartburn or confusion. We should not make any presumptions and wait for the fresh lists," he said.

As of now, 14 candidates have filed their nomination papers for the first phase of elections. August 27 is the last date for filing nominations for the first phase.

The process of filing nominations for the second and third phases will begin on August 29

and September 5, respectively. The counting of votes for the elections will be taken up on October 4.

In the last assembly elections held in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014, when it was a full-fledged state, the BJP had won 25 seats.

The BJP is looking on build on its performance as it faces a rejuvenated challenge from the Congress-National Conference alliance, particularly in the Jammu region.

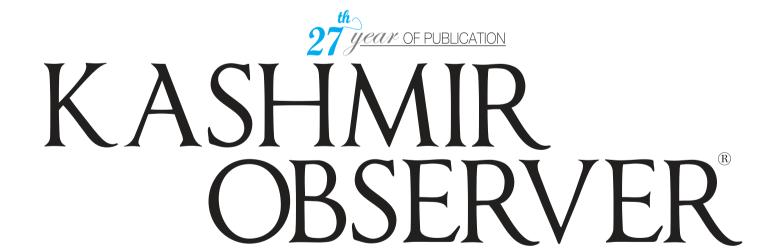
Remaining Seats

was held yesterday chaired by National President JP Nadda, attended by Prime Minister Narender Modi, Union Minister Amit Shah and other ministers. Core group Members were also in the meeting.

According to sources, "Members have discussed a few names yesterday. On the 29th we will discuss the rest of the seats in Jammu and the maximum seats in Kashmir. As per the analysis, we can fight on 60 seats easily. However, we are discussing names on all 90 seats. We have good support from Local parties like Apni Party and others"

BJP released the first list in which 15 names were declared and later one name was also declared. The initial list included candidates such as Syed Wazahat, Gajay Singh Rana, and Javed Ahmad Qadri, who were given tickets to contest from Anantnag, Doda, and Shopian constituencies, respectively.





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OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES ...

THE OTHER SIDE



VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

BCCI Introduces Prize Money For Players In All Junior & Women Events

NEW DELHI: In a significant development, the Indian Cricket Boars (BCCI) on Monday introduced prize money for player-of-the-match and player-of-the-tournament award winners in all women's and junior cricket competitions at domestic level.

In a post on social media, BCCI secretary Jay Shah Shah announced that in men's cricket, prize money will be awarded for player of the match in Vijay Hazare and Syed Mushtaq Ali tournaments.

"We are introducing prize money for the Player of the Match and Player of the Tournament in all Women's and Junior Cricket tournaments under our Domestic Cricket Programme," Shah tweeted.

"Additionally, prize money



will be awarded for the Player of the Match in the Vijay Hazare and Syed Mushtaq Ali tour-

naments for Senior Men. This initiative aims to recognize and reward outstanding perfor-

mances in the domestic circuit. "A heartfelt thank you to the Apex Council for their unwav-

our. Together, we are fostering a more rewarding environment for our cricketers. Jai Hind," under our Domestic Cricket Programme," the top official

Last year, the BCCI had increased the prize money for the domestic tournaments with the Ranji Trophy winners receiving a whopping cash reward of Rs 5 crore.

The cash prize for Irani Cup too had been doubled with the winners getting Rs 50 lakh instead of Rs 25 lakh, and the team finishing runners-up got Rs 25 lakh.

In Duleep Trophy, the champions now get Rs 1 crore and runners-up team receive Rs 50 lakh, while winners of Vijay Hazare Trophy get a cheque of Rs 1 crore and the team finishing second best Rs 50 lakh.

Provincial Under-17 Cricket Tourney Ongoing In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Provincial Level Inter District Cricket Tournament 2024 for Under-17 boys day entered its second day at Anantnag. A total of seven matches were played on four different venues, including BHSS Bijbehara, Wanpora Qazigund, Railway Ground Hassanpora and Sports Ground Dooru.

In Monday's matches, Kulgam beat Pulwama by 9 wickets, Budgam beat Baramulla by 3 wickets, Shopian beat Kupwara by 5 wickets,

Kulgam beat Srinagar by 16 runs, Anantnag beat Bandipora by 44 runs, Kupwara beat Bandipora by 5 wickets and Anantnag beat Shopian by 5 runs.

The best performers were: Shahid Riyaz scored 59 & 48 runs in two matches for Bandipora, Mohd Kaif took 4 wickets haul and took three match winning catches for Anantnag, and Faizan Shafi took 4 wickets haul for Kupwara. These performances were worth the watch, which ultimately paved way to victories for their respective teams.

Dhawan Joins Legends League Cricket After Int'l Retirement

Press Trust of India

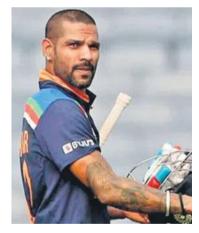
NEW DELHI: Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan on Monday joined the Legends League Cricket (LLC following his retirement from international cricket.

Having announced his retirement on Saturday, the 38-year-old southpaw can now compete in T20 leagues outside the IPL.

"My body is still conditioned for the demands of the game, and while I'm at ease with my decision, cricket is an inseparable part of who I am, it will never go out of me.

"I am eager to regroup with my cricketing friends and continue to entertain my fans as we create new memories together," said Dhawan in a statement.

Dhawan represented India in 34



Tests, 167 ODIs and 68 T20s, aggregating 12,286 international runs. The Legends League Cricket will be staged in September.

Things Will Not Remain The Same In Pakistan Cricket: PCB Chief

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday vowed to fix problems in Pakistan cricket following the national team's shock defeat to Bangladesh in the first Test, saying "changes are on the way". Stalwarts such as Shahid Afstantial changes."

However, no changes have been made in the national team and the same senior players appeared in the first Test against Bangladesh under the captaincy of Shan Masood, who suffered his fourth consecutive test defeat since taking over last December.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials a bunch of confused people, who do not learn from mistakes.

"The PCB is full of confused people and they are making mistakes after mistakes, leading to increasing problems in Pakistan cricket," Mudassar who also worked as Director



Fawad Alam lambasted the national team for its 10-wicket defeat on Sunday in Rawalpindi."I will fix the issues in Pakistan cricket, God willing, And changes are on the way," Naqvi said while talking to media

Hafeez took a swipe at Naqvi, reminding him of his major surgery required in Pakistan cricket comment during the World Cup.

Earlier this year, when Pakistan were bundled out of the World T20 Cup, Naqvi was quoted as saying after the defeat to India: "Initially, I believed a minor surgery would suffice, but after this poor performance, it's clear that a major overhaul is needed. The nation will soon witness sub-

Nagyi insisted that things will change in Pakistan cricket and will not remain the same.

"Remember my words that things will not remain the same and a lot is happening in the background," he said without giving details.

Afridi reacting to the defeat was furious that Pakistan went in without a specialist spinner and played four fast bowlers on the Pindi pitch.

"How can you not read your own home conditions? You play four pacers on this pitch unacceptable," he said.

'Pakistan Team Is Heading Towards Zero'

Former Pakistan Test cricketer and head coach Mudassar Nazar on Monday called of the National Academy said. Nazar said he would have gone in with not one but two spinners against Bangladesh and was surprised that no one in the PCB or the team think tank was aware that in the month of August playing with four fast bowlers in Rawalpin-

The former Test player, who was one of former captain Imran Khan's trusted lieutenants, said that the defeat to Bangladesh came as a big surprise to him.

di is not a good idea.

"It is the result of confusion that is all. One day they appoint Waqar Younis as advisor on cricket and now he is mentor of a domestic team in Champions Cup," he questioned.

Short TAKES

Bengaluru FC To Take On Mohun Bagan In Durand Cup Semis

Former India captain Sunil Chhetri would be pivotal to Bengaluru FC's chances of making it to the Durand Cup summit clash when they take on Mohan Bagan Super Giant in the last-four contest at the iconic Salt Lake Stadium here on Tuesday.

Bengaluru FC have their task cut out against the defending champions. Mogan Bagan has scored 10 goals while conceding just three.

The winner will play Northeast United FC in the

ICC Releases Women's T20 World Cup Schedule

India will face Pakistan in Dubai on October 6 at the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup. The tournament starts on October 3.

As per the revamped fixtures released by the ICC on Monday, the global competition, initially scheduled to be held in Bangladesh, was moved out of the country by the ICC after many players expressed

Dubai and Sharjah are the only two venues in the event hosting a total of 23 matches.

South Africa Collapse As West Indies Seal T201 Series

West Indies bowlers put the brakes on South Africa and fought their way back from a precarious position to win the second T20I by 30 runs on Sunday and take a 2-0 lead in the three-match series in Trinidad.

The home side bowled out the visitors for 149 as they took the last seven wickets for only 20 runs to stymie South Africa's efforts at levelling the series. West Indies amassed 179 for six off their 20 overs.

Rashid Khan Left Out of Afghanistan's Test Squad For NZ Test

n a surprising move, all-rounder Rashid Khan has been left out of Afghanistan's 20-member preliminary squad for their upcoming Test against New Zealand. The match is set to take place in Greater Noida next month.

Rashid Khan's last Test appearance was in 2021 against Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi, where he claimed 11 wickets. The decision to exclude Rashid Khan, alongside other notable players such as Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Karim Janat, has left many fans and pundits puzzled.

Cristiano Ronaldo Nears Unmatched '1 Billion Milestone'



ristiano Ronaldo's YouTube channel 'UR Cristiano' is nearing 50 million mark on the video platform. However, he could become the first person to breach 1 billion mark across social media platforms.

Ronaldo enjoys a great fan base on other social media platforms like Twitter (112.7m), Facebook (170m), and Instagram (637m). His overall followers on social media are about to reach an amazing one billion, which is incredible for an athlete. With 45 million followers on YouTube already, Ronaldo's overall count stands at 964 million.

Madrid's Endrick Becomes Youngest Foreign Player To Score For Club

Agencies

MADRID: Endrick needed only 10 minutes to make an impression in his debut with Real Madrid.

The Brazil teenager replaced Kylian Mbappé late in the match and scored deep into stoppage time to seal Madrid's 3-0 win over Valladolid on Sunday.

The goal made Endrick the youngest foreign player to score for Madrid in the Spanish league at 18 years, 35 days, surpassing Frenchman Raphael Varane, who was 18 years, 152 days when he scored

"He's looking very good and he has a lot of potential," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said of Endrick. "He has shown his quality very quickly with his control and he's got a very powerful shot. He's a center forward and very dangerous in tight spaces."

It was the first league win for defending champion Madrid after it opened



with a 1-1 draw at Mallorca last weekend.

Mbappé scored in Madrid's UEFA Super Cup win over Atalanta at the start of the season but has yet to find the net in the first two league matches. The France star was making his debut at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium as a Madrid

player. Federico Valverde had put Madrid ahead in the 50th, and Brahim Díaz added to the lead in a breakaway in the 88th.

Endrick scored six minutes into stoppage time with a low shot into the near corner after going past a defender entering the area. He had replaced Mbappé in the 86th.

Endrick was only 16 when he was sold to Ma-

drid by Brazilian club Palmeiras for more than 40 million euros (around \$45 million), plus add-ons, in 2022. He stayed with Palmeiras until arriving at Madrid for this season after turning 18. Madrid had already done similar deals with Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo, who are now regular starters with the Spanish club.

'People Ask Me What Else Is There To Win?': Novak Djokovic

Agencies

tinue making history as he begins his US Open title defence only three weeks after winning a coveted gold medal at the Paris Games to cement his status as the greatest tennis player in history.

Djokovic aims to win a record 25th Grand Slam and become the first US Open champion to successfully defend his title since Swiss great Roger Federer in

The 37-year-old said he was looking forward to playing his first match of the tournament on Monday against Radu Albot under the lights of the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"The goal is always for me to try to go all the way to the finals said he remains and fight for the trophy. That kind of mindset is no different for me this year," Djokovic told a news conference on Saturday.

"People ask me 'now that you have won everything with the golden medal, what else is there to win?' I still feel the drive. I still have the competitive spirit. I still want to make more history and enjoy myself on the tour.

"The US Open holds the biggest tennis court in the world. Night sessions here are very famous. I'm going to play my first match on Monday night, I can't wait to be under the lights. The noise, the energy of the stadium is just different. I look forward to it."









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