

## ECI Shifts Counting Date To Oct 8

Observer News Service

The Election Commission on Saturday deferred the Haryana assembly poll date to October 5 from October 1, saying the decision was taken keeping in mind a centuries-old festival of the Bishnoi community. According to an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the counting of votes for Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana assembly polls will now be held on October 8 instead of October 4.

It has been a practice of the EC to hold the counting of votes on the same day for assemblies which go to polls together as the results of one state could affect trends in others.

Before the revision of the date, the Haryana polls were to be held along with the third and last phase of the Jammu and Kashmir elections.

The decision to postpone the Haryana elections has been taken to honour both the voting rights and traditions of the Bishnoi | More on P6

## Alliance With NC A Compulsion: Congress

Agencies

Srinagar: The Congress was ready to contest on its own at all 90 seats in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections and the alliance with the National Conference was forged under a "national compulsion", Pradesh Congress Committee chief Tariq Hameed Karra said on Saturday.

The alliance was forged for the stability and betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The National Conference and the Congress Monday have finalised a seat-share formula, with the parties set to contest 51 and 32 seats, respectively.

"The Congress will become stronger in the future. We had some alliance compulsions, the coalition was forged under a national mood, national compulsion. If those parameters of the alliance were not followed, then the Congress was ready to contest all 90 seats," Karra said.



He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters during which former Kokernag MLA Abdul Rahim Rather and activist Irfan Hafeez Lone joined the party.

Karra said the coalition was forged by adhering to the alliance principles.

"The alliance has been forged for stability, it has been forged by adhering to the alliance

principles, and for the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Asked for his comment about the situation in the BJP in Jammu, with many of its leaders resigning from the party following the distribution of tickets, the Congress' Jammu and Kashmir chief said there was a conflict of ideology in the BJP.

"That is their issue. Their conflict within is basically of ideology also. | More on P6

## Rahul To Lead Campaign In J&K

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will address two election rallies in Jammu and Kashmir on September 4 to campaign for the candidates of the NC-Congress alliance, a senior Congress leader said on Saturday.

AICC general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir said that it was the desire of the candidates of the alliance and the people of J&K in general to have Gandhi campaign in the Union territory.

"Rahulji will visit J&K on September 4 and will address election campaign rallies in Kashmir as well as Jammu for the alliance candidates," he added.

Mir, who is contesting the assembly elections from Dooru in the south Kashmir district here, said Gandhi



will address an election rally at the Dooru stadium.

He said Gandhi would address another rally likely in the Sangaldan area of Jammu.

"We are happy that he (Gandhi) accepted our invitation. This programme is for the first phase only. He might visit J&K again for the other phases," Mir said.

The AICC general secretary said the | More on P6

## India Has A Special China Problem: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Asserting that India has a "special China problem" which is over and above the world's "general China problem", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday (August 31, 2024) the border and the state of relations with the country call for investments from there be scrutinised.

Mr. Jaishankar said that if people are complaining of trade deficit with China and "we are too", it is because decades ago, "we consciously overlooked the nature of Chinese production and the advantages which they enjoyed in a system where they got a level playing field with all the advantages they brought to bed".

"India has a China problem...a special China problem that is over and above the world's general China problem," said EAM.

He also stressed that India has never taken a stand that it should not be having any investments in China or doing business with China. | More on P6

## ET World Leaders Forum Indian Economy Grew 90% In 10 Yrs: PM

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: While people in most countries that went to polls this year voted for a change, Indians preferred continuity, political stability and economic growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, asserting that a new neo-middle class is driving the country's progress.

Addressing the ET World Leaders Forum, Modi said the country is writing a unique success story, and the impact of its reforms is visible in the economy's performance.



He said the world's prosperity lies in India's prosperity, adding that his government wanted more companies to become global brands and

## Ruhullah Questions ECI On 'Overnight' Transfers Says Restoration Of Article 370 First Step Towards Achieving Goal Of Autonomy

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, National Conference Member of Parliament from Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, sought an explanation from the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday on what he termed as 'overnight transfers' of a few top police officers ahead of the assembly elections in J&K.

Addressing a press conference at the NC head office, Nawai Subh here, Ruhullah said, the overnight transfers of Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) particularly in Baramulla forced him and



that of his party colleagues to smell a rat.

The move, according to the NC leader, may have been taken to 'influence' the administrative structure in favor of a | More on P6

## NC To Prioritise Lifting AFSPA: Omar

The National Conference will prioritise the lifting of AFSPA from Jammu and Kashmir and put an end to the "unjust harassment faced by Kashmiri youth" if it is voted to power, party vice-president Omar Abdullah said on Saturday.

Abdullah had pitched for the revocation of the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in 2012 when he was chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu | More on P6

## Militancy In J&K On Its Last Legs: Reddy

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Saturday said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has isolated Pakistan globally and the "rogue nation no longer has support from the international community due to its role in sponsoring terrorism".

While Pakistan struggles, India's vision for Jammu and Kashmir is moving forward with peace and progress, he said, asserting that militancy is on its last legs in the union territory.

He also criticised Congress, saying it was supporting National Conference's | More on P6

## PDP Banks On Iltija To Retain Party's Bastion

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The PDP has banked on Iltija Mufti, the daughter of party chief Mehbooba Mufti and a third-generation member of the family, to retain its Srigufwara-Bijbehara Assembly seat, a PDP bastion since 1996.

The Srigufwara-Bijbehara Assembly seat, earlier known as the Bijbehara constituency before the delimitation exercise of 2022, is going to polls in the first phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and



Kashmir on September 18.

This constituency in south Kashmir's Anantnag district has the least number of candidates -- just three -- of all the 24 constituencies that will go to polls three | More on P6

## Battleground Pulwama

### Khalil Bhand, Waheed Para In Close Contest

Agencies

Pulwama: As the first phase of the assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir draws near, the Pulwama assembly segment in south Kashmir is set to witness a closely contested race. This seat is expected to see a tight battle between the National Conference's (NC) Mohammad Khalil Bhand, who has previously won this seat three times on a People's Democratic Party

ticket, and Waheed Para, the youth leader of the PDP.

Bhand, a former minister in both PDP-led governments, secured the Pulwama seat in 2002, 2008, and 2014. However, he recently switched allegiance to the NC, and it remains to be seen how this move will affect his chances of winning.

Political analysts said that Bhand's work during his first tenure as Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister in the | More on P6



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### Office Of The Election Commission Kashmir Electrical Equipment Manufacturing Association

## RESULT NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the rules and regulations governing the elections of Kashmir Electrical Equipment Manufacturing Association, It is hereby notified that the following candidates have been declared elected unopposed for the respective positions:



Mr. Raja Nayeem Ahmed Khan  
(President)



Mr. Ghulam Jeelani Ahangar  
(Vice President)



Mr. Waseem Ahmad Khateeb  
(Secretary General)



Mr. Farooq Ahmed Bhat  
(Secretary Finance)



Mr. Latif Ahmed Shah  
(Secretary Publicity)

As there were no other valid nominations submitted for the above positions, the Election Commission, in accordance with the rules, declares these candidates duly elected unopposed. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected representatives and wish them success in their responsibilities to serve the interests of the organization.

Election Commission, Nasrullah Jan

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Machinery Division Srinagar Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of e-Tender

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| e-NIT No: | MDSK/TS/2024-25/38 |
| Date:     | 30.08.2024         |

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on **item rate basis** from eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway/State/central Government organization for the below mentioned work:-

| Name of the Work   | Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rupees) | Estimated Cost (In Rupees) | Bid Security/E MD in (In Rupees) | Position of AA   |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1  | 2                               | 3                          | 4                                | 5  |
| Hiring of Civil Consultant for Design of 40MT capacity Pitless type Electronic weigh bridge at Gulab Bagh Rice Godown in the office premises of the Directorate of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Shaheed Gunj Srinagar and FCI Rice Godown Lethpora, J&K. | 50.00/-                         | 30000.00                   | 600.00                           | Accorded vide No: 1150-DFCS&CAK of 2024, dt:- 12.08.2024 |

Permission for execution of works issued vide no :- CEO-ELEC/1/2024-1/43-44, dt:- 27.08.2024 and endorsed by Chief Engineer M&HED Kashmir vide no:- CE/M&HED/K/Adm/2413-19, dt:- 28.08.2024

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below :-

|    |   |                       |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 01 | Publish date                              | 30-08-2024(18:00hrs)  |
| 02 | Period of downloading of bidding document | 30-08-2024(18:30 hrs) |
| 03 | Bid submission start date                 | 30-08-2024 (18:55hrs) |
| 04 | Bid submission end date                   | 11-09-2024(18:55 hrs) |
| 06 | Date and time of opening of bids (online) | 12-09-2024(14:00 hrs) |

No: MDSK/ TS/2676-79  
DIPK-5268/24 Date: 31.08.2024

Sd/ Executive Engineer,  
Machinery Division, Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./Ms. Abdul Haleem Pandit S/o Abdul Aziz Pandit R/o Buchwara Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S Wood INN situated at Buchwara Gagribal under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/ Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the Inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence as Fayaz Ahmad Ganaie S/o Mohd Akbar Ganaie While my correct name is Fayaz Ahmad Ganie S/o Mohd Akbar Ganie which needs to be corrected. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Kupwara within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Ganie  
S/o Mohd Akbar Ganie  
R/o Near Masjid Sharieef Taper Waripora FKO

FKO

### ازنیابت پیش

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب ریاض احمد چوپان، مقصود احمد چوپان، پیمان غلام چوپان و اقرا ریاض عمران ریاض پیمان احمد چوپان، برادر اجرائی OBC سرٹیفکیٹ اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سال 2017-18 ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ چوپان غلام چوپان ولد عبدل مزیز چوپان 70 سال سنچیم زید غلام چوپان گھریلو کام 65 سال مقصود احمد چوپان ولد غلام چوپان 32 سال ریاض احمد چوپان ولد 36 سال بلہ نیتم زید چوپان احمد گھریلو کام 33 سال عمران ریاض ولد ریاض احمد زید تعلیم 18 سال اقرا ریاض دختر 10 سال

اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افراد کو کہہ نہیں سکتے ہیں کہ سال مذکور OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ ذمہ جٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار ساسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذریہ اعتراض وادالت حد کو فوری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میں عذریہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تاریخ 31/08/2024 FKO

نائب تحصیلدار

### Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal Budgam

Tele Fax 01951-260-276 Pin Code 193401

### Notice For General Public

It is hereby notified that the applicant namely Farooq Ahmad Ganaie S/o Ghulam Ahmad Ganaie R/o Kawoosa Khalsia Tehsil Narbal had applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate in his favour. The applicant intends to register his DOB as per School Record as 02-03-1981

In this connection, if anybody having any objection regarding the same he/she may contact office of the undersigned within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class  
Narbal

bmj  
Dated: 31-08-2024

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my school records as 10-09-2014 while my correct DOB is 13-03-2012 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Sheikh-Alam Sec School Dobiwan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jibran Javed Kachroo  
S/o Javeed Ahmad Kachroo  
R/o Dhoiwan Kunzer Baramulla BMG\_R

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Passport bearing no: L3239589. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Suhail Ramzan  
S/o Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh,  
R/o Beehama Ganderbal inf

inf

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of TALIB AHMAD GANAIE S/O FAYAZ AHMAD GANAIE R/O BURZAWACHAN Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 10/09/2018 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class  
Kreeri fko

### ازعدالت الیکٹریٹیٹی مجسٹریٹ دی جلالہ نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب طاہرہ بانو دختر محمد اکبر اتر سرائے جوہر پورہ تحصیل نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام برادر عطائی یوم وفات سند

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں دفتر بڈگام ایک درخواست باہت حصول تاریخ وفات سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہے۔ سال اسرائے یوم وفات سند حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے۔ سال اسرائے کوئی کرتا ہے کہ محمد اکبر اتر سرائے جوہر پورہ کی تاریخ وفات 17-10-2017 ہے اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذریہ یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذریہ یا اعتراض سات یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریہ یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تاریخ 31/08/2024 bmg

نائب تحصیلدار



### IDARA FALAH-I-AAM WAQF (IFAW) KASHMIR

H.O: Alamgari Bazar Srinagar 190011 Kashmir (J&K State) India

Phone: 0194 4058203

E-mail Id : idarafalahaam@gmail.com

## APPEAL FOR DONATION

A young Boy, 16 year old **Kaiser Ahmad Dar** Resident of **Shah Colony Bemina** is suffering from advanced chronic liver Disease and is in urgent need of Liver Transplant which he has to undergo at a cost of **Rs.40 Lacs (Rupees forty Lacs)** approximately.

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Idara Falah-I- Aam Waqf  
Alamgari Bazar



## Election Observers For Enforcement Of ECI Guidelines For Free & Fair Elections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Expenditure Observers for District Srinagar for General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, Capt. Pradeep Shoury Arya and Subodh Singh today held meetings related to surveillance of expenditure of contesting candidates and political parties as per guidelines of Election Commission of India.

The meetings were aimed to curb the inducement of voters through money and illegal means used for canvassing and to ensure free and fair elections for the eight Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar. District Election Officer Srinagar (DEO), Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat participated in the meeting virtually.

While SSP Srinagar, Aashish Kumar Mishra, ADDC Srinagar, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Nodal Officer MCMC, Officers from various Departments viz Income Tax, Excise, Drug Control Organization, Civil Aviation, Sales Taxes, Central & State GST, Lead Bank

besides, Expenditure Observer and Assistant Expenditure Observers of all 8 Assembly Constituencies attended the meeting.

Addressing the meetings, Election Observers (EOs) directed for capacity building of AEOs for effective implementation of ECI guidelines regarding the expenditure incurred by contesting candidates and political parties during the election campaigns.

Besides they directed to sensitize and educate candidates in fray after the last date of withdrawal of nomination so they too shall remain aware regarding the expenditure guidelines.

The EOs stressed on maintaining shadow registers by AEOs for accounting of expenditure of candidates for reconciliation later on.

They urged AEOs to remain updated with expenditure rules and execution of policies on the ground besides being well informed about the boundaries of Assembly Constituencies, Electorates, important public places and political activities.



Makhdoom Sahab ropeway offers visitors a breathtaking view of historic multi-entry 'Baradari' or pavilion, a top Kohi Maran hills in Srinagar. KO photo, Abid Bhat

## LMD Srinagar Imposes Rs 1.5L Fine On LPG Dealer For Cheating

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement unit of Legal Metrology Department (LMD) Srinagar which is entrusted with the mandate of ensuring accurate quantity of goods and services to Consumers today realized a fine of Rs. 1.5 lakh from LPG distributor for selling underweight Cylinders to Consumers.

The LPG Cylinders which were earlier found underweight by 400 grams against the declared quantity of 14.2 Kg were seized by the department from Srinagar after which the matter was raised with the supplier of these Cylinders who pleaded for compounding of this offence at departmental level.

Acting in terms of the provisions of Legal Metrology Act 2009, the of-

ice of Legal Metrology Enforcement Srinagar imposed and realized Rs. 1.5 Lacs as fine after an undertaking was submitted by the offender that he will abide by the provisions of Legal Metrology Act in letter and spirit.

It is pertinent to mention that during the Current Financial year (2024-25), the Legal Metrology Department J&K has acted tough upon the erring LPG distributors by way of imposing the penalty of Rs. 7.14 Lacs so far.

Along with the fine, the LPG suppliers and agencies are being apprised about the issue of sale of underweight cylinders and have been instructed to ensure that customers are provided gas delivery as per the amount they have contracted for and any lapse in this regard will be strictly dealt with in

terms of the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and LPG Regulation (Supply and Distribution Order) 2000.

It is worth mentioning that it is the duty of every LPG Agency to ensure the weight of LPG Cylinders in presence of the Consumer before delivering it to them. The weight needs to be conducted only by using the weighing scale which is duly verified by the Legal Metrology Department.

The Consumers have also been repeatedly requested to check the price of the LPG which keeps changing every month by the Oil Marketing Companies and in case of any overcharging or underweight they may lodge their complaint before the Legal Metrology Department in this regard.

## Director SKIMS Hold Meeting With Regional Director IGNOU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director SKIMS Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie today held a meeting with Regional Director IGNOU, RC Srinagar Dr. A. H Rizvi to review the functioning of the Learning Study Centre, LSC 30040 SKIMS which is running various health courses.

The meeting was attended by Prof. G. H Yatoo HOD, Hospital Administration & Coordinator Learning Study Centre 30040 SKIMS & Assistant Regional Director, Dr Mohammad Abdullah along with their supportive staff including Farhan and GR Raina.

Director SKIMS was informed that LSC30040, SKIMS is running various courses covering

Post graduate Diploma in Health & Hospital Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Geriatric Medicine, Postgraduate Diploma in Child & Maternity Health, Diploma in Nursing Administration and Diploma in Critical Care nursing and MSCDFSM. During the current year more than 200 students are enrolled for these various courses.

Directors SKIMS Prof. Ganie along with Dr. Rizvi and Dr. G. H Yatoo also visited the classroom and interacted with the students. The students expressed their satisfaction while giving their feedback.

Dr. Ganie expressed his pleasure about the courses run by LSC, 30040 SKIMS.

## 5-Day DST-INSPIRE Internship Science Camp Concludes At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Bio-resources, University of Kashmir, under the leadership of Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir, successfully hosted a 5-day DST-INSPIRE Internship Science Camp from August 27th to 31st, 2024.

This event aligned with the university's mission to extend educational and societal outreach in accordance with the objectives

of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, the camp provided a unique platform for students from across the Kashmir valley to engage with prominent figures in the scientific community, a statement said.

Held at the University of Kashmir, the science camp brought together Bhatnagar Awardees, national-level mentors, scientists, experts, and peers across disciplines such as Life and Health Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Earth Sciences from various well reputed Universities and research institutes of India.

The camp aimed to inspire young minds by offering direct interaction with global experts in science, encouraging critical thinking and creativity in scientific problem-solving.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### Notice for Shortlisting of PAD Items for Static Catering Establishments over Firozpur Division

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur invites applications on the prescribed form, from the manufacturers of the renowned eatable PAD items/brands for the purpose of approval/shortlisting for Use/Sale/ Service at Static Catering Establishments located over Northern Railway, Firozpur Division. Last date for submission of application is 03.10.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. The detailed information and list of eatable PAD items are available on the official website of Northern Railway i.e. [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in). Please keep visiting the aforesaid website from time to time for getting updates regarding any modification, amendments etc.

2721/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No.15-Med/Lab Investigation Dated 30.08.2024  
Chief Medical Supdt. Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of the President of India, invites expression of interest on the prescribed form for the following work :-

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Name of work   | Expression of interest from reputed, registered and licensed diagnostic centres for empanellment for providing diagnostic services for patients of Divisional Hospital Firozpur and Health Unit Jammuatawi. |
| 2 | Completion period  | Two years from the Date of starting.  |
| 3 | App. Cost of the work  | N.A.  |
| 4 | Earnest Money  | N.A.  |
| 5 | Cost of application form on cash/by post                         | N.A.  |
| 6 | Date and time availability & Place of procuring application form | Any working day from office of Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly. Firozpur and can be had from the office of Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly. Firozpur in from 02.09.2024 to 25.09.2024 up to 11.00 Hrs.              |
| 7 | Place of submission of bids                                      | Chief Medical Supdt, N.Rly. Divisional Hospital, Firozpur.  |
| 8 | Date and time of submission of application form                  | Up to 11.00 Hrs on 25.09.2024 Opening of bids at 11.30 Hrs on 25.09.2024.   |

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### ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tel: 01933-247954/247955 Website: www.iust.ac.in

#### ADMISSION NOTICE

Online Applications are invited from eligible Working Professionals for admission to below mentioned Tech. Engineering (Lateral Entry) Programmes for the Academic Session 2024. The candidates are advised to peruse Admission Guidelines / Prospectus 2024 (available on the University website) & through the Admission Procedure to check the eligibility criteria/ other details before filling up submitting their Online Application Forms.

#### B.TECH. PROGRAMMES FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

- B. Tech. Civil Engineering
- B. Tech. Electrical Engineering
- B. Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Availability of Online Application Forms   | 02-09-2024 |
| Last Date for submission of Online Application Forms / Deposition of Application Fee | 15-09-2024 |

The detailed Admission Notification No. 05 of 2024 is available on the University website. For any further query/information, the candidates may contact the Admission Officials on EPABX: 01933-247955/ 247954 EXT: 2086 Email ID: [admissions@iust.ac.in](mailto:admissions@iust.ac.in)  
No: IUST/DAAC/24/1639  
Dated: 30-08-2024

Sd/-  
Assistant Registrar Academics

DIPK-NB-1500/24 dated: 31-08-2024

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

#### Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Ltd

#### Office of the Executive Engineer

#### Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I (TLMD-I),

#### Bemina, Srinagar

Ph. No. 0194-2492427, 9419181913 E-mail: [tlmd1tech@gmail.com](mailto:tlmd1tech@gmail.com)

#### Tender Extension Notice-II

Subject: Tender Extension Notice for e-NITs mentioned below:

| e-NIT No   | Tender Ref ID     | Work Description  |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 07/JKPTCL/TLMD-I/SGR/2024-25;<br>Dated: 31.07.2024 | 2024_PDD_254804_1 | Upgradation of Infrastructure at 132/33 kV, 100 MVA Badampora GSS by way of:<br>1. Twinning of conductor of 33kV Buses at 132/33 kV, 100 MVA Badampora GSS,<br>2. Modification of existing kitchen, PLCC room & Battery room including Electrification work of kitchen at Badampora GSS                                 |
| 08/JKPTCL/TLMD-I/SGR/2024-25;<br>Dated: 31.07.2024 | 2024_PDD_254815_1 | Upgradation of Infrastructure at 132/33 kV, 150 MVA Habbak GSS by way of:<br>1. Revamping of existing Control cabin at 132/33 kV, 150 MVA Habbak GSS<br>2. Laying of PI foundations including Equipment support structure and Earthing at 132/33 kV, 150 MVA Habbak GSS<br>3. Supply of Tool kit including Safety Gears |

Due to nil/poor response, the last dates for submission of e-bid and opening of Techno Commercial bids for the above mentioned e-NITs are hereby extended as under:

|    |   |                       |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Last date for submission of e-Bid   | 10.09.2024 (02:00 PM) |
| 2. | Last date for submission of Hard Copy of e-Bid in the office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-I, Bemina, Srinagar | 11.09.2024 (04:00 PM) |
| 3. | Date for online opening of Techno-Commercial e-Bid  | 12.09.2024 (02:00 PM) |

All other terms and conditions remain same.

Sd/-

No.: TLMD-I/TS/07A-08A/24-25/1810-14  
DIPK-NB-1501/24  
dated: 31-08-2024

Executive Engineer,  
TLMD-1<sup>st</sup> Bemina Sgr  
Transmission (Kashmir), JKPTCL, Bemina

از تیاریت چاہا من  
درخواست از صاحب مدراء اور دلہ جہتول دارسانہ مارے پورہ من  
Dependent Certificate براد  
دشتمار ہر خاص و عام  
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سالانہ ایک درواست بیزس حصول  
چشم کی ہے جو کہ زیر کارروائی ہے اس بارے میں پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی  
ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالانہ ریاست جوں و کشمیر کا ہفتی ہائے ہائے سال کا والد  
محمد متول دار دلہ جہتول دارسانہ مارے پورہ مورخہ 21-11-2001 کو فوت  
ہو چکا ہے اور متول کے دروان جائزہ پڑیل ہے  
فاطمہ بیگم بیہ متولنی 48 گھر پلو کام  
سجاد جہتول دار بیہ متولنی 24 زر تعلیم  
شائستہ بانو دختر متولنی 27 زر تعلیم  
رفتہ جہتول بیہ متولنی 22 زر تعلیم  
سائستہ جان بیہ متولنی 21 سال زر تعلیم  
مدراء احمد دار بیہ متولنی 33 سال مزدوری

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کمنہ نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی کار  
کسی شخص کو کوئی مزایا، اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبارات دن کا نمبر اندر آئے پنے نظریا  
اعتراض و دالت حد کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میٹھا کوئی نظریا  
اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تایم تصدیقدار FKO



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**The NC expects to secure a majority of its own or at least emerge as the largest single party. The BJP hopes to repeat the 2014 performance. In fact, with fresh delimitation giving it an edge in many more constituencies in Jammu, the party expects to even better its 2014 tally of 25 seats**

The announcement of the long-overdue Assembly elections has shaken up Kashmir's political scene. The three phase exercise has sent political parties scrambling to put their house in order and field the right candidates. It has also brought about a familiar spectacle of the known political turncoats engaging in one more round of this unedifying practice. They don't bother to even put up a pretense of any political ideology or conviction. Should one expect them to stand for any worthwhile cause in power? The answer is anybody's guess. The parties have also started poaching on their rivals. Almost everyday, groups of ground-level political workers are shown switching sides. In an election season, however, these activities are par for the course. More so, in Kashmir which is witnessing an Assembly election after a decade.

That said, in the first flush of the election campaign, some important developments have taken place which have the potential to alter the outcome. The National Conference and the Congress have entered into an alliance. Under the terms of the agreement, the two parties have finalized a seat-sharing agreement on all 90 seats in the union



RIYAZ WANI

# Elections Are Not a Morality Play

As the Assembly election progresses, political defections and shifting alliances take centre stage

territory, leaving, however, one seat to the CPI(M)'s M Y Tarigami, who will contest from his South Kashmir hometown Kulgam. The NC will fight on a predominant majority of 47 seats in Kashmir Valley and the Congress will contest a lion's share of 43 seats in Jammu. This, the parties expect, will ensure that the votes are not split which would give advantage to the BJP, a force to reckon with in Jammu division - that is, despite some recent disaffection in the region with the saffron party's policies. The Congress-NC alliance leaves

out the PDP which otherwise is a member of the INDIA bloc. This is believed to have been done at the urging of the NC which doesn't want the PDP further nibble away at its Valley share of seats. But this also leaves the PDP free to contest on all seats in the UT. The party could especially be a challenge in South Kashmir which remains its stronghold. In the District Development Council polls in 2020, the PDP had won 27 seats while the NC had secured 67.

Another consequential development is the re-appointment of the se-

nior BJP leader Ram Madhav as the party's co-poll incharge along with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, for the Assembly elections. The advantage of Madhav, the architect behind the PDP-BJP 'Agenda of Alliance' in 2015, is that he knows leaders across the parties and will thus be able to keep the lines of communication open with them until after the elections are over and the government formation begins.

Incidentally, Madhav was also in Kashmir around the time Gandhi and Kharge were here. His appointment

shows that like the Congress, the BJP may also be looking for alliance partners in the UT, more so in the valley. Although the saffron party is supposed to have an understanding with some local parties, none of them is willing to publicly acknowledge it for fear of losing public support. All these parties not just failed to win a single seat in the recent parliamentary elections but also couldn't enthuse Kashmiri voters. In terms of vote tallies they finished last in the seats they contested from.

But more than a pre-election alliance, Madhav could be expected to look at a post-election scenario. Should the BJP win a majority of seats in Jammu division, where it retains significant following despite a rejuvenated Congress making inroads recently, Madhav could be hoped to explore options with the parties in the Valley.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is now a distant memory. It is as if it didn't exist in the first place. The PAGD's experience of fighting jointly during the District Development Council polls in 2020 didn't encourage much confidence. The parties squabbled with one another over seat-sharing and later also fielded proxy candidates against each other. Though the PAGD still managed to win a majority of seats in the DDC elections, it left a bad taste among the partners. Soon after the elections were over, the People's Conference led by Sajjad Gani Lone quit the PAGD citing the issue of proxy candidates. Or so he claimed.

Overall, the election holds interesting possibilities for Jammu and Kashmir. The NC expects to secure a majority of its own or at least emerge as the largest single party. The BJP hopes to repeat the 2014 performance. In fact, with fresh delimitation giving it an edge in many more constituencies in Jammu, the party expects to even better its 2014 tally of 25 seats. It is also possible that the re-energised Congress under Rahul would undercut the BJP in Jammu. In that case, the BJP would no longer be able to assert a role in the future elected government. That said, in the Valley, the NC could face a tough challenge from the PDP, which remains relevant and also from Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party. The field as of now is wide open.

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

*The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer*

## Hello Hindenburg: 'Hum Aapke Hain Kaun?'

R. Chandra Mouli

Now that India is on their target map, the folks at Hindenburg Research can consider a crash course in Hindi, the language spoken in many parts of the country. More on that later.

Of the two "Research Reports," the first was aimed at an industrialist. India is a nation that's emotion and sentiment-driven, and negative reports are the first to get read. The January 2023 report led to expected outcomes - a drop in valuation, a fall in stock prices in the flagship and subsidiary companies, and a call from the opposition to probe the alleged nexus between the government and the industrialist.

Fortunately, our core sector, industry pillars, and captains are not of the house of cards or sandcastle variety. The group in focus regained relevance and overcame what turned out to be a storm in the research teacup.

For the sake of simplicity and greater clarity, let's break down this narrative into three parts:

### Research firm in focus

Hindenburg is known for taking a 'short position' on companies that are the subject of its research. While disclosure of such a stance is appreciated, investors should also be aware that the research firm may have a vested interest in the exercise.

Let's understand going short on a stock: According to the Corporate Finance Institute, USA, short selling is the practice of selling borrowed securities - such as stocks - hoping to make a profit by repurchasing them at a price lower than the selling price. When you sell short a stock, you can profit from a decline - rather than an increase - in price.

There are multiple ways of going short - for example, one can take a position in the options market. Further, a research firm shares its report with hedge funds and the fund may decide to buy or sell a stock based on the analysis. In this case, the key observation of the industrialist's group was stocks were manipulated and there were un-

disclosed related party transactions. Which explains the tumble in price. However, no one could factor, fathom, or predict the India story, rather our history of resilience.

Let's take a parallel incident as proof of the axiom: A report was released in 2011 by another research firm, also a short seller, on an outdoor media company operating in China. Some of the accusations in the report led to a drop of 75% in valuation in three days. The research firm profited and so did their clients.

The Herculean Indian securities ecosystem, however, withstood the report released by Hindenburg last year, and most of the stocks of the group in question bounced back within around

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**The Herculean Indian securities ecosystem, however, withstood the report released by Hindenburg last year, and most of the stocks of the group in question bounced back within around 100 days, made a smart recovery, and after one year has returned to what is now termed as pre-Hindenburg level. Our retail and bulk investors made their judgment and acted as per reasoning and intellect, which is proof of a mature market at work.**

100 days, made a smart recovery, and after one year has returned to what is now termed as pre-Hindenburg level. Our retail and bulk investors made their judgment and acted as per reasoning and intellect, which is proof of a mature market at work.

### Regulator in focus

More recently, the report writers, who could be avid fans of Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest,' or at least the title, hit at another institution in all earnest - a market regulator this time - and the claim was about the bureaucrat heading it.

The second missive too failed to act as fodder, for the following reasons:

- The allegations were about investments made by the regulatory body chief and her husband in an offshore fund - but the Chief Investment Officer of the fund in question has declared he had not invested in any of the companies against which the first report was centered (even if we don't take his word for it, until such time proof emerges to the contrary his affirmation stands good).
- The connection seemed convoluted - the CIO happened to be a childhood friend of the husband and interconnecting his role

### India in focus

For corporate India, the repeated exercise by Hindenburg Research seems to be an effort to create ripples in the stock market, and in American

style, try to fix something that ain't broke. Engaging in the Indian stock market has its benefits - you find the ammo, fire it in the form of an in-depth research report, and the stock slides, and there could be those in the know who can buy at low levels and sell when the stock returns to its earlier level.

The above reasoning does not discount the value of investigative financial research. For decades, market analysts have been putting out warnings on overvalued companies. However, the credibility of recommendations and revelations depends on the neutrality of the research firm. When the company has a parallel activity stream of short-selling, the open market investor must exercise discretion.

Let's look at the big picture - our economy, stock market, and growth indices. Compare our situation with some nations with whom we share land borders and some who are a ship ride away. We have excellent and enviable infrastructure, sustained increase in industrial production, and are home to businesses that are booming and attracting foreign investment. On the socio-economic path, we have come a long way in the last ten years - in healthcare, health insurance for the underprivileged, education, sanitation and much more.

If our rise as a global power irks some outsiders, it's no skin off our nose, because we know we will scale to a higher ranking than where we are now - the world's 5th largest economy. To the research firms of the world, we say, look at the bright side of Bharat and let us know if you can find a comparable country in terms of stability, growth, and non-interference. If you insist on unveiling more trivialities in your reports, we will in Oscar Wilde style, treat all that you present as serious accusations with a sincere and studied triviality.

As for the Hindi lesson - we have a question - are we that important you must constantly poke your nose in our matters... or as Ms. Madhabi, I meant Madhuri, might say, "Hum Aapke Hain Kaun"?

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



# Pesticide Residues in Milk and Its Possible Mitigation

Dr. Sadiya Sajad

Rampant globalization, urbanization, overpopulation, global warming and climate change is posing serious threats to the agricultural sustainability and the food producing systems ought to be safeguarded at any cost for the future generations. Use of pesticides across the globe is one such step towards it as their use increases the crop yield and fights against various crop diseases, however, the higher efficiency and lower cost of pesticides leads to its simultaneous over-utilization. The synthetic pesticides are classified into four major classes, namely organochlorine pesticides (OC), organophosphorus pesticides (OP), carbamate pesticides (CB), and pyrethroid pesticides (PY). Organochlorine pesticides are usually used as insecticides, herbicides and fungicides against a broad range of insects and fungi in the agriculture sector. They have been detected in milk and dairy products over the past three decades, particularly in the form of Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and Hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH). These were banned in different time periods in different countries because of the harmful effects and their persistence within the environment. Organophosphorus pesticides have been used increasingly in agriculture after banning or restricting the use of organochlorines. Organophosphorus pesticides including malathion, dimethoate, coumaphos, dichlorvos and parathion methyl; are highly toxic to mammals and are considered as mutagens, carcinogens and teratogenic substances. Carbamates are organic pesticides that include carbaryl, carbofuran and aldicarb. Their degradation is easy in the natural environment. Synthetic-pyrethroid including permethrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, cyhalothrin and bifenthrin can affect brain dopaminergic and serotonergic systems and provoke neurobehavioral changes in Wistar rats. They can also affect learning, memory-related characteristics, and reduce the homing ability of *Apis mellifera* bee or inhibit the acetylcholinesterase at the synaptic junction of the fish *Odontesthes bonariensis*, which provoke lethal effects.



The inclusion of the pesticide residues in the food chain is seen when animals consume water, grass or feed and fodder contaminated with pesticide residues; also whenever the pesticides are sprayed over the animals in the barns in order to relieve them from the ectoparasites and vector borne-diseases. After feeding and ingestion, these residues inevitably assimilate into the animal body systems. Pesticide bio-concentration and bio-accumulation in animal tissues is possible to reach the toxic levels even if the exposure was low. Once ingested, lipophilic pesticides are absorbed from the intestines into the systematic circulation. High lipid solubility of pesticides and their metabolites tend to accumulate in high fat content tissues such as adipose

Many pesticides and their residues that enter the human body through the food chains are recognized as stimulants, causative agents or primarily contributory factors in several serious human diseases such as disruption of the endocrine system, neurological and immune system disorders, sterility, different cancer types

tissue, brain, liver, kidney and subsequently translocated and excreted through milk or other excrements. Additionally, an increasing amount of pesticides and their residues are entering into our environment, which is undoubtedly hazardous to human, animals and ecosystems health. Humans-beings being on the top of tropic level or in the food chain, are bigger consumers of pesticides. Livestock products: meat, fish, eggs and especially dairy products are main source of OCPs and OPPs intake in general public. Most pesticide residues in milk being fat-soluble can affect human health at low doses, even though they are considered as not harmful by health authorities. Many pesticides and their residues that enter the human

body through the food chains are recognized as stimulants, causative agents or primarily contributory factors in several serious human diseases such as disruption of the endocrine system, neurological and immune system disorders, sterility, different cancer types (breast, lung, cervix, and prostate), heart diseases, Alzheimer's and Parkinsonism. Children and older people being more prone as this specific age group is more sensitive to several pesticides due to their high intake of milk and dairy products in relation to their body weight and to the immaturity of their defence systems against chemical stressors. European Commission has established Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) as a measure to evaluate the maximum residue

levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin. The MRLs for milk and dairy products is ranged between 0.8 and 2000 µg/kg for the European Commission or range between 0.4 and 1000 µg/kg according to FAO and WHO. Moreover, a specific regulation for food consumed by children, and infants have been established by the European Commission (2013) to restrict the use of pesticides in infant formulas as much as possible. The chemical pesticides, however, cannot be outrightly banned but a risk benefit assessment should be performed before suggesting that a particular chemical treatment is to be stopped due to the risk of contaminating the food chain. For example: Organochlorine pesticides, particularly dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane (DDT) and hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), were the highly used pesticides in Punjab region of India until restrictions on their use were enacted in the late 1990s. Nevertheless, a substantial amount of DDT and c-HCH (lindane) chemicals are being permitted for use in the malaria-control program and in agriculture, respectively. The development and use of mitigation strategies should be a priority which includes:- Standardizing the quantity of pesticides to be used in order to reduce the indiscriminate pesticide application; training farmers' the correct method of applying pesticides; stringent standards for the application of pesticides; need for continuous monitoring of pesticide residues in milk and its products; to introduce non-chemical pest control alternatives such as ladybirds and parasitoid wasps; introducing bio-pesticides which involves micro-organisms like bacteria and fungus (the most utilized microbial pesticides are strains of *Bacillus thuringiensis* that produces a mix of proteins capable of killing several related species of insect larvae).  
*The author is working as Assistant Professor in the Division of LPT, MRCVS & RC (affiliated to LUVAS, Hisar, Haryana). Previously worked as Contractual Lecturer in the Division of LPT, FVSc & AH, SKUAST-K.*

## AI Pioneers Want Bots To Replace Human Teachers Here's Why That's Unlikely

Annette Vee

OpenAI co-founder Andrej Karpathy envisions a world in which artificial intelligence bots can be made into subject matter experts that are "deeply passionate, great at teaching, infinitely patient and fluent in all of the world's languages." Through this vision, the bots would be available to "personally tutor all 8 billion of us on demand." The embodiment of that idea is his latest venture, Eureka Labs, which is merely the newest prominent example of how tech entrepreneurs are seeking to use AI to revolutionize education. Karpathy believes AI can solve a long-standing challenge: the scarcity of good teachers who are also subject experts. And he's not alone. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Khan Academy CEO Sal Khan, venture capitalist Marc Andreessen and University of California, Berkeley computer scientist Stuart Russell also dream of bots becoming on-demand tutors, guidance counselors and perhaps even replacements for human teachers. As a researcher focused on AI and other new writing technologies, I've seen many cases of high-tech "solutions" for teaching problems that fizzled. AI certainly may enhance aspects of education, but history shows

that bots probably won't be an effective substitute for humans. That's because students have long shown resistance to machines, however sophisticated, and a natural preference to connect with and be inspired by fellow humans. **The costly challenge of teaching writing to the masses** As the director of the English Composition program at the University of Pittsburgh, I oversee instruction for some 7,000 students a year. Programs like mine have long wrestled with how to teach writing efficiently and effectively to so many people at once. The best answer so far is to keep class sizes to no more than 15 students. Research shows that students learn writing better in smaller classes because they are more engaged. Yet small classes require more instructors, and that can get expensive for school districts and colleges. **Resuscitating dead scholars** Enter AI. Imagine, Karpathy posits, that the great theoretical physicist Richard Feynman, who has been dead for over 35 years, could be brought back to life as a bot to tutor students. For Karpathy, an ideal learning experience would be working through physics material



"together with Feynman, who is there to guide you every step of the way." Feynman, renowned for his accessible way of presenting theoretical physics, could work with an unlimited number of students at the same time. In this vision, human teachers still design course materials, but they are supported by an AI teaching assistant. This teacher-AI team "could run an entire curriculum of courses on a common platform," Karpathy wrote. "If we are successful, it will be easy for anyone to learn anything," whether it be a lot of people learning about one subject, or one person learning about many subjects. **Other efforts to personalize learning fall short**

Yet technologies for personal learning aren't new. Exactly 100 years ago, at the 1924 meeting of the American Psychological Association, inventor Sidney Pressey unveiled an "automatic teacher" made out of typewriter parts that asked multiple-choice questions. In the 1950s, the psychologist B. F. Skinner designed "teaching machines." If a student answered a question correctly, the machine advanced to ask about the problem's next step. If not, the student stayed on that step of the problem until they solved it. In both cases, students received positive feedback for correct answers. This gave them confidence as well as skills in the subject. The problem was that students didn't learn much - they also found these nonhuman approaches boring, education writer Audrey Watters documents in "Teaching Machines." More recently, the world of education saw the rise and fall of "massive open online courses," or MOOCs. These classes, which delivered video and quizzes, were heralded by The New York Times and others for their promise of democratizing education. Again, students lost interest and logged off. Other web-based efforts have popped up, including course platforms like Coursera and Out-

lier. But the same problem persists: There's no genuine interactivity to keep students engaged. One of the latest casualties in online learning was 2U, which acquired leading MOOC company edX in 2021 and in July 2024 filed for bankruptcy restructuring to reduce its US\$945 million debt load. The culprit: falling demand for services. Now comes the proliferation of AI-fueled platforms. Khanmigo deploys AI tutors to, as Sal Khan writes in his latest book, "personalize and customize coaching, as well as adapt to an individual's needs while hovering beside our learners as they work." The educational publisher Pearson, too, is integrating AI into its educational materials. More than 1,000 universities are adopting these materials for fall 2024. AI in education isn't just coming; it's here. The question is how effective it will be. **Drawbacks in AI learning** Some tech leaders believe bots can customize teaching and replace human teachers and tutors, but they're likely to face the same problem as these earlier attempts: Students may not like it. There are important reasons why, too. Students are unlikely to be inspired and excited the way they can be by a live instructor. Students in crisis often turn to

trusted adults like teachers and coaches for help. Would they do the same with a bot? And what would the bot do if they did? We don't know yet. A lack of data privacy and security can also be a deterrent. These platforms collect volumes of information on students and their academic performance that can be misused or sold. Legislation may try to prevent this, but some popular platforms are based in China, out of reach of U.S. law. Finally, there are concerns even if AI tutors and teachers become popular. If a bot teaches millions of students at once, we may lose diversity of thought. Where does originality come from when everyone receives the same teachings, especially if "academic success" relies on regurgitating what the AI instructor says? The idea of an AI tutor in every pocket sounds exciting. I would love to learn physics from Richard Feynman or writing from Maya Angelou or astronomy from Carl Sagan. But history reminds us to be cautious and keep a close eye on whether students are actually learning. The promises of personalized learning are no guarantee for positive results. *By arrangements with The Conversation*



## Ex KCCI Head To Fight Omar On AIP Ticket

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant political development, prominent trade leader and former president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), Sheikh Ashiq formally joined Er. Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) on Saturday.

The announcement was made at a function held at the Sangarmal complex here in Srinagar, where AIP's chief spokesperson, Inam-un-Nabi, alongside other party leaders, including Abrar Rashid, who spearheaded the campaign during the parliamentary polls, welcomed Sheikh Ashiq into the party fold.

"I welcome Sheikh Ashiq in the party fold, we are happy to take him in the party fold," Nabi said. He added that given the experience of Ashiq in trade and business industry, they expect an overwhelming number of people to connect on ground.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Ashiq said that he is happy to be a part of the Er. Rashid led party, which has



true representation of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If there is a platform, it is the Er. Rashid led AIP, which can never think of selling off. Our bigger manifesto is to work for the welfare of the people," he said.

He said that people of north Kashmir have already given him a mandate but that they will work to double it.

Meanwhile, following his formal induction into AIP, Ashiq confirmed that he would be contesting the upcoming assembly elections from Ganderbal constituency where National Conference (NC) has given mandate to its Vice President Omar Abdullah and PDP chose Bashir Ahmad Mir.

"The decision to field me

from Ganderbal was made by the AIP party high command, despite earlier speculation that I might contest from a Srinagar constituency. I comply with the party's decision and readiness to represent the people of Ganderbal," he said.

Pertinently, Sheikh Ashiq is a resident of Ganderbal district—(KNO)

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Partners with Union Bank of India to Offer Comprehensive Vehicle Financing Options

Agenceis

Srinagar: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Union Bank of India to offer comprehensive and accessible vehicle financing options. The partnership aims to provide innovative and attractive financing solutions to meet the evolving needs of customers, making Toyota vehicles more accessible than ever.

Under this partnership, customers will enjoy up to 90% financing on the on-road price of Toyota vehicles for private use, with no foreclosure or part-payment charges. Additionally, customers will have access to flexible financing options with competitive interest rates, including tenures of up to 84 months for private vehicles and up to 60 months for commercial vehicles.

This collaboration is a significant step towards enhancing



customer experience and making Toyota vehicles more affordable for a wider audience. With Union Bank's extensive network and Toyota's commitment to customer satisfaction, this partnership is poised to

make a significant impact in the automotive finance sector.

The partnership will also enable Toyota to expand its reach in rural and semi-urban areas, where access to financing options is often limited.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### ECI Shifts Counting

community which has upheld a 300-400-year-old practice in remembrance of their Guru Jambheshwar, the EC said.

It said it had received a representation from the national president of the All India Bishnoi Mahasabha, Bikaner, Rajasthan for rescheduling the Haryana assembly elections.

He said generations of families from Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana visit their native village Mukam in Rajasthan on 'amavas' in the month of 'Asoj' for the annual festival in Bikaner in the memory of Guru Jambheshwar, according to the EC.

This year, the festival falls on October 2 and thousands of Bishnoi families residing in Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar will be travelling to Rajasthan on the day, denying them their voting rights.

Separately, the ruling BJP and the opposition INLD in Haryana had urged the EC to revise the polling date keeping in mind the long weekend which might result in poor voter turnout as people tend to go out on extended weekends.

The revised polling day would also resolve any concerns about a six-day holiday by taking a day's leave on September 30, sources pointed out.

They said the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Haryana sent a report on Saturday wherein he confirmed after holding consultations with the deputy commissioners of Hisar, Sirsa and Fatehabad that the Bishnoi community's annual festival falls on 'amavas' during the month of 'Asoj' on October 2 this year.

The CEO noted that thousands of Bishnoi families reside in these three districts, and they have been visiting their native place in Mukam, Rajasthan during this time for the last three centuries.

Families from these districts are expected to start their journey on October 1, he said.

In the past too, the EC has adjusted election dates keeping in mind the sentiments of various communities.

The EC had postponed the 2022 Punjab assembly elections by a week to accommodate devotees travelling to Varanasi for Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

Similarly, the commission changed the dates for the 2022 Manipur polls to respect the Christian community's Sunday prayers. In the 2023 Rajasthan assembly elections, it rescheduled polling as it was originally scheduled to be held on Devuthani Ekadashi, a day significant for mass weddings in Rajasthan.

In the 2012 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the poll date was changed due to Barawafat.

Will Ensure Free & Fair Elections: Pole

Earlier Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pandurang K Pole Saturday said that all the preparations for the elections have been completed and that he was expecting large participation of youth and others in the democratic process.

"Elections belong to everyone, be it tribals or urban, youth or women, elderly or first time voters. It is a festival of democracy. All arrangements are in place and election teams are on their way to their polling booths," he said.

Pole said that campaigning will pick up now as the date of filing nomination papers and withdrawal of papers is over. "We urge people to participate in large numbers. We will ensure free and fair polls," he said while talking to reporters on the side-lines of a function at Altaf Memorial College Kilam, Kulgam district.

#### Alliance With

There are so many BJP's in one BJP. It is their ideological conflict. Within the BJP, they don't know themselves

which ideology to follow, which leader to follow," Karra said.

Elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1 and the results declared on October 4.

#### Rahul To Lead

Congress has lined up over 40 star campaigners, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Congress announced the first list of nine candidates for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections in a document signed by AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal on August 27.

Prominent leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir will contest from Dooru and Vikar Rasool Wani from Banihal. While Peerzada Mohd Syed will contest for the important Anantnag constituency, Sheikh Riaz seeks the Doda seat.

The party has fielded Surinder Singh Channi from the Tral seat, Amanullah Mantoo from Devsar, Shaikh Zafarullah from Inderwal, Nadeem Sharief from Bhadarwah, and Pradeep Kumar Bhagat from Doda West.

Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls are being held in three phases on September 18, 25 and October 1.

National Conference (NC) will contest 51 of 90 seats and Congress 32 according to the seat-sharing pact reached by the two parties for the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The two parties will also have a contest on five seats. The two parties have left one seat each for CPI(M) and Panthers Party.

#### India Has A Special

Regarding the investment issues, EAM asserted that investments from China would be scrutinised as both nations share border and state relations calling for it.

"Europe does not have a border, America doesn't have a border with China and yet they are doing that. The issue is not do you have investments with China or not, it is not a yes or no answer, it is what should be the appropriate level of scrutiny and how should you handle it," the minister said.

During the session, he also noted the major war in Europe, tensions in the Middle East and mounting troubles in Asia as well.

The focus of the world is on de-risking, Jaishankar asserted.

The external affairs minister highlighted that every government is now closely evaluating geopolitical risks, with the majority of efforts focused on de-risking.

#### Ruhullah Questions

particular party in the upcoming general assembly elections in J&K.

"We requested the ECI team to ensure that the elections would be held in a free and fair manner when they first came, since the democratic process was going to take place following some harsh decisions that seriously damaged the democracy and its functioning in J&K," Ruhullah said, adding, "I believe these transfers are intended to fiddle with the administrative setup."

The poll body, he said, must ensure that all political parties in J&K have a level playing field and there shouldn't be any attempts to 'skew' the administrative structure to a particular political party or their 'proxies'.

"Although the Model Code of Conduct is in effect in J&K, we fail to understand what prompted the ECI to order these transfers particularly in Baramulla where the previous district police chief was posted only ten days ago. Our apprehensions are valid and we want an explanation from the ECI in this direction," he said, adding, was

this done at the behest or request of a particular party.

"I hope the police officials who were transferred would abide by the law and discharge their duties with utmost sincerity," he said.

Ruhullah said that NC is committed to restore 'Greater Autonomy' in J&K and that restoration of Article 370 will be the first step in this direction.

Taking aim at the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for parroting Kashmir solution, Ruhullah said PDP does not really have a solution to the problem, adding, only the National Conference has a workable solution to the vexed issue, which is Greater Autonomy.

"We shall fight to bring democracy back to J&K. Our first attempt will be to adopt a resolution against the August 5, 2019 decision during the Legislative Assembly's first session. Our agenda is clear, and we also want the Kashmir issue to be resolved," he said, adding that PDP should come up with a road-map and explain what solution they actually have.

Ruhullah also urged the government to consider placing examination centers for students appearing in Service Selection Board exams in close proximity to their residences, to avoid any issues with boarding, housing, or transportation, and to give the students ample time to prepare.

#### NC To Prioritise

and Kashmir state.

He had even announced that AFSPA would be revoked during his tenure but the proposal faced strong opposition from the Army.

"The party (National Conference) reiterates its unwavering dedication to fulfilling the promises outlined in our manifesto. Once in power, the National Conference-led government will prioritise the lifting of AFSPA, putting an end to the unjust harassment faced by our youth," Abdullah said as he welcomed prominent political activists into the party.

The National Conference leader said his party was committed to streamlining the passport verification process, creating job opportunities for the unemployed, and ensuring that every household had access to essential resources, increased ration and reliable utility services without putting a burden on their finances.

Highlighting the significance of the party's manifesto, Abdullah said it truly reflected the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is precisely why it was rejected by the BJP," he said and warned that "every vote cast in favour of parties other than the National Conference and its allies will only serve to strengthen the BJP, regardless of the party chosen".

Abdullah, who is contesting the assembly polls from the Ganderbal seat, said the National Conference is not interested in winning the elections through fear tactics against the BJP.

"Instead, the party has developed a comprehensive manifesto that addresses the concerns of artisans, unemployed youngsters, agriculturalists, transporters, hoteliers, traders, and more. The manifesto not only identifies the issues but also presents a clear roadmap to tackle them effectively," he added.

Elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1 and the results declared on October 8.

The National Conference and the Congress have finalised a seat-share formula, with the parties contesting 51 and 32 seats, respectively.

#### Militancy in J&K

"regressive agenda" aimed at

pushing Jammu and Kashmir back into the dark era of "militancy and bloodshed".

Addressing a gathering to garner support for Arvind Gupta, BJP candidate from Jammu West for the state assembly polls, Reddy reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir remains the "heartbeat of India".

He said the party's vision for its people reflects the legacy of Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who established the party with the aim to protect Jammu and Kashmir from "dynastic rule and divisive politics".

"Under BJP's leadership, militancy in J-K is on its last legs, and the region is entering an era of peace and prosperity. The tables have turned and we now see peace, prosperity, and development across the region, thanks to Prime Minister and (home minister) Amit Shah's leadership," added Reddy, the BJP in-charge for the J&K assembly elections.

Reddy credited Modi's policies for turning Pakistan into a "failed state" that has been isolated from the global stage due to its continued support of terror.

He called the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir "a movement for the people" and said the BJP continues its efforts to redefine the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Minister emphasised that this election is the first after the historic abrogation of Article 370, signalling a new era for the people of the union territory.

"This is not just an election. It's a movement for the restoration of dignity for women, West Pakistani refugees, SCs, STs, and Valmiki Samaj, alongside all the people of J&K," he said.

Reddy said the world's eyes are on Jammu and Kashmir now, as India demonstrates how peace, development, and democracy are taking root in the region.

He urged voters not to see this election as a mere political contest but as a crucial step in securing the rights and future of all the people in the region.

"This election is a movement aimed at ensuring that no party such as NC, Congress, or PDP ever snatch back the rights of the common people in J&K."

Taking a strong stand against the NC's recent announcements, including its promise to ensure restoration of Article 370, Reddy warned of dangerous designs to revert to dual flags and return power to militants.

"The people of J&K deserve a government that will strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies like municipal committees and corporations," he said, urging people to vote for change and prosperity over the dynastic politics that have defined the region for decades.

#### PDP Banks

weeks from now.

The other two candidates in the fray are two former MLCs -- National Conference (NC) leader Bashir Ahmad Shah and BJP leader Sofi Mohammad Yousuf.

If 37-year-old Iltija Mufti emerges victorious, it would strengthen the PDP's -- and the Mufti family's -- hold on this bastion that they have made their own since 1996.

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who founded the PDP in the latter part of his long political career, started his electoral foray with a win from the Bijbehara seat in 1962 as candidate of the NC faction headed by Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also started her electoral politics from Bijbehara, winning on Congress ticket. She resigned from the Assembly when the Senior Mufti decided to part ways with the Congress and floated his own

regional outfit.

Mufti loyalist and senior PDP leader Abdul Rehman Bhat won four consecutive elections from Bijbehara till 2014, the last Assembly polls held in Jammu and Kashmir. Bhat has been given the party ticket from the Shangus-Anantnag West constituency this time.

The National Conference candidate will be hoping to break the PDP stranglehold on this constituency which was represented by his father Abdul Gani Shah from 1977 to 1990.

The oldest political party of Kashmir has invested heavily in Bashir Ahmad Shah, giving him the party ticket several times even though he lost every time. He was even made an MLC when the NC formed a coalition government with the Congress from 2009 to 2014.

In the intense rivalry between the NC and the PDP for the Bijbehara seat, Yousuf -- the 57-year-old BJP candidate -- would be hoping to garner votes to give his party the first Assembly seat from Kashmir.

Yousuf, who joined the BJP when it was still considered a "taboo" in Kashmir, has been well taken care of by his party. He was made an MLC during the PDP-BJP coalition government.

#### Khalil Bhand, Waheed

2002-2008 PDP-Congress government helped him maintain a stronghold on the seat. However, his performance from 2008-2014, when he was in opposition, and after 2014, was perceived as less effective, especially with several infrastructure projects left incomplete.

They said that during his third term as MLA, Khalil experienced internal conflicts within the PDP. Although initially given charge of the Agriculture Department, he was not appointed to a ministerial position, which led to disagreements, and he eventually shifted to the NC after the government collapsed.

The PDP has nominated Waheed Para, who garnered huge support in the parliamentary elections for the Srinagar seat, with around 200,000 votes. Para received leads in both the Pulwama and Rajpora assembly segments during those elections and is anticipated to provide a strong challenge to Bhand in the upcoming contest.

Notably, after delimitation, Para's native area, previously part of the Rajpora constituency, has now been included in the Pulwama constituency, while Litter Tehsil, where Bhand traditionally had a strong voter base, has moved to Rajpora.

Both Bhand and Para have been actively campaigning to attract voters, and political analysts suggest that Syed Bari Andrabi, the District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson of Pulwama who recently resigned from the PDP, could play a decisive role in the election. Andrabi's endorsement could influence around 1,000 to 2,000 votes and impact the election outcome.

Talat Majeed Wani, a former member of Jamaat-e-Islami who is contesting as an independent after being associated with the Apni Party, might also attract a substantial number of votes that could sway the results, analysts believe.

Historically, the Pulwama seat has seen various representatives, including Master Sanaullah Sheikh in 1962, Sonaullah Dar of Congress in 1967 and 1972, Mohammad Ibrahim Dar of NC in 1977 and 1983, and Bashir Ahmad Nengro of NC in 1987 and 1996. Since then, Khalil Bhand has held the seat for the PDP.

The Pulwama Assembly segment, AC 34, consists of 99,555 voters, including 49,423 males, 50,130 females, and 2 transgender individuals. To

ensure a smooth electoral process, 112 polling stations have been designated for this constituency.(KNO)

#### Indian Economy

the country to become a leader in every sector.

Addressing investors, he promised facilitation, reforms, a stable policy regime and high growth, and asked them, in turn, to promise innovation, performance, positive disruption and high-quality products.

World economy grew by 35%, India's grew by 90% in the past 10 years, he said.

He described the unfolding third decade of this century as an era of the country's "lift-off" which will benefit everyone. "Today's India is a land of opportunity," he added.

"India today is the biggest land of opportunities in the world. We respect wealth creators," Modi said, asserting that it abides by the mantra of innovation, inclusion and international cooperation.

Amid the opposition's frequent swipes at his government over its reduced majority in the recent elections, he asserted that his dispensation has begun its third term with more determined intentions and is full of hope and confidence like the country's citizens.

"In less than 100 days of third term of our government, we have taken big decisions for poor, women, youth and farmers," he said.

Modi said his government is working to make the country a global health and wellness centre, noting that it has added one lakh more medical seats in the last 10 years against the 60,000 that existed before. Over 75,000 more seats will be added in the next five years, he said.

He also highlighted efforts to boost India's tourism profile and make it a global food basket. It is his resolve to ensure a 'Made-in-India' product on every dining table across the world, he added.

On India hosting G20, the PM said, "We raised our voice for global south" "During the G20 presidency, we helped to strengthen our African friends," said PM Modi, adding that India's presidency was marked by efforts to strengthen the position and capacity of African nations within the global framework.

"We know...even you (the business community) want to participate. We want Indian companies to become global brands. We have India to become a leader in every sector. We promise to facilitate...you promise to innovate..." the PM said.

He said, "we are preparing the nation for the future challenges"

Today's world is dynamic, there was government's plan is dynamic. We are taking all necessary steps accordingly. We are making decision based on the future and not the past. We are preparing the nation for future challenges, says PM Modi.

For the government, infrastructure is a medium for ease of living, he said, adding that his government introduced the Vande Bharat train that facilitates both comfort and speed.

Modi added that in past 10 years, 25 crore people were lifted out of poverty.

"These people not only came out of poverty but they also established a neo middle class. The speed and scale of this is historic. This has never happened in any democratic society. This happened because we changed our approach towards the poor, said the PM.

Indian voters after 60 years gave hat-trick mandate to any government, says PM Modi

"The aspirational youth & women voted for continuity, political stability and economic growth."



## Independents Challenge Traditional Parties In South Kashmir

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Several independent candidates in south Kashmir are set to challenge traditional party candidates in the upcoming assembly elections.

These independent candidates are expected to offer significant competition in their respective constituencies. Shabir Kullay, who left the National Conference (NC) after being denied a party ticket, is running as an independent candidate in Shopian. In the 2014 elections, Kullay secured 12,000 votes, more than twice the number of votes received by the NC candidate at that time.

Supported by two District Development Council (DDC) members and civil society members from Shopian, Kullay is considered a strong contender in this election. The current competition in Shopian involves Yawar Bandy of the PDP, Sheikh Rafiq of NC, and independent candidate Shabir Kullay.

Former MLA Aijaz Ahmad Mir, who left the PDP after being denied a ticket, is a notable candidate for the Zainapora seat. Mir has the backing of the DDC Chairperson, other DDC members, and some independent candidates, making him a strong contender against NC's Showkat Ganie and PDP's Gh Mohiudin Wani.

In Anantnag, a four-cornered contest is unfolding between Congress candidate Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, PDP's Dr Mehboob Beg, Apni Party's Hilal Shah, and independent candidate Peer Mansoor. Previously associated with the PDP

and later with the People's Conference, Peer Mansoor is now contesting as an independent and is expected to provide a tough challenge to the other candidates.

Dr Gh Nabi Bhat, NC's constituency in-charge for Tral, is running as an independent after the Tral seat was allocated to Congress in the NC-Congress alliance. Bhat, whose family has a longstanding association with PDP's Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Congress candidate Surinder Singh Channi, and former PDP leader Dr Harbaksh Singh, who is contesting on an AIP ticket.

Choudhary Gulzar, who is running for the ST reserved seat in Larnoo, is expected to give a tough fight to NC candidate Zafar Chowdhry and PDP candidate Haroon Chowdhry. Gulzar, supported by his community and his wife, a former DDC member, has a solid base and could easily influence the election outcome.

Over 23.27 lakh voters are eligible to participate in the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election, scheduled for September 18, 2024. This includes 11.76 lakh male voters, 11.51 lakh female voters, and 60 third-gender electors, with 5.66 lakh youth voters also eligible to vote.

The notification for Phase I was issued on August 20, 2024, and the deadline for filing nominations was August 27, 2024. The scrutiny of nomination papers was conducted on August 28, 2024, and candidates were allowed to withdraw their nominations by August 30, 2024. (KNO)

## Kashmir's Fruit Industry Resumes Apple Exports To Bangladesh

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** With the political situation in Bangladesh showing signs of stabilization, Kashmir's fruit industry has cautiously resumed its apple exports to the country, particularly the American Apple variety.

The development comes after weeks of uncertainty when unrest in Bangladesh had severely impacted trade, leading to concerns among Kashmiri fruit growers and dealers.

Shahid Choudhary, a senior member of the fruit growers' body in Kashmir said the resumption of apple exports to Bangladesh is a much-needed respite not only for him but for all the growers who work the entire year to ensure a quality produce for foreign markets.

"It is a much-needed relief for both dealers and growers. The recent unrest in Bangladesh created uncertainty among all of us. We were unsure of any orders this year," he said.

Choudhary said the fresh resumption of the apple export trade was a welcome development and has spread happiness among the growers and dealers.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir, the president of the apex fruit body representing Kashmir's fruit growers, told KNO that in recent days, shipments of the



American Apple varieties have started reaching Bangladeshi markets.

He, however, noted that while the export market has not yet fully recovered, there was optimism among growers. "We are hopeful that in the coming days, the volume of orders from Bangladeshi buyers will increase," Bashir said.

Notably, during the harvest season in Kashmir, several apple traders from Bangladesh camp in Kashmir to buy and meet the demand for Kashmiri apples in their homeland.

According to Choudhary, Bangladesh is an important market for varieties of apples from Kashmir, especially American Apples.

"We export over 70 percent American apple variety produce to Bangladeshi markets,"

he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that after the Union finance ministry ordered the lifting of additional duties on apples, almonds, chickpeas and walnuts in September last year, the Kashmir apple industry is facing an unprecedented crisis and grappling with low demand due to the influx of foreign apples in the Indian markets.

Several mainstream politicians in the region have urged the government to reconsider the decision, saying it impacts the growers in Kashmir.

As apple revenue has been one of the key GDP contributors in J&K, fruit dealers have been urging the government for a long time to slash the export duty on apples, so that they can export the fruit to various countries—(KNO)

## Chenab Valley Gears Up For High-Stakes Battle

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** As the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections approach, the Chenab Valley region is poised to witness a fierce contest, with three key seats—Doda, Bhandarwah, and Kishtwar—emerging as the focal points of political intrigue. Of the five seats left in the seat-sharing arrangement between the National Conference (NC) and the Congress, three are in this politically sensitive region.

Despite their alliance, both parties have decided to field candidates against each other on these crucial seats, each eyeing the decisive four per cent swing vote that could determine the outcome.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had previously secured all three seats in the 2014 assembly elections with a narrow margin, making this region a stronghold for the party. However, the upcoming elections could see a shift in the balance of power, as both NC and Congress seek to carve out their share of the Hindu-Muslim vote split that could weaken the BJP's hold.

Political analysts suggest that the alliance between NC and Congress might be more of a "friendly match," allowing both parties to demonstrate their strength in the region while still challenging the BJP. This is particularly relevant given the results of the 2014 elections, where the BJP emerged victorious in Kisht-



war, Doda, and Bhandarwah with margins of 4-6 percent.

The stakes are even higher now, as NC and Congress aim to disrupt the BJP's dominance in these areas. The contest in Chenab Valley has been further complicated by the entry of Ghulam Nabi Azad's party, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), which could fragment the vote bank further. GM Saroori, who won the Indrawal seat for Congress in 2014, has since defected to DPAP, leaving Congress in a vulnerable position.

As the nomination process for the first phase of the assembly elections concludes, a direct contest is anticipated between the BJP, Congress, People's Democratic Party (PDP), and NC across the six seats of Chenab Valley—Doda, Doda West, Bhandarwah, Kishtwar, Pader Nagseni, and Indrawal. The recent delimitation has also introduced two new seats, Doda West and Pader Nagseni, where elections will be held for the first time.

In Doda, NC has nominated Khalid Najeem Soharwardy, despite his previous three losses, while the BJP has fielded Gajay Singh Rana. Congress is banking on DDC member Nadeem Sharif to secure the Bhandarwah seat, where NC has nominated Mehboob Iqbal, and the BJP has put forward former MLA Dilip Parihar.

Kishtwar will see a multi-cornered contest, with NC's Sajjad Kichulu, PDP's Firdous Tak, and BJP's new face, Shagun Parihar, fighting for the seat. The absence of a Congress candidate here indicates strategic decision-making, focusing resources where they believe they have a stronger chance.

The elections in Chenab Valley will be closely watched, as they could significantly influence the overall political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. With both established and new faces in the fray, the region is set for an electoral showdown that promises to be as unpredictable as it is decisive—(KNO)

## Training Session For Political Candidates Held At Pulwama



Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** In preparation for the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections, a comprehensive training session for political candidates was conducted today at District Administrative Complex, Pulwama.

The session was led by a team of experienced Master Trainers who provided essential guidance on the electoral process, compliance with the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other crucial aspects of campaigning.

The training was attended by candidates and their representatives from various political parties contesting in the Assembly Constituencies across the district. The objective of the session was to ensure that all candidates are well-versed with the electoral guidelines and are equipped to conduct their campaigns in a fair, transparent and lawful manner.

Key topics covered during the training included expenditure limits, guidelines on electioneering and the importance of maintaining the sanctity of the electoral process. Special emphasis was placed on ad-

herence to the Model Code of Conduct, with trainers underscoring the significance of following ethical practices during the campaign period.

Additionally, the Nodal Officer for MCC provided detailed instructions on the critical aspects of the Model Code of Conduct, highlighting the importance of maintaining decorum and fairness throughout the election period. The Nodal Officer for Expenditure also briefed the candidates on the financial regulations governing campaign expenditure, underscoring the need for transparency and accurate reporting.

The training session also featured interactive discussions, where candidates had the opportunity to seek clarifications on various election-related matters. The Master Trainers provided detailed responses, ensuring that all queries were addressed comprehensively.

The district administration reiterated its commitment to facilitating free, fair, and transparent elections and urged all political candidates to strictly adhere to the guidelines provided during the training.

## Prime Minister Flags Off Three Vande Bharat Trains Via Video Conferencing

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister, Narendra Modi flagged off three Vande Bharat trains via videoconferencing on Saturday. Realizing the Prime Minister's vision of 'Make in India' and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express will improve connectivity on three routes: Meerut-Lucknow, Madurai-Bengaluru, and Chennai-Nagercoil. These trains will boost connectivity in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister said that a new chapter is being written in the development journey of India from the North to the South as Madurai-Bengaluru, Chennai-Nagercoil and Meerut-Lucknow Vande Bharat trains are being flagged off today. The Prime Minister underlined that the nation is inching towards the goal of Viksit Bharat with the modernization and ex-

pansion of Vande Bharat trains in the country. Referring to the three new Vande Bharat trains being flagged off today, the Prime Minister said that these have provided connectivity to important cities as well as historic towns in the country. "Temple City Madurai is now connected with IT City Bengaluru", PM Modi said that this would not only ease connectivity, especially during the week-ends or festive period but also be very beneficial for pilgrims. The Chennai-Nagercoil route would hugely benefit students, farmers and IT professionals. Shri Modi noted the growth of tourism in places connected to Vande Bharat trains and said that it signifies the growth of businesses and employment opportunities in the region. He congratulated the citizens on the three new Vande Bharat trains.

The Prime Minister underlined that the rapid development of Southern states is imperative



to accomplish the goal of Viksit Bharat. "Southern India is the land of immense talent, resources and opportunities", PM Modi remarked, noting that the development of Tamil Nadu along with the entire Southern India is the government's priority. He said that the development journey of railways is an example of the government's commitment. He informed that more than Rs 6000 crore has been allocated for Tamil Nadu's rail budget this year, 7 times more than in 2014. He further added that the total number of Vande Bharat trains in Tamil Nadu would go up to 8 after

today. Similarly, a budget of more than Rs 7000 crore has been allocated for Karnataka in this year's Budget which is 9 times more than in 2014. 8 Vande Bharat Trains are connecting Karnataka today, he added.

The Prime Minister drew parallels from the budgets of the past and said that the multiple-fold increase has further strengthened the rail traffic in the states of Southern India including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. He stated that railway tracks are being improved, electrification of railway tracks is taking place, and railway stations are being modernized. He further added that it has increased Ease of Living of the people and also made way for Ease of doing business.

Highlighting the introduction of the new Vande Bharat train on the Meerut-Lucknow route, Shri Modi congratulated the people of western Uttar Pradesh for the same. He added that the

region of Meerut and western Uttar Pradesh, the land of revolution, was today witnessing a new revolution of development. The Prime Minister underlined that while RRTS has helped connect Meerut with the national capital New Delhi, now the distance to the state capital Lucknow has also been reduced with the introduction of Vande Bharat. "National Capital Region (NCR) is becoming an example of how PM Gatishtak's vision will change the country's infrastructure with modern trains, network of expressways, and expansion of air services", exclaimed Shri Modi.

"Vande Bharat is the new face of modernization of Indian Railways", PM Modi remarked. He highlighted the demand for Vande Bharat in every city and every route and said that the advent of high-speed trains has instilled confidence in the people to expand their business and employment and also their dreams.

## Atal Dulloo Reviews Implementation Of Jal Shakti Abhiyan



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan-Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) campaign in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretaries of Jal Shakti and Forest, Ecology & Environment Departments; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production; Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission; Deputy Commissioners and other senior officers of JSD.

An overview of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was provided and the progress made so far was reviewed for different districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Discussions were held on the roles and responsibilities of various departments in effectively implementing the JSA-CTR program.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo emphasized the importance of a comprehensive water conservation policy review. He directed the concerned to digitize all relevant data to ensure better management and accessibility.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need for district-level coordination and activation of Jal Shakti Kendras to enhance grassroots participation

and effectiveness.

The meeting included detailed discussions on several key initiatives under the JSA-CTR.

CS Dulloo urged all Deputy Commissioners to review their district-wise plans and ensure that standard operating procedures (SOPs) are strictly followed for the successful execution of the campaign.

He highlighted the importance of using modern technologies such as remote sensing for studies on groundwater levels and to monitor water table data effectively.

Additionally, Chief Secretary instructed the concerned officials to coordinate with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for geo-tagging of data that has already been collected, which would facilitate better tracking and management of water resources.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment of promoting sustainable water conservation practices and ensuring the effective implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan-Catch the Rain campaign across Jammu & Kashmir.

He called on all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards achieving the goals of the initiative and to enhance water security in the region.

SVEEP

## Youth In Baramulla Form Human Chain To Encourage Voter Participation

Observer News Service

To encourage maximum voter participation ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, the District Administration Baramulla organized a grand SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) program in the main town of Baramulla.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of hundreds of new voters who came together and joined hands to form a human chain, symbolizing unity and commitment towards a vibrant democratic process.

The rally, which commenced from Govt Boys' Higher Secondary School, Baramulla, proceeded through the main town, with participants carrying banners and placards, highlighting the

importance of voting and the power of individual voices in shaping the future of the region.

The human chain, formed by the energetic new voters, not only aimed to inspire the first-time voters but also to remind the broader community of the importance of exercising their voting rights.

The event also saw the participation of the Returning Officer for 10-Baramulla, Arshad Ahmad Khan, Nodal Officer for SVEEP in Baramulla, along with other officers and officials of district administration.

Following the rally, a signature campaign was organized at Kariapa Park where the new voters and other citizens pledged their commitment to participate in the forthcoming elections.

## NC-Congress Alliance Expired Injection: Tarun Chugh

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday called the alliance between National Conference and Congress in Jammu and Kashmir as 'an expired injection', saying that it is bound to fail once again.

Addressing a news conference here, Chugh said that the alliance between the two parties is an expired injection, which failed in the recent Lok Sabha elections and is bound to fail in the upcoming elections as well.

He added that the party has been preparing for the assembly polls, adding that some of the candidates have been announced while some others will be finalized soon.

"A threadbare discussion took place today with the workers and leaders in which poll preparedness as well as the list of candidates was discussed," he said, adding that the party will contest the upcoming polls without forging

alliance with any of the party. Moreover, Chugh added that National Conference leaders including Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah have been misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir by one way or the other.

He added that one of the Abdullahs has been claiming to restore Article 370 through the assembly while the other is claiming that it will take 100 years.

Chugh further stated that those who were advocating for Pakistan here are now seeking to get united.

He added that it was Dr Farooq Abdullah, who was the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir when the Kashmiri Pandits exodus took place. "I want to tell him why he kept mum and didn't play his role to ensure communal harmony between the two communities. Dr Farooq is presently playing a drama by making such statements. It is a film script, which he is uttering," he said.

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HS



## Jadeja Is A Complete All-Round Fielder, Raina Too Was Brilliant: Jonty Rhodes

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** South African cricket legend Jonty Rhodes on Saturday called Ravindra Jadeja a "complete all-round" fielder in the world right now, and also spoke highly about former India player Suresh Raina's abilities on the ground.

The 55-year-old Rhodes, regarded as one of the greatest fielders of all time who became the first South African cricketer to take 100 ODI catches, played for the national team from 1992 till 2003.

Post retirement, Rhodes became associated with several IPL teams, including Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings and most recently Lucknow Super Giants, as fielding coach.

"I am a big fan of Suresh



Raina. I enjoyed his playing days but now he has retired. In the past in India, the cricketing infrastructure wasn't there to support the passion and love for cricket. Suresh Raina was some-

one who used to throw himself around the field," said Rhodes, who was roped in as the brand ambassador of the Hero Pro Corporate League cricket tournament on Saturday.

"Unlike Raina, I had a very fortunate upbringing. I played football, hockey and cricket on good grounds. So I was very fortunate. I think Jadeja is at the next level, he doesn't dive as much but he is so fast to the ball. And his accuracy at throwing down the stumps is somewhat like Ricky Ponting. He fields on the boundary, he fields on the circle. He is a complete all-round fielder," said Rhodes.

Rhodes also gave a meaningful insight on what it takes to become a good fielder.

"It has nothing to do with the hands; it's actually all about the legs because if you use your legs and be there at the right time, you can get your hands in good position. You can have the best hands in the world and the most magnetic hands but if you

don't have the legs you cannot get there. It's more about quick body positions. It's all about technique," he added.

Rhodes said that at 55 he still doesn't think twice about diving on the field.

"Flying is not the problem for me right now, the landing is the problem. When I am on the field I am not thinking about 'should I dive or should I not'. I think that's what made me successful on the field," he said.

"So, if you are thinking about (not) diving you can never stop the ball. My father, who was my coach, and a school principal used to tell me that the saying 'practice makes perfect' is not correct but what matters is perfect practice. Practice like you play in the match," he highlighted.

### Short TAKES

#### Rubina Francis Clinches India's Fourth Paralympic Shooting Medal



Rubina Francis shot down India's fourth medal from the shooting range, showing tremendous calm and composure in a high-class field to clinch a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol SH1 event in the Paris Paralympics on Saturday.

Competing in a top-class field consisting of the defending champion and world record holder among others, the 25-year-old Rubina held her own to score a total of 211.1 for a third-place finish in the eight-woman final.

## DG YSS Takes Stock Of Sports Projects At Khel Gaon Nagrota



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Department of Youth Services and Sports Director General Rajinder Singh Tar convened a meeting of the engineering wing and officers of the planning section of the Directorate of YSS at Khel Gaon in Nagrota, Jammu, on Saturday to assess the progress of various sports projects.

During the meeting, he conducted a thorough physical inspection and evaluation of both ongoing and completed projects including the Synthetic Athletic Track, Football field, Lawn Tennis court, Cycling Track, iron net fencing around the upper ground, Indoor Multipurpose Hall,

Flood protection Works from the river side, construction of bore wells and construction of approach road.

DG issued on-spot directions to the Engineering wing to ensure the timely completion of ongoing projects in order to prevent any cost escalation.

On his visit to Khel Gaon, he also inaugurated the Inter-Divisional UT Level competitions conducted for selecting UT level teams for the 63rd Edition of Sub-rotto Mukherjee Cup.

Later, DG YSS visited Youth Hostel Nagrota and inaugurated the Inter-Division UT Level Taekwondo competitions here.

## Ladakh All Set To Hold 11th Edition Of Ladakh Marathon

Agencies

**LEH:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal, convened a preparatory meeting regarding the conduct of the 11th edition of the Ladakh Marathon at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on Saturday.

At the outset, Secretary to Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh, Vikram Singh Malik provided detailed insights about the Marathon, challenges and bottlenecks which impede the event.

The event will feature six different categories with the participation of 6281 runners representing 28 countries, marking it the largest international event organised in Ladakh. The categories include

the Silk Route Ultra, (122 km), Khardongla Challenge (72km), Full Marathon (42km), Half Marathon (21 km), 11.2km Run, and Run for Fun (5km).

During the meeting, a comprehensive powerpoint presentation was given by the organiser of the event, Chewang Motup, highlighting the importance of collaborative endeavours.

He informed the Advisor about the need of basic amenities, like availability of water, medical assistance, and a smooth traffic movement plan to be streamlined for the success of this event. The 11th edition of Ladakh Marathon, will take place from 5th to 8th September. (Ladakh News Service)

## Budgam Hosts District Level Volleyball, Kho-Kho Events



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Office Budgam organised Inter-Zonal District Level Volleyball and Kho-Kho events for boys across all age groups on Saturday.

The Volleyball competitions were held at two venues: BHSS Beerwah and HS Ranger. The event at BHSS Beerwah was inaugurated by Principal Javed Ahmad Bandy, with a total of 189 students participating. Meanwhile, at the HS Ranger venue, the competition saw the participation of 194 students.

Simultaneously, the Kho-Kho event took place at the Sports Stadium in Budgam, where 405 students participated. The Kho-Kho event was inaugurated by Shakeel ur Rehman, Activity Section DYSSO Budgam, along with G.H. Hassan Khanday. The event witnessed participation from senior officials and field staff, contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of the competition.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam continues to promote sports and physical activities among the youth, encouraging a spirit of healthy competition and teamwork.

## DYSSO Anantnag Concludes District Level Annual Athletic Meet



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag concludes Annual Athletic Meet for Under-17 and Under-14 girls on Saturday at Tikbagh Mattan Anantnag. The District Youth Services & Sports Officer Raja Yaqoob was the Chief Guest and distributed medals among the position holders on the culmination of the meet.

On the occasion, Excise and Taxation officer South Range Mohd Akber Hakeem was the guest of honour along with Drug Inspector Tariq Darsaroo. On

the opening of the Athletic Meet, a Joint Anti Drug pledge was taken by all the Athletes as well as the officials.

The Athletic Meet featured Jumping, Throwing and Running Events for U-14 and U-17 girls. The Athletic Meet was aimed to foster the spirit of athleticism and sportsmanship among the female generation.

Simultaneously, District Level Inter Zonal Volleyball Tournament was inaugurated at SRJ HSS Khanabal, in which Zonal Volleyball teams participated. The tournament is meant for U-14 age group boys of different Zones of Anantnag.

## Sri Lanka Faces Record-Breaking Run Chase At Lord's Against England

England were bowled out for 251 in their second innings at Lord's on Saturday, setting Sri Lanka an imposing target of 483 runs to win the second test and level the three-match series.

The highest successful run chase in international test cricket stands at 418, achieved by West Indies against Australia in May 2003.

Sri Lanka now faces a monumental task to reach this target and make history in the process.

## Five-Star Miraz Helps Bangladesh Restrict Pakistan To 274

Mehdi Hasan Miraz claimed five wickets as Bangladesh bowled out Pakistan for 274 on the second day of their rain-hit second Test at Rawalpindi on Saturday, after half-centuries by Shan Masood, Saim Ayub and Salman Agha.

Shadman Islam was batting on six and Zakir Hasan was on zero as Bangladesh reached 10 for no loss at stumps, seeking a strong reply in their bid to secure a 2-0 series victory after winning the first game at the same venue by 10 wickets.

## EPL: Rice's Red Card Derails Arsenal's Winning Streak

Brighton and Hove Albion ended Arsenal's winning start to the new Premier League season with a 1-1 draw at The Emirates on Saturday, with the home side holding on with 10 men after Declan Rice's second-half sending off.

Arsenal dominated the first half and deservedly lead at half time after Kai Havertz finished brilliantly in the 38th minute. Four minutes into the second half, however, Rice was sent off after picking up a second yellow card. Brazilian striker Joao Pedro fired Brighton level 12 minutes later.

## Kimi Antonelli Named Lewis Hamilton Replacement At F1's Mercedes

Teenager Kimi Antonelli has been named as Lewis Hamilton's replacement next year at Mercedes, a day after his Formula One debut ended in the 18-year-old Italian driver hitting the wall.

Antonelli took over for George Russell in the opening practice session for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at Monza. However, his much-anticipated first appearance lasted fewer than two laps and only 10 minutes after he lost control of his Mercedes at the Parabolica, sliding backward through the gravel and into the tire barrier.

## Top Football Players Sidelined Fuels Burnout Concerns With Ever-Increasing Game Schedule

Agencies

**MONACO:** Jude Bellingham and Rodri have key starring roles for their title-winning football clubs and their national teams. Neither is currently playing matches. Both are being carefully managed early in another congested season that shapes to keep both busy well into July. Again.

Bellingham's Real Madrid and Rodri's Manchester City have more games in a deeper Champions League schedule through January, and both teams qualified for a new month-long FIFA club tournament in the United States to end the season.

The relentless two-games-per-week schedule — almost routine in top-level European football since the pandemic-delayed 2019-20 season — is fueling concern about burning out the best players with expanded international events.

Bellingham was sidelined 10 days into Madrid's competitive season which started just one month after he was on the losing England team against Spain in the European Championship final.

Announcing his muscle injury

on Aug. 23, the 21-year-old star acknowledged "maybe my body is telling me it needs a bit more rest after a busy year."

Rodri was essential last season, the Euro 2024 player of the tournament who never lost a game with Spain, nor in the Premier League to help Man City win a fourth straight title.

"I do need a rest," Rodri famously said in April after a 3-3 draw at Madrid in the Champions League quarterfinals. Man City's title defence ended in a penalty shootout after the second leg also was drawn.

Now Rodri is resting in Manchester, missing the first two rounds in the English Premier League. His club said he is being eased back after on a personal training program after a 63-game season. Man City's intense August-to-July schedule was highlighted by Portugal defender Ruben Dias in a social media post with a laughter emoji.

"It's impossible to maintain an optimal level of performance," Dani Carvajal, the Madrid and Spain defender, said this month. "I think that should be analyzed by the people in charge of football."



As European champion, Madrid also must play a FIFA Intercontinental Cup game in December, possibly in Qatar.

European football body UEFA agreed to a new and bigger Champions League format that starts

September 17 after being pressured for years by storied and wealthy clubs like Madrid.

"The need to play regular matches in Europe is a need from the clubs, it's not a need for UEFA," one of its senior officials, Giorgio

Marchetti, said Wednesday in Monaco ahead of the Champions League draw.

The influential European Club Association, now led by Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser al-Khelaifi, pushed hard for more

high-profile games to drive up revenue. That typically pays for higher transfer fees and player salaries.

"It's amazing also for the players," Al-Khelaifi told reporters in Monaco. "They prefer to play matches than to train."

PSG, Madrid and Man City are among the 12 European clubs that qualified for the 32-team Club World Cup that FIFA will relaunch in June.

European clubs once did not want the Club World Cup, also seeing a risk to the status of the Champions League though FIFA scheduled it only in 2025 and 2029.

The clubs have long expected to earn tens of millions of dollars in FIFA prize money from playing up to seven games, though the tournament's commercial strategy is still unclear even with Saudi Arabian backing.

The Club World Cup has become a legal dispute. The global player union FIFPRO's European division joined national leagues to file a complaint against FIFA with the European Commission in Brussels.

"Players are being pushed be-

yond their limits, with significant injury risks and impacts on their welfare and fundamental rights," FIFPRO warned FIFA in May.

The union targeted the FIFA event though not UEFA's expanded club events which will steer hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) more to the 108 European clubs playing in the three annual club competitions.

For clubs, the need to be in high-profile, lucrative international events is pressing.

Manchester United is taking a nine-figure revenue hit this season by not playing in the Champions League or Club World Cup. It still has a packed domestic program and the second-tier Europa League.

"The intensity of the Premier League and the two domestic cup competitions that we have does add a little bit more," Man United sporting director Dan Ashworth said Friday in Monaco. "But we will be well-equipped, we are pleased with the squad."

United is not in the Club World Cup because it did not win the Champions League in the past four years. Man City and Chelsea did to earn England's two entries.