

RG To Kickstart Congress Campaign Today

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will address two public rallies in Ramban and Anantnag districts on Wednesday, kickstarting the Congress' campaign for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls being held after a gap of 10 years.

These rallies are part of the campaign for the party's candidates contesting in the first phase of the elections on September 18.

Besides Rahul Gandhi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are among the 40 star campaigners of the party in the upcoming three-phased Assembly polls.

Polling to elect 90 members of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will | [More on P6](#)

J&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

26 Candidates File Nominations For Phase 2

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fourteen candidates filed their nominations on Tuesday for the second phase of the three-phase Assembly polls in Kashmir, taking the total number of nominees to 26, officials said.

A total of 26 constituencies are scheduled to go to polls in the second phase of the election on September 25, out of



which 15 are in the Kashmir valley, covering the districts

of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam in central Kashmir.

The Assembly seats that are scheduled to go to polls in this phase include Kangan (reserved for the Scheduled Tribes), Ganderbal, Hazratbal Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zadibal, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Budgam, Beerwah, Khansahib, Char-i-Sharief and Chadoora. The officials | [More on P6](#)

Young Guns Lead Assembly Race

Agencies

Srinagar: The first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections has brought a wave of young candidates into the political arena, with fresh faces representing both national and regional parties.

Out of 24 seats, 20 party-nominated candidates and an equal number of independents are newcomers.

Among them, the youngest is 25-year-old Meenakshi Bhagat, who is contesting from the Baderwah assembly constituency on a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) ticket.

In Kishtwar, the BJP has fielded 29-year-old Shagun Parihar, a relative of the late Anil Parihar, a prominent leader who was assassinated by terrorists. Shagun, with a background in Electrical | [More on P6](#)

Mehbooba Rules Out Tie-Up With BJP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday ruled out any tie-up with the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir, while asserting that government formation after the assembly polls would not be possible without the inclusion of her party.

Hitting out at the National Conference (NC), she claimed the party wants to contest elections just for the sake of government formation.

"They have been doing so since 1947. They do not have any aim other than that. They form alliances just for the sake of government formation, for ministerial berths," she said addressing workers at the party headquarters here.

The PDP chief said her party wants to contest elections for an agenda, but | [More on P6](#)

Kahcharie Land In Sheikhpora Budgam Ensure Not An Inch Is Encroached: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed authorities to demarcate entire Kahcharie (farm) land in Sheikhpora area in central Kashmir's Budgam district, and ensure that not even an inch of it is encroached upon by any of the villagers.

"Subject to objections and till next date of hearing, it is provided that the Tehsildar, Budgam shall demarcate the entire Kahcharie land in village Sheikhpora, Budgam, and ensure that not even an inch of Kahchaire land is encroached

upon by any of the villagers including private respondents," a bench of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi said in an order which was issued last month but made available today.

"Let a report in this regard be submitted to this Court by or before the next date of hearing (28.10.2024)," the court said adding, "It is made clear that nobody including the private respondents shall be allowed to raise the construction on the recorded Mehfooz Kahcharie land in the village".

The court was hearing a plea, seeking | [More on P6](#)



KO ANALYSIS

Ram Madhav's Role In J&K Assembly Polls Sparks Debate

KO Political Desk

Srinagar: When Ram Madhav, a veteran BJP leader, was re-appointed as the J&K pointman by the BJP around two weeks ago, it raised eyebrows in Kashmir. Now, his role is drawing attention from political parties who see him looking for alliances in the region, with the National Conference and the PDP engaging in a slanging match over who he is a little more closer to.

The NC leader Omar Abdullah has suggested that Ram Madhav may have been sent to revive alliance with the



PDP since he was the chief architect of the PDP-BJP coalition government in 2015. "Ram Madhav was responsible for bringing the PDP and the BJP on one platform. He brokered the alliance.

Perhaps he has been brought back for this purpose," Omar said, referring to the statement of the former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik who said the same thing.

Earlier, in a video interview to a news portal, Malik said that Madhav was brought back to J&K because BJP might be preparing for a significant loss and thus seeking to collaborate with its former ally, the PDP.

"They are thinking of arriving at a compromise with Mehbooba Mufti after the elections and brought Ram Madhav to ascertain with Mehbooba | [More on P6](#)

AIP Releases List Of 7 More Candidates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Engineer Abdul Rashid Sheikh led Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) Tuesday announced a fresh list of seven candidates for the forthcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, approving the mandate for Nazir Ahmad Khan for Beerwah constituency.

According to the list, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer,

AIP's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) has recommended and approved the mandate of Parvez Jamal for Khanyar constituency, Adil Hussain for Central-Shaletang, Mehraj-ud-din for Budgam constituency, Lone Suhail for Khan Saheb, Faisal Fayaz for Chadoora, M. Akbar Rather for Pattan constituency and Nazir Ahmad Khan for Beerwah constituency. | [More on P6](#)

We Joined Poll Fray To Raise Our Voices: JeI Leader

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The banned Jama'at-e-Islami on Monday announced that its members would participate in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections to "raise their voices". Gulam Qadir Lone, a member of the central committee and ex-general secretary of the Jama'at-e-Islami, said they are fighting the polls so that the ban can be lifted.

The organisation cannot take part in the elections due to the ban imposed on it by the Union Home Ministry. The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' in 2019, which was then extended for five more



years in February 2024. Jama'at-e-Islami has not taken part in any elections since 1987.

"We have not done anything which is against the law and always carried out our activities within the framework of an Indian constitution. So when the Centre decided to impose a ban on us, we were

THE JAMA'AT HAD MOVED AN APPLICATION BEFORE THE ELECTION COMMISSION of India for the registration of their party name - Jammu Kashmir Justice and Development Front - but when their ban was ratified, they decided to contest the elections as Independent candidates.

surprised as to how this happened in a democratic nation. So we decided to participate in elections to raise our voice," Gulam Qadir Lone told NDTV. | [More on P6](#)

Denied Mandate, NC Leader Denounces Party's 'Dynastic Politics'

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a significant development seen as a major blow to the National Conference (NC) in the Hazratbal constituency, Mohammad Syed Akhoun, a former MLA of the party, on Tuesday publicly voiced his discontent with the party's leadership. He accused the NC of promoting dynastic politics, leading to growing dissatisfaction among senior leaders and party workers.



Speaking to a local media outlet, Akhoun expressed his frustration, citing specific instances where he believes the | [More on P6](#)

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'Blood Fats Could Predict If Weight Loss Will Help Pre-Diabetics Manage Sugar'

Press Trust Of India

A blood test measuring fats in serum could help predict if weight loss will be effective in helping a pre-diabetic patient manage blood sugar levels, according to a new study. Pre-diabetics are individuals whose blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not yet in the diabetic range.



to normal. However, the researchers said that over half of these individuals do not achieve normal blood sugar levels afterwards. They found that measuring certain fats in serum before one loses weight could predict which type of blood sugar will improve following weight loss.

For the study, blood serum samples from 104 pre-diabetic participants were analysed before and after they started a low-energy diet for eight weeks. In this duration, the individuals were found to have lost at least eight per cent of their body weight.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Application of Irshad Ahmad Najar S/o Ghulam Nabi Najar R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate

Public Notice General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 82800/-.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name, Parentage, Age, Occupation. Lists 6 individuals including John Mohd Najar, Gulshana Begum, Zaina Begum, Irshad Ahmad, Seerat Jan, and Zainab.

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

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Application of Owais Maqbool & Khushboo Maqbool Wards of Maqbool Ahmad Hajam R/o Malkpora Tehsil Pattan regarding obtaining OBC Certificate

Public Notice General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining OBC certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Malkpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 102000/-.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name, Parentage, Age, Occupation. Lists 8 individuals including Maqbool Ahmad Hajam, Naseema Begum, Owais Maqbool, Nazima, Khushboo, Simran, Mohd Sultan Hajam, and Fazi Begum.

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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir Tel: 0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Sub: - Application for transfer of registration certificate of Hotel "Imroz" located at Kohankhan, Srinagar

Public Notice Whereas, the application has been submitted by Mr. Shaheen Iqbal and Mr. Khalid Anwar Ss/o Late Mohammad Tufail Hamdani R/o Kohankhan Dalgate, Srinagar for change/transfer of registration of hotel titled as "Imroz" located at Kohan Khan, Srinagar in the name of their Mother Namely Mrs. Parveen Shawl W/o Late Muhammad Tufail Hamdani R/o Kohankhan Dalgate Srinagar;

Whereas, Guest House has been registered with this Department in 2017 vide No. Reg/623/238/DTK dated 30.08.2017 in the name of Mr. Muhammad Tufail Hamdani S/o Lt. Bahau-ud-Din Hamdani R/o Kohankhan Dalgate, Srinagar and the same stands renewed upto 31.03.2020;

Whereas, the applicants have submitted the documents in support of their request application viz, Death Certificate of Mr. Mohammad Tufail Hamdani, Relinquishment Deed, Charecter Certificate, Affidavit, Legal Heir Certificate, Pan Card of applicant, Domicile Certificate, ID Proof, Original hotel registration, NOC from Bank, The Power of Attorney duly registered from Sub-Registrar in favour of Mrs. Parveen Shawl W/o Late Muhammad Tufail Hamdani R/o Kohankhan Dalgate Srinagar ;

Whereas, transfer of registration for the hotel is purely for the purpose of running operation management of the said hotel and does not confer any right of ownership of the hotel upon the transferee;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12 before considering transfer of Registration certificate in the name of Mrs. Parveen Shawl W/o Late Muhammad Tufail Hamdani R/o Kohankhan Dalgate Srinagar the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public / Financial Institutions / Banks / Development Authorities / PHE Department/Electric Department that in case of any objections, the same should reach this office of undersigned within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objections beyond period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of all requisite documents.

Sd/- Assistant Director Tourism, Registration DIPK-5310/24 dated: 03-09-2024 No. Reg/429/DTK/470

PUBLIC NOTICE In my service Record Appointment Order letter my name is wrongly entered as Khurshheed Ahmad Khan instead of Khurshid Ahmad Khan also my fathers name is wrongly entered as Mohddin Khan instead of Mohd ud din Khan 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 JKAP 11th Security Humhuma Srinagar within 7 days . After that no objection shall be entertained. Khurshid Ahmad Khan S/o Mohd ud din Khan R/o Shadab Karewa Shopian fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Application of Irshad Hameed S/o Abdul Hameed Mir R/o Malkpora Tehsil Pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate Public Notice General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Malik Pora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 82800/-.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name, Parentage, Age, Occupation. Lists 5 individuals including Ab Hameed Mir, Shakeela Begum, Shamala Begum, Irshad Hameed, and Farzana.

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

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Application of Ishfaq Ahmad Yatoo S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Yatoo R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate Public Notice General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 637188/-.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name, Parentage, Age, Occupation. Lists 5 individuals including Gh Mohiud din Yatoo, Farida Begum, Suhail Ah Yatoo, Ishafa Ah Yatoo, and Khurshheed Ah Yatoo.

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

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Application of Javid Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Gani Bhat R/o Malkpora Tehsil Pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate Public Notice General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Malikpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 198000/-.

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name, Parentage, Age, Occupation. Lists 6 individuals including Jana Begum, Javid Ah Bhat, Aabida Gulzar, Khurshheed Ah Bhat, Aatiqa Begum, and Azan Khurshheed.

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

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Zaraq Bin Ishfaq D/O Ishfaq Ahmad Teli R/O Gh Ardu Sirish Khag Tehsil Khag District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 28/05/2021 occurred at SDH Pattan In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of 1. Abu Hurairah Malla D.o.B: 30/10/2017 2. Mohammad Sajid Malla.D.o.B: 26/10/2015 Ss/o Khurshheed Ahmad Malla R/o Baba tang pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla occurred at Home In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No: 113003064 Session Annual - Regular Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/ Board , against my father's Cast as Farsheed Ahmad Dar instead of Farsheed Ahmad Rather Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. Name: Shabrooz Bano F/N: Farsheed Ahmad Rather M/N: Afshana Begum DOB : 05-09-2008 Residence: Madwan Hajin Cell: 9797269606 fko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 11th) under Roll No: 213006067 Session Annual Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, my Mother's Name as Shakeela Begum instead of Saleema Begum Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. Name: Saqib Shameem F/N: Shameem Ahmad Bhat M/N: Saleema Begum DOB : 17-09-2007 Residence: Khumina Baharabad Sonawari Bpr Cell: 9797926733 fko

NOTICE I Aejaz Ahmad Reshi S/o Gh Mohd Reshi R/o Zahid Bagh, Zayed Bag, Pulwama 192301 want to correct my name & my father's name in my Driving licence Bearing Licence no JK-22 2012 0005702 from Ajaz Ahmad Reshi S/o Ghulam Mohd Reshi To Aejaz Ahmad Reshi S/o Gh Mohd Reshi Rather as per Aadhar. Regarding this, if anybody is having any objection he/she may file the same to the RT/O office Pulwama within a week after that no objection will be entertained. Mehraj-ud-din Sofi S/o Gh Mohd Sofi R/O DH- Buran Tehsil Singhpora fko

PUBLIC NOTICE This is for the information of general public that I have lost number plate of vehicle bearing number JK15A 9525. Now I am supposed to apply for its duplicate number plate. In this regard if anyone has any sort of objections he/she may file the same in written or through verbal communications in the Office of ARTO Bandipora within in seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the lapse considered period of time no objections shall be entertained. Mohd Yousuf Dar S/O : Ali Mohd Dar R/O Shugunpora Sonawari jm

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن درخواست منجانب محمد عراجم منزل فاروق و مہوش فاروق اولادان فاروق احمد عراجم ساکنہ ماسوسہ تحصیل پٹن برادر اجرائی OBC اشتہار ہر خاص و عام معلومندہ صدر المنور سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ عراجم پٹن کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنیادی حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عراجم کے سائل کو حتمی حاکم ذات سے تعلق رکھنے اور سائل پٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنڈیڈیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے فاروق احمد عراجم دامادہ غلام احمد مزدوری 40 سال نازہ بیگم زوجہ فاروق احمد گھریلو کام 38 سال محمد عراجم ولدہ فاروق احمد زیر تعلیم 19 سال منزل فاروق ولدہ -- -- 18 سال مہوش فاروق دختر -- -- 17 سال غلام احمد عراجم عمر سیدہ 70 سال سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنڈیڈیل مہوارہ مدنی 13000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا عذر یا ہونے والا ہندوستان یا خیرات سے ان کے نامدرآمد ہے پٹن عراجم و اولاد حذا کو دفتر اوقات سکودران پٹن کریں۔ بعد ازاں سے مینا کوئی عجز یا عذر یا خیرات قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Chief Secy Reviews Progress Of Renovation Of Assembly Complex

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today visited the Legislative Assembly Complex Srinagar to review the progress of upgradation and renovation works there.

During his visit to the Complex, he was briefed on the progress of the various components and the timeline for its completion.

While reviewing the progress, Atal Dulloo impressed upon the officers that work must progress in full swing without any delays to complete it on time.

Dulloo visited the Chambers of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Leader of Opposition, library hall and urged upon the Estates department to complete the upgradation works in all respects. He said that due care should be taken in ensuring proper seating facilities.

Emphasizing the need for

improvement in certain areas, Dulloo urged the officers to ensure operational sound systems, internet connectivity, software updates, new carpets and overall building improvement. He also laid stress on the cleanliness of the complex and said that cleanliness drive should be a regular affair.

He also took it as an occasion to enquire about the upgradation works in MLA hostels in the twin cities and said that they should be equipped with improved facilities. He said that he will soon be visiting the hostels to inspect the renovation works being done there.

Principal Secretary, Estates department, Alok Kumar said that the upgradation work on the Assembly Complex Srinagar is in full swing. He said that the few pending works are being monitored regularly and will be completed very soon.



Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Reviews Poll Preparedness In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of ongoing measures to ensure smooth and hassle free conduct of General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Tuesday chaired a comprehensive meeting at Meeting Hall of DC office Complex, here to review election preparedness in the District.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Imtiyaz Ahmad, ADCC, Returning Officers (ROs) of all 08 Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar and designated Nodal Officers monitoring/ overseeing election related activities.

At the outset, the DEO gave a holistic overview of the measures that need to be taken to ensure smooth electoral process in the district including submission of nomination forms by candidates, scrutiny and withdrawal, besides trainings of polling staff, material management, home voting and postal ballot, SVEEP activities, enforcement of Model Code of Conduct and etc.

During the meeting, Dr. Bhat received the current status of ongoing preparations from different units of Election Office, wherein, stress was laid on creating a conducive and convenient atmosphere for voters in Srinagar.

Citing the recent directions from the Election Commission of India, DEO passed strict directions to the officers to follow and implement the recent directions as well as the Model Code of Conduct and keep vigil on violations, if any, in the district.

He directed the SVEEP Cell of DEO, to remain on the forefront in creating awareness and mobi-

Randomization Of Polling Personnel Held In Srinagar

Srinagar: In preparations to the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly-2024, the first Randomization of Polling Staff to be deployed at 932 Polling Stations in all Eight Assembly Constituencies across Srinagar District was held today at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The Randomization process was held under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in presence of the concerned Officers.

The Randomization process was conducted through a dedicated Software as per the prescribed guidelines of Election Commission of India ensuring fairness and impartiality in the selection of Polling Staff.

A database of 12900 employees was Randomized which includes around 55% of reserve staff in order to meet any exigency.

Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz, Nodal Officer IT/ETPBS, Syed Mujadid and other concerned were present during the Randomization process.

order to have a peaceful voting in the district. The DEO reviewed the status of election training programs, home voting initiatives and other activities. He stressed the need for thorough training of all concerned officials ensuring that every member is well-versed in their election related duties.

The Nodal Officer AMF was instructed to ensure that all polling stations are equipped with assured minimum facilities well in advance. The DEO asked the Nodal Officer SVEEP to pick up SVEEP events to maximize voter turnout in the assembly elections.

He asked the ROs and Nodal Officers to adhere strictly to the established procedures and guidelines of ECI in performing Election related duties.

man stated to be critical. The injured mother-son duo has been identified as Sarwa Devi and her son Rakesh Kumar from Punjab. Police have taken cognizance of the matter.

Stray Dogs On Prowl At Rose Avenue HMT, Authorities Stay-Put

Agencies

Srinagar: The ongoing sterilization campaign by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) seems to be doing little to curb the growing stray dog problem here as the residents from various localities, particularly Rose Avenue in HMT area, have raised alarms over the increasing number of aggressive stray dog population.

The local residents said that the rising number of stray dogs has made it nearly impossible for them to move around safely in the area.

Several locals from Rose Avenue HMT, while speaking to the news agency—KNO re-

ported that the streets were so infested with stray dogs that parents are afraid to let their children walk to school.

"It has become dangerous even to step out during the day, let alone early morning or evening hours," said Irfan Rasool, a resident of the area.

He added that carrying a stick for protection has become a necessity.

According to the residents, last month a team from the SMC picked up the stray dogs in their area, possibly for conducting sterilization.

However, just days later, they said that they observed the dog population up by 10 times from the existing number.

EXTENSION OF TRAIN NO. 14034/14033 JAMMU MAIL UPTO SUBEDARGANJ

This is notified that Train No. 14034/14033 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Delhi Jn. - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (Jammu Mail) will be extended up to **SUBEDARGANJ** w.e.f. 05.09.2024 as per the details given below:-

Stations	Train No. 14034	Existing Time		Revised Time	
		Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		-	15:20	-	15:20
No change between Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan (Udhampur) to Ambala Cantt. Jn.					
Ambala Cantt. Jn.		00:28	00:35	00:25	00:30
Kurukshetra Jn.		01:05	01:07	00:59	01:01
Karnal		01:30	01:32	01:22	01:24
Panipat Jn.		01:54	01:56	01:44	01:46
Samalkha		02:10	02:12	01:58	02:00
Sonipat		02:53	02:55	02:17	02:19
Narela		03:09	03:11	02:31	02:33
Adarsh Nagar Delhi		03:28	03:30	02:54	02:56
Subzi Mandi		03:39	03:41	03:04	03:06
Delhi Jn.		04:30	-	04:05	04:20
Aligarh				06:08	06:10
Tundla				07:06	07:08
Govindpur				09:25	09:30
Fatehpur				10:25	10:27
Subedarganj				12:35	-

Stations	Train No. 14033	Existing Time		Revised Time	
		Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
Subedarganj				-	10:35
Fatehpur				11:40	11:42
Govindpur				13:10	13:15
Tundla				15:58	16:00
Aligarh				17:08	17:10
Delhi Jn.		-	20:05	19:55	20:10
Subzi Mandi		20:20	20:21	20:23	20:25
Narela		20:41	20:43	20:45	20:47
Sonipat		20:57	20:59	21:01	21:03
Ganaur		21:12	21:14	21:19	21:21
Samalkha		21:25	21:27	21:32	21:34
Panipat Jn.		22:02	22:04	21:48	21:50
Karnal		22:26	22:28	22:12	22:14
Kurukshetra Jn.		22:52	22:54	22:47	22:49
Ambala Cantt. Jn.		00:02	00:07	00:02	00:07
No change between Ambala Cantt. Jn. to Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan (Udhampur)					
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		09:15	-	-	09:15

Note:- Due to change in Superfast Category, New Train No. for 14034/14033 Subedarganj - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra will be Train No. 20434 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra w.e.f. 04.01.2025 and Train No. 20433 Ex. Subedarganj w.e.f. 04.01.2025.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways Website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Mother-son From Punjab Injured In Gas Cylinder Blast

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A man and his mother were injured in a gas cylinder blast at Elahi Bagh locality in Srinagar this morning, officials said.

An official said the blast occurred this morning, leaving two Punjab residents injured. He said that soon after the incident the duo was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment with the condition of the

man stated to be critical. The injured mother-son duo has been identified as Sarwa Devi and her son Rakesh Kumar from Punjab. Police have taken cognizance of the matter.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
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NOTICE
Applications through online mode are invited from eligible candidates for engagement as **Assistant Professors (Contractual)** on academic arrangement in the following subjects:

Subject	Eligibility
Mathematics	Detailed in the advertisement notification.
Actuarial Mathematics	
Artificial Intelligence	

IMPORTANT DATES:

Availability of online application form	03-09-2024
Last date of submission of online application	05-09-2024
Last date of submission of hard copy of the form	06-09-2024

The detailed notification reflecting eligibility and other terms and conditions is available on university website www.iust.ac.in

No. IUST/DAA-Acad/24/1659
Dated: 03-09-2024
DIPK-NB-1514/24 dated: 03-09-2024
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Assistant Registrar Academics

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
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PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS
HIJRI CALENDAR
29 Safar
1446

FAJR	4: 40
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5: 04
Magrib	7:00
ISHA	8: 22

This Day In History

- 1260 - Battle at Montaperti, Tuscany, between rival factions the Guelphs and Ghibellines
- 1682 - English astronomer Edmond Halley observes the comet named after him
- 1862 - General Lee invades the North with 50,000 Confederate troops during Maryland Campaign (US Civil War)
- 1870 - The Third French Republic proclaimed as French overthrow Emperor Napoleon III (who ironically was the elected president of the Second French Republic) after his defeat by Prussia at Sedan.
- 1904 - Dalai Lama signs treaty allowing British commerce in Tibet
- 1914 - General von Moltke ceases German advance in France
- 1914 - France, Russia, and Britain agree in a Pact of London that none will make a separate peace.
- 1919 - Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who founded the Republic of Turkey, gathers a congress in Sivas to make decisions as to the future of Anatolia and Thrace.
- 1936 - Franco's troops conquer Irun & Talavera de la Reina, Spain
- 1939 - Netherlands & Belgium declare neutrality
- 1940 - Nazi collaborator Mussert puts the fate of Netherlands in Hitler's hands
- 1943 - British 8th Army lands at Taranto, South Italy
- 1944 - Finland breaks diplomatic contact with Nazi Germany
- 1951 - US President Harry Truman addresses opening of Japanese Peace Treaty Conference.
- 1964 - NASA launches its 1st Orbital Geophysical Observatory (OGO-1)
- 1967 - 6.5 earthquake of Kolya Dam India, kills 200
- 1968 - Nigerian troops conquer the city of Aba, Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War
- 1975 - The Sinai Interim Agreement relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict is signed.
- 1976 - Palestinians hijack KLM DC-9 to Cyprus
- 1979 - Sunil Gavaskar scores 221 in India's 8 for 429 chasing 438 in drawn 4th cricket Test v England at The Oval; England win series 1-0
- 1979 - Iran army conquers Banah
- 1982 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1994 - Kansai International airport officially opens
- 1998 - Google is formally incorporated by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, two students at Stanford University.
- 2000 - England wins 5th cricket Test v West Indies by 158 runs at The Oval for first series win (3-1) over WI since 1969; Windies captain Courtney Walsh's 132nd and final Test.
- 2012 - 25 people are killed at a funeral suicide bombing in Nangarhar, Pakistan
- 2012 - 42 people are killed and 25 injured as a passenger bus falls down a ravine in Morocco
- 2012 - Carpet that can help prevent falls in elderly by warning them after detecting unusual footsteps is developed
- 2014 - Monsoon rains begin and cause flooding over a sustained period that kills over 400 people in India & Pakistan
- 2014 - Archeological remains of a Viking fortress from the 900s CE, the Vallø Borgring, is discovered in Denmark
- 2016 - Mother Teresa canonized by Pope Francis in a ceremony at the Vatican
- 2017 - Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai criticizes Aung San Suu Kyi's lack of response to the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar
- 2018 - 400-year old sunken Portuguese spice trade ship discovered near port of Cascais, Portugal

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the death certificate of My mother who passed away on on 30th January 2011 . If any body has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in concerned Office within 7 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.
Name:-Abdul Rashid Zinda
S/O:-Zoonah
R/O:-Malbagh
Contact no:-9149513224
inf

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Wednesday | 04-09-2024

Justice, Not Demolition

In a welcome development, the Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on 'bulldozer justice', in the country, questioning how a house can be demolished just because it belongs to an accused or even a convict in a criminal case. This certainly is going to put a stop to the instant justice being meted out by some state governments to punish people they deem criminals, without any due process of law.

The apex court also proposed a set of pan-India guidelines to be followed before demolishing homes. And this will hopefully mandate a due process of law before the extreme step is taken. More so, in cases of the alleged crimes committed by one member of a family. Why should other members of a family be held responsible for this and made to suffer as a result. Even in cases where a house or a business establishment has been built on illegally occupied land, the violation needs to be proven through a legal process before demolition can go ahead.

Although this argument was also made by the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, the truth is that this is not how demolitions are carried out on the ground. Generally, the illegality of a structure is not the primary reason for bulldozing it. The demolitions largely follow after a person is deemed to have committed a crime unrelated to illegal occupation of land.

There have been instances where houses of people arbitrarily alleged to have violated any law have been demolished. Worse, the demolitions have largely been carried out selectively. Besides, if the illegal nature of a structure was the sole basis for bulldozing it, then there are millions of such structures in the country, particularly in urban areas.

But the truth is the demolitions are pursued with a political goal in mind. Some political parties see lucrative electoral spin-offs from demolishing properties of some ethnic and religious groups. Sadly, the practice has so far been going on regardless without any institutional check. But the situation now seems to be changing for the better. Belatedly though, the Supreme Court is now intent on drawing clear demarcations which governments can't breach. Hopefully, the guidelines will come soon, making it difficult for the ruling parties to play merry with rules. Hundreds of families across the country have been wrecked as a result of this instant justice. One hopes that the apex court also ensures they get some compensation to rebuild their lives.

Scholars On The Street

Government should address unemployment in J&K urgently



Syed Aamir Sharief Qadri

In Kashmir, a painful irony unfolds as scholars who once inspired students in classrooms are now forced to do odd jobs to survive. These educators, who dedicated their lives to teaching, now find themselves buying from the very students they once guided. This is not just a personal tragedy but a collective failure, a stark reminder of the government's neglect. We must open our eyes to this injustice and demand a change that restores their dignity and rightful place in society. Their story should inspire action, not despair.

The shift of scholars to other professions underscores the government's difficulty in supporting these vulnerable individuals. Although there are vacancies in colleges for experienced scholars, resource constraints prevent the government from filling these positions. Instead of hiring one Assistant Professor, the government often chooses to appoint four contractual lecturers for the same total cost. After years of service, these contractual lecturers face uncertainty as new, highly qualified candidates enter the field.

This is not a trend or a publicity stunt to gain sympathy; it is the harsh reality that has driven PhD scholars to the streets in search of new jobs. Over the past five years, we've witnessed MPhil and PhD degree holders shifting to fields they never imagined. Their stories of struggle and failure have revealed the deep flaws in our education system. It's time for a shift in perspective: students should consider technical courses instead of pursuing higher studies. A graduation in any subject is often sufficient to start a business or find a job with promising prospects.

In J&K, by the end of the 20th century, no educated person was idle at home without a job. Even in the early years of the 21st century, jobs were available for educated individuals. However, now it has become nearly impossible due to rising unemployment and intense competition for limited government posts, with many candidates having closely matched scores.

Students flaunt their advanced degrees with pride, but what is their worth if they only lead to hardship? For example, in Shopian, two PhD scholars were forced to sell dry fruits on a cart! This glaring contrast between academic achievement and real-life opportunities calls for urgent reflection! Who is responsible for this disconnect? It's time we address this critical issue with serious intent!

For over a decade, Kashmiri scholars working as contractual college staff have faced exploitation everywhere—be it in colleges, society, or their own homes. This

ongoing struggle has led many to silently fight a tough internal battle, and sadly, some are now breaking down publicly under the pressure. It highlights the severe challenges they face daily, often without the support or acknowledgment they deserve.

In J&K colleges, contractual lecturers are hired at the start of the session but often dismissed after a few months. They receive just Rs. 28,000 per month for 8 months, though UGC guidelines call for Rs. 57,700. Despite enduring heavy workloads and persistent pleas for fair pay, their voices remain ignored. Their perseverance in the face of such challenges is inspiring, and it's time their dedication is recognized and rewarded.

The plight of contractual college staff has transformed holding a PhD into a societal burden, almost like a curse. They step out with downcast eyes, facing scorn and derision from those around them. Yet, despite this unrelenting adversity, their determination and courage shine through. It's time to recognize their struggle and celebrate their unwavering commitment.

At home, they endure daily challenges and emotional strain due to their modest income, facing constant difficulties and lacking support even when they need to borrow money. When a person is surrounded by difficulties from all sides, they often forget the very purpose of living. Amid these hardships, their resilience and determined spirit stand out.

In Kashmir, the dire plight of the unemployed underscores a persistent obsession with securing any government job, regardless of its status. Holding a government position is considered vital. Even a class-four employee is deemed more secure and commands more respect than a PhD degree holder. Those who attain government positions enjoy a semblance of stability, while those who miss out suffer profound hardships and face scant opportunities in the private sector or beyond.

Political instability has led to the neglect of the private sector in Kashmir. With few industries to absorb the workforce, investors are deterred by the instability and the lack of supportive policies from the government. This makes investors wary of putting their money into the region. As a result, individuals with undergraduate and postgraduate degrees often have no choice but to work in private schools, where most teachers earn only 5,000 to 10,000 a month. This meager salary is inadequate for sustaining oneself, let alone supporting a family.

Private school teachers once relied on additional income from

coaching centers. However, the shift to online systems and the change to a March session have stripped them of even this modest source of extra money. To private teachers, this session shift feels like a grave mistake. Previously, students would attend coaching centers in winter, but since the switch to March, there has been a significant drop in student enrollment, deeply affecting their financial stability.

To remind the government and administration, it's essential to recognize the immense effort and financial strain faced by students. Securing admission to schools, colleges, and universities demands relentless hard work and a stringent selection process. Students spend lakhs annually on their education—covering fees, hostel, fares, form fees, stationary and books. They also commit 25 to 30 years of their lives to studying, essentially devoting half their lives to this pursuit. In the end, what is the ultimate outcome of such a significant investment? This critical issue requires immediate and thoughtful attention.

After 30 years of studying, many students find themselves trapped in a cycle where they cannot switch fields or pursue new opportunities. They are often left struggling to start businesses or become successful entrepreneurs, and may even end up selling dry fruits on the street. Post graduate students have already faced such challenges, and now even scholars are finding themselves in similar, disheartening situations. My nephew's question cuts deep: "What's the point of all this studying? Why should I go to school?" I am deeply troubled by his doubts and need your help to find a compelling answer, so I can show him the true value and purpose of education.

The students in Bangladesh, fuelled by the injustice they faced, rose up and shook their government to its foundation. Now, a similar unrest is stirring in Kashmir. If this growing discontent is ignored, the government may soon find itself overwhelmed by a movement that will only gain momentum. Before any adversary seizes this opportunity to manipulate these emotions for their own gain, I urgently call on both the Central and State governments to implement a meaningful job policy for these students. Kashmir cannot afford to follow the tragic path of Bangladesh. We must act swiftly, before it's too late.

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



Did you know?

Make Informed Sharia Compliant Financial Decisions

Irshad Mushtaq

In Islam, insurance and earning money from bank interest are considered haram, or forbidden. Yet, despite this, many people still find themselves pouring their hard-earned money into fixed deposits and insurance schemes. It's perplexing and rather frustrating to see this confusion still persist. Why do so many continue these practices even though they are haram and often don't yield the best returns?

The simple reason is a heartbreaking lack of proper evaluation and understanding. Financial decisions are too often driven by emotions rather than by informed judgment and objective education. We see our loved ones investing blindly, trusting in luck rather than knowledge, and it's painful.

When these investments fail—when hard-earned savings evaporate—it's not bad luck to blame but the lack of understanding. This cycle of misfortune can be broken; it must be broken with education. Knowledge is the beacon that will lead us to safer shores. Once we truly comprehend the world of finance, earning becomes a natural consequence of our wise choices.

To safeguard our future and ensure financial well-being, we need to become familiar with various asset classes. From Shariah based quality share portfolios to Term Funds (TFs), and Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) in mutual funds, to the broader options of index funds, sector-specific funds, and hybrid funds. Each of these has a place in a sound financial strategy.

But sometimes, even this can feel overwhelming. This is where a trusted financial consultant becomes crucial. Paying for sound financial advice is not just an expense—it's an investment in our future security and prosperity. Imagine the peace of mind that comes from knowing your advisor truly prioritizes your needs, offering tailored advice without deceit. Trust cannot be bought, but when you find an advisor who genuinely cares about your financial health, seize that opportunity with both hands.

Education is the cornerstone of sound investing. We must learn first, then earn. And for those of us seeking to adhere to Islamic principles, why not seek Shariah-compliant options? In India, there are suitable alternatives like Tata Ethical Fund and Nippon AMC ETFs that align with our faith, offering an honest and effective path to financial stability.

So, let us educate ourselves, trust in genuine advisors, and choose investments that honor our principles. In doing so, we're not just securing our financial future—we're staying true to our values and beliefs. Remember, knowledge comes first; earning will surely follow.

Conclusion

In Islam, practices like insurance & bank interest are considered haram, yet many overlook this in pursuit of perceived security. This confusion stems from a lack of education & understanding about finance.

Many invest blindly, driven by emotions rather than informed choices. When investments fail, it's not luck that fails us; it's our lack of knowledge. We need to familiarize ourselves with diverse asset classes—stocks, mutual funds, and more—and seek trusted financial advisors.

Education is the key to breaking this cycle. Learn first, then earn!

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

Artificial Intelligence

Enhancing or Endangering Humanity?



The importance of AI safety is to keep humans safe and to ensure that proper regulations are in place to ensure that AI acts as it should. These issues may not seem immediate, but addressing them now can prevent much worse outcomes in the future

Rutba Riyaz

Digital life is augmenting human capacities and disrupting eons-old human activities. Code-driven systems have spread to more than half of the world's inhabitants in ambient information and connectivity, offering previously unimagined opportunities and unprecedented threats. As emerging algorithm-driven artificial intelligence (AI) continues to spread, will people be better off than they are today?

Some 979 technology pioneers, innovators, developers, business and policy leaders, researchers and activists answered this question in a canvassing of experts conducted in the summer of 2018.

The experts predicted networked artificial intelligence will amplify human effectiveness but also threaten human autonomy,

agency and capabilities. They spoke of the wide-ranging possibilities; that computers might match or even exceed human intelligence and capabilities on tasks such as complex decision-making, reasoning and learning, sophisticated analytics and pattern recognition, visual acuity, speech recognition and language translation. They said "smart" systems in communities, in vehicles, in buildings and utilities, on farms and in business processes will save time, money and lives and offer opportunities for individuals to enjoy a more-customized future.

Many focused their optimistic remarks on health care and the many possible applications of AI in diagnosing and treating patients or helping senior citizens live fuller and healthier lives. They were also enthusiastic about AI's role in contributing to broad public-health programs

built around massive amounts of data that may be captured in the coming years about everything from personal genomes to nutrition. Additionally, a number of these experts predicted that AI would abet long-anticipated changes in formal and informal education systems.

A risk that experts cite when talking about the risks of AI is the possibility that something that uses AI will be programmed to do something devastating. The best example of this is the idea of "autonomous weapons" which can be programmed to kill humans in war.

Many countries have already banned autonomous weapons in war, but there are other ways AI could be programmed to harm humans. Experts worry that as AI evolves, it may be used for nefarious purposes and harm humanity.

Another concern, somewhat

related to the last, is that AI will be given a beneficial goal, but will develop destructive behaviors as it attempts to accomplish that goal. An example of this could be an AI system tasked with something beneficial, such as helping to rebuild an endangered marine creature's ecosystem. But in doing so, it may decide that other parts of the ecosystem are unimportant and destroy their habitats. And it could also view human intervention to fix or prevent this as a threat to its goal.

Not that many years ago, the idea of superhuman AI seemed fanciful. But with recent developments in the field of AI, researchers now believe it may happen within the next few decades, though they don't know exactly when. With these rapid advancements, it becomes even more important that the safety and regulation of AI be

researched and discussed at the national and international levels.

In 2015, many leading technology experts (including Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, and Steve Wozniak) signed an open letter on AI that called for research on the societal impacts of AI. Some of the concerns raised in the letter cover things like the ethics of autonomous weapons being used in war, and safety concerns around autonomous vehicles. In the longer term, the letter posits that unless care is taken, humans can easily lose control of AI and its goals and methods.

The importance of AI safety is to keep humans safe and to ensure that proper regulations are in place to ensure that AI acts as it should. These issues may not seem immediate, but addressing them now can prevent much worse outcomes in the future.

Making sure that AI is fully and

completely aligned to human goals is surprisingly difficult and takes careful programming. AI with ambiguous and ambitious goals are worrisome, as we don't know what path it might decide to take to its given goal.

Yet, most experts, regardless of whether they are optimistic or not, expressed concerns about the long-term impact of these new tools on the essential elements of being human. All respondents in this non-scientific canvassing were asked to elaborate on why they felt AI would leave people better off or not. Many shared deep worries, and many also suggested pathways toward solutions. The main themes they sounded about threats and remedies are outlined in the accompanying table.

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer



What Links Aging And Disease?

A Growing Body Of Research Says It's A Faulty Metabolism

Melanie R. McReynolds

Aging is a biological process that no one can avoid. Ideally, growing old should be a time to relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Aging also has a darker side, however, often linked to disease.

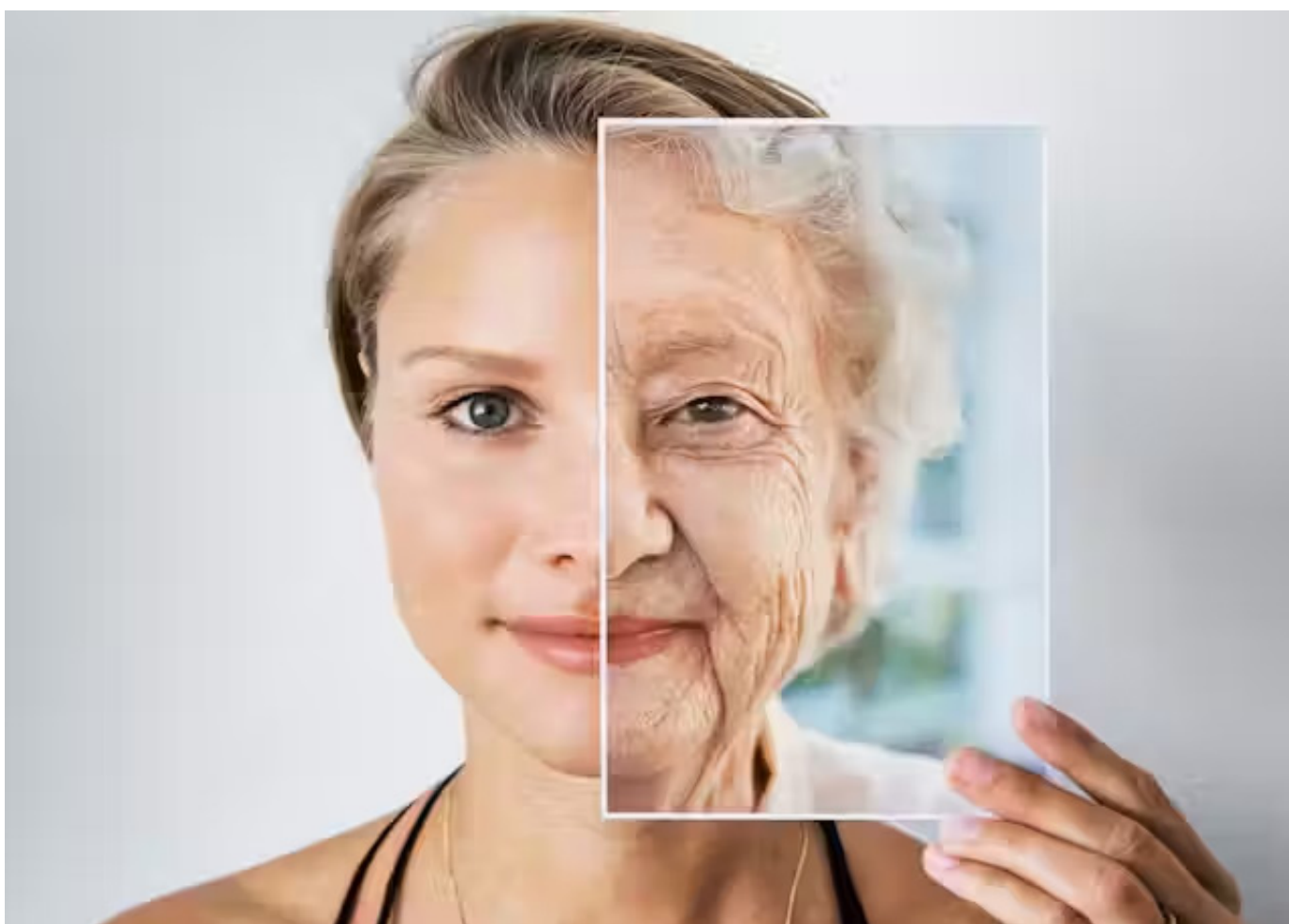
Every second, your cells perform billions of biochemical reactions that fuel essential functions for life, forming a highly interconnected metabolic network. This network enables cells to grow, proliferate and repair themselves, and its disruption can drive the aging process.

But does aging cause metabolic decline, or does metabolic disruption accelerate aging? Or both?

To address this chicken-or-egg question, you first need to understand how metabolic processes break down during aging and disease. I am a scientist and researcher, and my lab focuses on exploring the complex relationship between metabolism, stress and aging. Ultimately, we hope this work will provide strategies to promote healthier aging and more vibrant lives.

LINK BETWEEN METABOLISM AND AGING

Aging is the most significant risk factor for many of society's most common diseases, including diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurodegenerative disorders. A key factor behind the onset of these health issues is the disruption of cellular and metabolic homeostasis, or balance. Disrupting homeostasis destabilizes the body's internal environment, leading to imbalances that can trigger a



cascade of health issues, including metabolic disorders, chronic diseases and impaired cellular functions that contribute to aging and other serious conditions.

Disrupted metabolism is linked to many hallmarks of aging cells, such as telomere shortening, which is damage to the protective ends of chromosomes, and genomic instability, the tendency to form

genetic mutations.

A dysfunctional metabolism is also linked to poorly functioning mitochondria; cellular senescence, or when cells stop dividing; imbalances in gut microbes; and cells' reduced ability to detect and respond to different nutrients.

Neurological disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, are prime examples of age-related conditions with a

strong link between dysregulated metabolism and functional decline. For example, my research team previously discovered that in aging mice, the ability of bone marrow cells to produce, store and use energy is suppressed due to increased activity from a protein that modulates inflammation. This energy-deficient state leads to an increase in inflammation that's wors-

ened by these aging cells' reliance on glucose as their main fuel source.

Experimentally inhibiting this protein in the bone marrow cells of aging mice, however, revitalizes the cells' ability to produce energy, reduces inflammation and improves plasticity of an area of the brain involved in memory. This finding suggests that some cognitive aging could be

reversed by reprogramming the glucose metabolism of bone marrow cells to restore immune functions.

REPURPOSING DRUGS TO TREAT ALZHEIMER'S

In our newly published research, my team and I discovered a new connection between disrupted glucose metabolism and neurodegenerative disease. This led us to identify a drug originally designed for cancer that could potentially be used to treat Alzheimer's.

We focused on an enzyme called IDO1 that plays a critical role in the first step of breaking down amino acid tryptophan. This pathway produces a key compound called kynurenine, which fuels additional energy pathways and inflammatory responses. However, excessive kynurenine can have detrimental effects, including increasing the risk of developing Alzheimer's.

We found that inhibiting IDO1 can recover memory and brain function in a range of preclinical models, including in cell cultures and mice. To understand why, we looked at the metabolism of brain cells. The brain is one of the most glucose-dependent tissues in the body. An inability to properly use glucose to fuel critical brain processes can lead to metabolic and cognitive decline.

High levels of IDO1 reduce glucose metabolism by producing excess kynurenine. So IDO1 inhibitors – originally designed to treat cancers such as melanoma, leukemia and breast cancer – could be repurposed to reduce kynurenine and improve brain function.

Using a range of lab models, including mice and cells from Alzheimer's patients, we also found that IDO1 inhibitors can restore glucose metabolism in brain cells. Furthermore, we were able to restore glucose metabolism in mice with both amyloid and tau accumulation – abnormal proteins involved in many neurodegenerative disorders – by blocking IDO1. We believe repurposing these inhibitors could be beneficial across various neurodegenerative disorders.

PROMOTING HEALTHIER COGNITIVE AGING

The effects of neurological disorders and metabolic decline weigh heavily on individuals, families and the economy.

While many scientists have focused on targeting the downstream effects of these diseases, such as managing symptoms and slowing progression, treating these diseases earlier can improve cognition with aging. Our findings suggest that targeting metabolism has the potential to not only slow neurological decline but also to reverse the progression of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and dementia.

Discovering new insights at the intersection of stress, metabolism and aging can pave the way for healthier aging. More research can improve our understanding of how metabolism affects stress responses and cellular balance throughout life.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Speedy Disposal Of 5-Year-old Cases HC Issues Additional Guidelines

KO Correspondent

Jammu: In order to streamline the disposal of more than 5-year-old cases, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued "additional" guidelines to achieve the endeavor.

According to a fresh circular issued by the Court's Registrar General for adherence by the District Judiciary, the Principal District Judges of each District has been asked to constitute a 'District Case Management Committee' presided over by himself, a senior Additional District Judge (if available) and a Senior Civil Judge preferably CJM to supervise the case management strategy.

"The committee may invite the Judicial Officers concerned in whose courts the oldest cases are pending, the President(s), office bearers and members of the Bar Associations as well as Govt. Pleaders and Public Prosecutors to the meetings if it is felt necessary," reads the circular.

The District Case Management Committee, the circular says, shall hold periodical meetings at the District Headquarters on the last working day of every month. "The Judicial officers working at places other than the District Headquarters may opt to attend the meeting through virtual mode."

The Pr. District Judge, it

says, shall set the schedule and Agenda of review meetings of the Case Management Committee on monthly basis to monitor the progress of disposal of old cases and to issue directions or make suggestions to Judicial Officers for the speedy disposal of such oldest /target cases.

The District Case Management Committee, it says, shall identify and indicate oldest cases in the Courts of the Magistrates, Civil Judges or in the Courts of District & Sessions Judges, identify target cases and ensure, in consultation with the Administrative Judge of the District, the equitable and rationalized distribution of the oldest /target cases among judicial Officers within the District regard being had to the nature of the cases and their stage of proceedings. "Wherever practicable the complicated cases shall be assigned to the senior and more experienced Judicial Officers."

The District Case Management Committee, it says, shall also tackle the difficulty arising out of non-appearance or non-production of accused and the witnesses in criminal cases.

"The District Case Management Committee shall prepare the list of the old criminal cases pending trial or disposal before different Courts in the District in which the Police

have failed to serve the witness summons or warrants or in which the Police are unable to ensure the presence of the accused," the circular says, adding, "The Committee can hold meeting with the District SPs and the Public Prosecutors in this regard."

The Committee may, if required, request District SPs to appoint Senior Police Officers as nodal officers who shall supervise the service of summons on the witnesses in the criminal cases and ensure the presence of the accused before the courts, it says.

"The Committee can also devise a mechanism at the local level in consultation with the District SPs & the Public Prosecutors which can help ensure the strict compliance with the direction of the Courts for production of witnesses before the Courts & for ensuring presence of the accused."

The High Court also clarified that an endeavor shall be made to dispose of the oldest case(s) on merits and "easy recourse to dismissal of the matters for non-prosecution or deciding the cases ex-parte shall not be taken, unless it is absolutely warranted by the facts of the case."

"Hon'ble the Chief Justice will personally monitor the above guidelines," the circular added.

AIP Sees Resurgence In Political Activities Amid Party Chief's Detention

Agencies

Srinagar: The Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), led by the incarcerated Member of Parliament (MP), Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, is experiencing a resurgence in political activities despite the prolonged detention of its leader. Several prominent figures have recently joined the party.

The party, which has been a vocal advocate for the rights of the Kashmiri people, continues to mobilise support across Jammu & Kashmir, especially following the parliamentary polls in which Er Rashid won the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat. He defeated Omar Abdullah, the former chief minister and the National Conference Vice President, by a margin of over 200,000 votes.

Er Rashid, known for his outspoken stance on various political issues, has been in detention since 2019 on charges of terror funding. The former legislator was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Despite Rashid's imprisonment, AIP has managed to maintain its political relevance, largely due to the efforts of its second-rank leadership and grassroots supporters. This



includes his son, Abrar Rashid, who played a major role in the Lok Sabha polls with his impressive campaigning for his jailed father.

In addition to its core members like Khurshid Ahmed Dar (DDC Mawar) and Showket Pandit (BDC Langate), the party has seen new faces since the Lok Sabha polls.

Shoib Nabi Lone, who left Azad-led DPAP, was the first prominent figure to join AIP. Other notable additions include Adv Dawood of Lolab, Yasir Reshi of Sonawari (who recently parted ways with the People's Conference), Naseer Ahmed Rather of Wagoora

(who left a government job), Sheikh Aashiq (former KCCI president of Srinagar), Adv Hubi Javed of Budgam, Nazir Ahmed Khan (DDC Chairman, Budgam), Raja Waheed (DDC Shopian), and Ch Anwar Phambra, a prominent Gujjar leader from south Kashmir. A number of people from various walks of life have also joined the party.

Party sources revealed AIP is planning to field around 35 candidates in the upcoming elections, including approximately 12 in south Kashmir, 8 in central Kashmir, all 16 in north Kashmir and a few from the Chenab Valley.

The AIP is gearing up for the forthcoming assembly elections, with Abrar Rashid emerging as a star campaigner, they said, adding that crowds have been gathering in large numbers in both north Kashmir and the southern parts of the valley to show their support.

"Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) remains committed to meeting the people's expectations. We assure the people that the party will always be available in times of need," Abrar said.

Other political parties are also preparing for the elections, with people hoping for better future plans to improve their lives—(KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

RG To Kickstart

be held on September 18, 25, and October 1.

"Rahul ji will kickstart the party's campaign from tomorrow. He will address two public rallies in Ramban and Anantnag districts in support of Congress candidates on Wednesday," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief Tariq Hamid Karra said.

The Congress and the National Conference have entered into a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, being held for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019.

Karra said Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Jammu from Delhi on Wednesday and then fly to the Gool area of Ramban district to address a rally in the afternoon.

He will campaign for former Jammu and Kashmir unit chief of the party Vikar Rasool Wani, who is contesting from the Banihal assembly constituency. Polling for the seat will be held in the first phase on September 18.

Gandhi will then fly to the Dooru area of Anantnag district, where he will address another rally in support of Congress General Secretary and former minister Ghulam Ahmed Mir, who is contesting the Dooru assembly segment.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha will return to Delhi in the evening from Srinagar, he said.

Karra exuded confidence that Gandhi's campaign will give a new impetus to the party's public outreach during the elections and improve its poll prospects.

Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Vikar Rasool Wani, and former Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Peerzada Mohammad Syed are contesting in the first phase of the elections.

According to the seat-sharing pact reached by the National Conference (NC) and Congress, the former will contest 51 seats and the latter 32 seats. The two parties will have friendly contests on five seats and they left one seat each for the CPI(M) and the Panthers Party.

26 Candidates File

said 14 candidates submitted their nominations for the seats in the Kashmir valley on Tuesday, taking the total number of nominees who have filed their papers so far to 26.

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah, who is contesting the election from Ganderbal, is likely to file his nomination papers on Wednesday.

The last date for filing nominations for the second phase is September 5, while a scrutiny of the documents will take place on September 6. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is September 9.

Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to go to polls in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1, and the counting of votes will be taken up on October 8. (Inputs from PTI)

Shopian Set For

ving for the seat are Sheikh Rafi of NC, Yawar Ahmad Bandy of PDP and Shabir Ahmad Kullay, who is contesting as an independent after leaving NC.

In the 2014 elections, Shabir Kullay,

as an independent candidate, secured around 12,000 votes, while the NC candidate Rafi Ahmad garnered approximately 5,000 votes. The division of votes between Rafi and Kullay, who together received around 17,000 votes, allowed PDP's Advocate Mohammad Yousuf to win with about 14,000 votes.

Analysts say a similar split in votes could again benefit the PDP candidate.

Shabir Kullay, who has served as the Bar Association President in District Court Shopian, has a strong ground presence, especially in the Keller hamlet. The support of two District Development Council (DDC) members, Safia Riyaz and Sheikh Abdul Hamid, has further boosted his chances of emerging victorious.

However, the resignation of DDC member Raja Waheed from the PDP to join the AIP and contest the elections may impact the PDP's vote share, particularly in the Keegam area, according to analysts.

Yawar Ahmad Bandy, the PDP's candidate, comes from a political family. His grandfather was the first MLA of the Shopian Constituency in 1972, and his father, Mohammed Shafi Bandy, was long associated with the Congress.

Despite these strong political ties, the frequent changes in PDP candidates over the last three terms might pose a challenge in maintaining consistent voter support, analysts say.

For the NC, Sheikh Rafi, who won the assembly elections in 1996 but has not succeeded since, will be looking to reclaim the seat that was once considered a stronghold of the National Conference. His father, Sheikh Mansoor, had a long history of victories in Shopian, winning elections in 1977, 1983, and 1987.

The support of former MLC and senior political leader Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, who recently quit the Apni Party, is seen as crucial in this election. His backing could be decisive for any of the three candidates.

Analysts believe that with a history of switching affiliations and a good local following, Manhas's support might influence the outcome of this closely contested race. (KNO)

Young Guns Lead

Engineering, represents a new generation stepping up to continue the political legacies of their predecessors.

The PDP has placed its trust in 37-year-old Iltija Mufti, daughter of former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, by nominating her from the Bijbehara assembly seat. Iltija, who holds a master's degree in International Relations, has been a vocal presence on social media, engaging with nearly 10,000 followers on X (formerly Twitter).

Similarly, 39-year-old Waheed Parra, another PDP candidate, has been chosen to contest from Pulwama. Known for his articulate speeches and significant social media following, Parra has previously run for the Srinagar parliamentary seat, although he was defeated by a Congress candidate. Now, he is ready for another political challenge in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly.

Congress has introduced 33-year-old Mohammad Zafarullah as its candidate from the Indrawal seat. Zafarullah, an economist by training, is new to the political scene but faces stiff competition from his equally young rivals.

In Doda West, Congress has fielded 38-year-old Pradeep Bhagat, who holds a Ph.D. in English. Meanwhile, the BSP has chosen Meenakshi Bhagat, a 25-year-old engineering graduate, and 33-year-old Arshad Muthir, a physicist, to contest from Bhaderwah and Pader Nagseni, respectively.

The National Conference has also joined the youth movement by nominating 40-year-old Pooja Thakur, a political science graduate, from the Indrawal seat. Additionally, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party has placed its bet on 28-year-old Fatima Begum, whose education extends to the 12th grade. (KNO)

Mehbooba Rules

asserted that no government formation after the assembly polls will be possible without her party.

"We formed a government with only 16 MLAs (in 2002). God willing, this time also, no government will be formed without (the inclusion) of the PDP," she added.

However, she said the PDP's focus is more on implementing its agenda and less on government formation.

Mehbooba, whose party formed the coalition government in 2015 with the BJP, ruled out an alliance with the saffron party after the polls.

The party had joined hands with the BJP for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Today, there seems to be no scope for that as the BJP has undone all the efforts in that direction, she added.

Later while responding to a question about former NC leader Devender Singh Rana's remarks that the NC wanted to form government with the BJP in 2014, the PDP chief said whatever her party has done it has done it openly unlike the NC which does things secretly.

"When we were having talks with the Central government, not the BJP, through Ram Madhav, everyone knew it was done in the open. We brought an agenda and implemented it. We did not do it secretly like Omar (Abdullah)," she said.

"Rana is saying it now, Ghulam Nabi Azad said it before that they (NC leaders) meet them (BJP) in Delhi in the darkness. We do not do anything secretly," she said.

The former chief minister said her party does not have any contact with the BJP and "perhaps there will not be any".

The PDP chief also accused some police officials of "harassing" the people. "Some police officers have again become active and are harassing and arresting people by labelling them as OGWs. In the run up to the last elections, many people were arrested."

"I request the LG who says the elections will be free and fair, that SSPs, SHOs have started to harass people and call them to police stations, please tell them to stop this activity and stop harassing common people," she added.

Asked about Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's visit to J-K on Wednesday, Mehbooba said he is most welcome.

"He wants to come to Kashmir to campaign for his party, he has every right," she said.

AIP Releases List

Meanwhile, the party insiders at AIP said that the party has intensified its preparations for the electoral battle and that they are going to release the

manifesto within the next couple of days, which will outline its key policies and objectives.

Ram Madhav's Role

as he was instrumental earlier as well," Malik said. "Madhav can play a part in the formation of the government after elections."

Omar latched on to Malik's statement saying the latter had once close ties with the BJP, so knew better.

"Now, why and for what reason Ram Madhav came here, I can't say that. Only BJP can answer that but there is no doubt about the fact that if Ram Madhav is close to any political party (in J&K) that is PDP," he told reporters in Ganderbal.

Madhav is now the BJP's co-poll incharge along with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, for the Assembly elections. His advantage 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. But not much was known about his activities in the summer capital of the UT. Kashmir observers contend that his appointment shows that like the Congress, the BJP is also looking for alliance partners in the UT, more so in the valley. Although the saffron party is supposed to have an understanding with the parties such as the Apni Party, Democratic Progressive Azad Party and the People's Conference, none of them is publicly willing to acknowledge it for fear of losing support. All these parties not only failed to win a single seat in the recent parliamentary elections but also couldn't enthrone 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 also 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. And it could include the party in the valley which secures the largest number of seats, or the parties with a smaller number of seats but which together make up a decent total.

"Ensure Not An

direction upon officials to protect the "Mehfooz Kahcharia land"/Land Reserved for grazing purposes for the entire village to the extent of more than 191 Kanals at village Sheikhpora Tehsil and adjoining it.

The petitioner also seeks direction to authorities to demolish the various kinds/types of constructions made by the encroachers illegally and without any justification in the Mehfooz Kahcharia land/Land Reserved for Grazing purposes.

We Joined Poll

The Jama'at had moved an application before the Election Commission of India for the registration of their party name - Jammu Kashmir Justice and Development Front - but when their ban was ratified, they decided to contest the elections as Independent candidates.

"We want our candidates to work

for people. They should raise their voices on the ban imposed on us and also work at ground level," Lone said.

BJP's 'Proxy'

On many political parties accusing the Jamaat of acting as a "proxy" of the BJP, Gulam Qadir Lone put out a denial.

"There was a time when people used to say don't get associated with Congress and boycott them. But today everyone feels proud to be associated with Congress. I feel that our candidates should go to the people and work for them and not act like political leaders. Then no other party can win here," he said.

He also said the BJP will automatically win if leaders of other parties get into frivolous activities.

Lone also spoke on the People's Democratic Party (PDP) saying they would have accommodated candidates from the banned group if the outfit's leadership had approached party chief Mehbooba Mufti.

"We do not want any "inayat" (charity) from the PDP. If they wanted to help us, they would have done it earlier. Now what can they do," he said.

Countering the claim of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah who said that Jamaat was behind the bloodshed in the Valley, Lone said they "did not shed any blood".

"We always believed in the Constitution. We filled in affidavits and swore by the Constitution whenever we participated in elections," Lone said.

On Jama'at Leaders Fighting J&K Polls

Four former Jama'at leaders are contesting the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, which are taking place for the first in 10 years. They have been fielded from Pulwama, Kulgam, Devsar, and Zanipura.

"We decided to field four candidates only due to financial constraints. Moreover, our candidates should also have grassroots support and should believe in our ideology," Gulam Qadir Lone said.

Talat Majeed, the former ameer (chief) of Jamaat who filed his nomination papers from the Pulwama constituency as an independent candidate, also said, "We will only say what we can do. Some parties have raised the issue of Article 370 again but then their leaders only say it will take 100 years to restore it. I want to ask if it will take 100 years then why are you raising this issue IN these elections."

Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated by the Narendra Modi government on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Sayar Ahmad Reshi, another former Jama'at leader who is contesting the elections from the Kulgam Assembly seat, said unemployment and drugs are two main issues concerning the youth.

"We hope to work on both these issues," he said.

Assembly polls are being held in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370. The polls will be held in three phases from September 18 to October 1 and the counting of votes will take place

on October 4.

Denied Mandate,

party leadership has favored familial ties over merit.

"Mian Altaf was made a Member of Parliament, while his son was given the ticket for the Kangan constituency. In Khanyar, Ali Mohammad Sagar is contesting, and his son has been given the party ticket from the Hazratbal constituency. Similarly, Akbar Lone was a Member of Parliament, and his son, Hilal Akbar, has been given the ticket from Sonawari," Akhooon said, pointing to what he perceives as a trend of dynastic favoritism within the party.

Akhooon further criticized the decision-making process within the NC, alleging that senior leaders have been sidelined.

"Ali Mohammad Sagar is younger than me; how dare he read his son's name as the contesting candidate from Hazratbal without consulting me? I was not taken on board, and after that, the party has continued to ignore my input," Akhooon alleged.

He also claimed that NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah had assured him that Salman Ali Sagar would not be contesting the assembly election from Hazratbal. "Farooq Sahib had assured me that the mandate from Hazratbal would be given either to me or Peer Afaq, whom he referred to as 'Bakra'. But nothing of the sort happened," Akhooon said, expressing his disillusionment with the promises made by the party leadership.

Akhooon revealed that he had tried to convey to Omar Abdullah, the party's vice-president, that Asiya Naqash from the PDP is a strong candidate and that only he could effectively contest against her. "Omar told me he would discuss it with Dr. Farooq, but after that, I was never consulted again," he added.

Reflecting on his loyalty to the National Conference, Akhooon said, "I not only saved the National Conference in Hazratbal but also upheld it as a party. I stood with the party when others were scared, but now, I am not being taken into confidence anymore."

The veteran leader also voiced concerns over the discontent among NC workers in Hazratbal, who, according to him, are demanding a local candidate. "The workers see Salman Sagar as a non-local, and their only demand was for a local candidate from Hazratbal," Akhooon asserted.

In a scathing remark, Akhooon accused Omar Abdullah of being responsible for his defeat in the previous election. He also alleged that Dr. Farooq Abdullah is merely a titular head, with the real decisions being made by Omar Abdullah.

Akhooon further claimed that the party has been hijacked by Ali Mohammad Sagar and Nasir Aslam Wani.

He said that he would not lead a campaign in the upcoming assembly election.

Adding to the turmoil within the NC, Saleem Lone, a corporator from the party, joined the PDP along with his supporters.

The move is seen as another blow to the NC in Hazratbal and is expected to further strengthen Asiya Naqash's chances of winning the constituency.

With internal dissent threatening to undermine its prospects, the NC faces an uphill battle in the forthcoming assembly elections, at least in the Hazratbal Assembly Segment.

J&K Bank Collaborates With SKIMS To Help Poor Patients Fight Cancer



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, J&K Bank today contributed Rs. 20 Lacs to SKIMS Soura for procurement of Platelet/Therapeutic-Plasma Apheresis kits, essential for the treatment of patients suffering from cancer and other severe blood disorders.

In an event held at SKIMS Soura, the Bank's General Manager (CSR), Syed Rais Maqbool, handed over the cheque to the Director of (SKIMS) Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganai in the presence of Medical Superintendent (SKIMS) Dr Farooq Ahmad Jan, HoD (Oncology Department) Dr Javeed Rasool, Bank's Divisional Head Shabir Ahmad, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Raja Zaffar, Cluster Head Asmat Ara, Branch Head (SKIMS) Javed Makhdoom along with other officials from both the Bank and SKIMS. The highlight of the event was the presence of children who have fought and survived blood cancer by displaying extraordinary courage and patience.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Rais Maqbool highlighted the importance of financial support for the purchase of life-saving kits. He said, "Beyond our financial services, we continue to look for ways and means for the well-being of people through our targeted CSR activities, particularly in the health sector, which is the cornerstone of a thriving society. Therefore, being cognizant of the continuous rise in the number of terminally ill patients in J&K, we feel it as our duty to step in and provide some support."

"This contribution, though modest, reflects our commitment to helping those in need, especially in critical health situations where financial issues can prove to be life-threatening. We hope that our humble contributions will continue to alleviate some

of the hardships faced by many patients and their families", he added.

Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganai, Director SKIMS, in his address, thanked J&K Bank's management for thinking and acting beyond business and rendering support to the underprivileged children suffering from blood cancer and other blood dysfunctional diseases. "I believe this is the spirit and purpose of Corporate Social Responsibility. An initiative that ensures support to patients in distress due to the monster called cancer is commendable. You are collaborating with the SKIMS and caregivers of patients to give hope to the patients who are out there to fight cancer with all their will", he emphasized.

Stating that SKIMS and J&K Bank have become the ambassadors of Jammu & Kashmir by displaying extraordinary commitment to the society, Prof. Ganai hoped that the decades-long strong association that the two institutions enjoy will continue to flourish in the larger interest of the people of the region.

Notwithstanding J&K Bank's wonderful contribution in providing banking and finance-related services to the people, it has earned huge respect and goodwill among people by undertaking such people-friendly initiatives under its CSR, he added.

He also expressed hope that J&K Bank would continue to expand its CSR contributions towards healthcare, given the growing number of patients in need.

Present on the occasion, the parents along with the surviving paediatric cancer patients recounted their tales of desperation as well as resilience and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Bank for their critical and timely support, which they said, "came as a heavenly healing for their beloved children."

BJP Will Be The Strongest In J&K Elections: Darakshan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: BJP National Executive Member & senior party leader Dr Syed Darakshan Andrabi addressed a youth rally in Rajpora constituency of Pulwama held as a part of the election campaigning for the BJP youth leader & party candidate Arshid Bhat.

The rally was participated by youth in large numbers. Many prominent youth voices of the area joined the BJP. After the joining of the new youth brigade into the party, Arshid Bhat said that the public support and response was truly encouraging and he was sure of making a mark during the elections.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party, Dr Darakshan said that Arshid Bhat has won over the people's trust and faith by his social service activities during the past few years.

He has a strong support base among the youth. She appealed to the people to vote for this dynamic young candidate. "BJP will emerge as the strongest political force in J&K during these elections. The people are fed up with the rhetoric of dynasts and want a change", said Dr Andrabi. Reacting to the hollow manifestoes and lectures of the dynastic politicians, Dr Andrabi said that they were a desperate lot as they list the grip at the ground level after August 2019.

"These dynasts in touch with separatists, nourished the bloodshed and disturbing situations for decades and ruled to loot without any accountability but now the situations are altogether different. We can never allow the loot politics to continue in J&K as we are now in the journey for a Viksit Jammu & Kashmir", said BJP National Executive Member.

NATURE'S FURY: Hailstorm Wrecks Apple Crop In Kulgam, Shopian

Orchardists Urge Govt For Financial Assistance

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The 'near-total' destruction caused by the intense hailstorm coupled with 'cyclone-like' winds to the horticulture sector, the mainstay of the valley economy, has led to huge losses to the orchardists in Kulgam and Shopian districts of south Kashmir.



The orchardists in the twin districts of south Kashmir are now somewhat dependent on administrative help to overcome their losses after witnessing their year-long arduous efforts for a desired yield 'wrecked' by a catastrophic hailstorm.

"While some areas could recover from the damage caused to the nearly matured crop by hailstorm a day earlier, many others are left with unimaginably huge losses," Zahoor-ul-Islam, an orchardist from Kulgam informed Kashmir Observer.

The losses to the apple crop covering thousands of kanals of orchard land, according to Islam, had surpassed Rs 1500 crore approximately.

The Arreh village in Kulgam, he said, suffered 30 to 40 percent damage from hailstorm, followed by 25 to 30 percent in Nillu village of the district.

"It is unlikely that the losses to the apple harvest would be less than 50 to 60 percent given severity of the hailstorm and gust that not only washed away the nearly matured crop but also injured fruit on trees," he said, adding, orchardists will have to pick apples before the stipulated period if the rain continues.

The damage caused by the hailstorm is being assessed, according to Mohammad Ramzan War, Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam.

"It would be illogical to speculate on losses until a report is submitted in this regard. Many teams have been entrusted with gathering information about the damage

done to the apple crop," War told Kashmir Observer.

The storm lasted for 10-15 minutes with hail for 1-2 minutes. The tentative village wise status released by the Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam indicate damage ranging from 15-25% across affected zones in Kulgam.

Besides destroying apple production, the hailstorm also damaged the pear crop in the district, leaving orchardists 'inconsolable'.

"The losses orchardists' suffered from the hailstorm and catastrophic winds cannot be recouped. Since Kashmir is the epicenter of apple cultivation in India, the valley produces over 25-26 lakh metric tons, or 78% of the country's yearly apple output. So in order to partially offset the losses, we rely on administrative support," a grower from Vehil village of Shopian added.

Besides injuring fruit on trees, which according to horticulture expert Mohammad Dilawar of Kapran village in the Shopian district, cannot be plucked being squandered, the hailstorm caused near-total destruction to almost ripe crops.

In the Shopian district, the storm severely damaged crops, particularly apple, in the following areas: Kapran, Rawalpora, Nowgam, Kachdoora, Chak Kachdoora, Vehil, and adjacent villages.

"The apple crop spanning across thousands of Kanals of orchard land is almost damaged, resulting in losses to



Two Left Bundle Pacing On C-Arm Performed At GMC Anantnag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A team of cardiologists led by Dr Syed Maqbool and including Dr Shamim Iqbal and Dr Showkat Shah did two left bundle pacing on C-arm and without EP backup successfully, three days back at GMC Anantnag.

Pertinently, the left bundle pacing is a new concept of pacing where the pacemaker lead is fixed into the conduction system of the heart and notably the left bundle branch.

In routine pacemaker implantation, the lead is generally implanted at cardiac apex, which leads to pacemaker induced cardiomyopathy in around 20% of patients, causing heart failure in them. Putting a lead in the left bundle almost reduces this complication to zero. This procedure assumes particular importance in another procedure called CRTP implantation done for dilated cardiomyopathy.

CRTP implantation is done to

improve the pumping of heart in these patients, three leads are implanted each in RA and RV and coronary sinus.

Dr Maqbool said that this procedure has a 25% non-responder rate, wherein the patient's heart pumping does not improve despite a successful procedure. Putting the third lead in the left bundle area not only increases the responder rate to more than 95%, but the response is faster.

"Left bundle pacing's a relatively new procedure is done in many centers, including SKIMS and SMHS, but inside a Cath lab and with EP backup. This is for the first time that somebody has attempted a left bundle pacing on C arm and without EP back up," Dr Maqbool said.

Both patients underwent a successful procedure and are discharged.

Principal GMC Anantnag Prof Dr Rukhsana Najeeb supervised the anaesthesia and critical care backup of these patients.

Dir SKIMS To Hold Charge Of Principal SKIMS Medical College Bemina

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K administration on Tuesday assigned the charge of the post of Principal SKIMS Medical College Bemina to Director SKIMS Soura.

As per an order issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, Dr Irfan Robbani, who was holding charge of Principal SKIMS Medical College Bemina has been directed to report to the parent department.

"Consequent upon the completion of tenure of Prof. (Dr.) Irfan Robbani as Principal, SKIMS

Medical College/Hospital, Bemina, and in view of imposition of Model Code of Conduct and in the interest of administration and patient care, Director, SKIMS Soura shall hold the charge of the post of Principal, SKIMS Medical College/Hospital, Bemina, in addition to his own duties, till regular arrangement is made," reads the order.

"Prof. (Dr.) Irfan Robbani shall report back to his parent department viz. Radio Diagnosis & Imaging in SKIMS Soura, with immediate effect," the order adds.

Farooq Welcomes Former MLA Radhey Sham Sharma Into NC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday welcomed Ex-MLA Nousehra and Former Chairman of Kisan Board, Radheysham Sharma into JKNC.

Dr Farooq expressed optimism that his joining would strengthen the party's presence on the ground. Dr. Abdullah urged him to actively promote the party's vision and mission,

as outlined in the party manifesto, to every doorstep.

Dr Farooq also welcomed political activist Irfan Gull from Kulgam into the party ranks. State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar was also present on the occasion.

Irfan has been affiliated with CPIM, serving as a District Committee Member of CPI(M) Kulgam and Area Secretary of CPI(M) Kulgam-A. In addition, he has held positions as a Central Executive Member of DYFI and the General Secretary of JKDYF.

Patients Seek Govt Intervention As Private Hospitals Stop Ayushman Bharat Services

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of patients in Jammu & Kashmir have called for immediate government intervention after private hospitals in the union territory halted services under the Ayushman Bharat scheme starting September 1.

The decision has raised serious concerns among patients who rely on these services for essential medical treatments, though the government claims steps have been taken to ensure no patient suffers.

Several patients said that the government to step in and ensure the resumption of these crucial healthcare services.

The private hospitals in Jammu & Kashmir have ceased operations under the Ayushman Bharat scheme due to the non-receipt of funds, amounting to around Rs 200 crore, since March this year.

In November of last year, IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance

Company, the insurer for Ayushman Bharat in J&K, informed the State Health Agency (SHA) that they would not renew the contract after it expires on March 14, 2025. Initially, the scheme was managed by Bajaj Allianz GIC, whose contract ended in 2022. IFFCO-TOKIO was brought in as a replacement but has since sought to withdraw from the scheme, citing financial losses. Despite requests from the SHA for the company to continue operations in the interest of patient care, IFFCO-TOKIO has refused.

The SHA approached the high court to prevent the company from exiting the scheme, but the petition was dismissed on February 2, further complicating the situation. The government later appealed to the division bench to stay the single bench's order, making the issue sub-judice.

Recently, the high court directed IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company to continue



with the existing arrangement as per the terms and conditions of the contract agreement for Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT (AB-PMJAY-SEHAT) pending resolution of the dispute with the UT Government by the Arbitrator. However, the company has yet to start implementing the scheme, prompting authorities to file a contempt petition against it.

Sanjiv M Gadkar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the State Health Agency, Jammu and Kashmir, said that they have filed a contempt petition against the company. "We have asked public hospitals to operate 24x7, including starting night shifts, and dialysis patients are being referred there for treatment," he said.

He said the patients can call the toll-free number 104 to pro-

vide their details, and the agency will arrange their treatment free of charge.

Gadkar said that private hospitals' dues currently amount to around Rs 165 crore. "We have assured all private hospitals that they have been paid regularly for the last four years without delay. However, due to the ongoing case, payments are delayed, and we have assured them that they will be paid immediately once the issue is resolved," he added.

Meanwhile, the government on Tuesday assured uninterrupted treatment under Ayushman Bharat JAY SEHAT.

The statement was issued following various news articles and reports regarding dialysis patients suffering due to the refusal and charging of cash by private hospitals to provide treatments under the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana (ABJAY) SEHAT.

The government informed the public that IFFCO-TOKIO discon-

tinued the implementation of the scheme effective March 15, 2024, resulting in Empaneled Health Care Providers (EHCPs) not receiving payments for treatments provided under the scheme. Despite the High Court's judgment directing IFFCO-TOKIO to implement the scheme, the company has not done so, causing significant hardships for patients.

The government said it has made every effort to ensure free treatment for patients under the scheme with the support of private EHCPs. "The government remains committed to providing the best health services to all patients and beneficiaries in Jammu & Kashmir," a government spokesperson said. He said the government has already mobilised its resources to provide treatment to all patients through robust public hospitals, ensuring that no patient is left without care.

"Patients facing denial of treatment at private EHCPs should

call the toll-free number 104 to register their names. The State Health Agency (SHA) will ensure these patients receive treatment at nearby public hospitals free of charge under the scheme," the spokesperson said.

He added, "There is no need for dialysis patients to panic or worry about treatment refusals by private EHCPs under the Golden Card. The government of J&K assures that all patients will receive free and timely treatment under the Golden Card at EHCPs."

He said the government of J&K remains committed to the principles of the AB-PM JAY/SEHAT scheme, which aims to provide accessible and affordable healthcare to all. "The health and well-being of citizens remain a top priority, upholding the objectives of the Ayushman Bharat - Jan Arogya Yojana/SEHAT," the spokesperson said. "Patients are urged to call 104 for further details, support and assistance—(KNO)

Paralympians Sheetal, Rakesh Become First Olympic Medallists From J&K

Agencies

JAMMU: Ace archers of Jammu and Kashmir Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar have bagged a bronze medal in the compound open archery mixed team event at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

The 39-year-old Rakesh Kumar hails from Katra, Reasi, teamed up with 17-year-old Sheetal Devi from village of Loidhar, Kishtwar, in the mixed event. The duo defeated Italy's Matteo Bonacina and Eleonora Sarti 156-155 to clinch bronze, just a few minutes after India suffered a narrow loss to Iran in the semi-finals. India won bronze after the 17-year-old Sheetal's shot was upgraded following a revision.

The duo has become first Olympic medalists from Jammu and Kashmir and interestingly it is only the second time that India has won a medal in Paralympic archery.

Coach Kuldeep Vedhwan praised their perseverance, especially highlighting the role of 17-year-old Sheetal, who became the first Indian woman to win an archery medal at the Paralympics.

ABOUT SHEETAL DEVI



Born in 2007 with phocomelia, a rare congenital disorder that results in underdeveloped limbs, has overcome immense physical challenges to become a top-tier archer. Her arms did not fully form, but her indomitable spirit and dedication to the sport have made her a

Paralympic medalist at just 17 years old. Sheetal's incredible story began in 2019 at a youth event in Kishtwar, where her exceptional athletic abilities caught the attention of coaches from the Indian Army. Known for her ability to climb trees using only her legs, Sheetal's

unique physical strength and determination were undeniable.

RAKESH KUMAR

Rakesh Kumar was born on 13 January, 1985 in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir. His father works as a carpenter whereas his mother is a housewife. In 2010, Rakesh met with an accident and as a result, both of his legs were paralysed. Ever since, Rakesh has remained on a wheelchair, and in the aftermath of the accident, Rakesh even considered committing suicide.

Years have passed since that accident and now Rakesh is one of the most noted athletes in India.

PM, LG PRAISE THE DUO

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hailed the team spirit demonstrated by athletes Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar by winning a Bronze medal in the Mixed Team Compound Open Archery at the ongoing Paris Paralympics.

Lieutenant Manoj Sinha also congratulated Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar for winning Bronze in Mixed Team Compound Open Archery even at Paris Paralympics 2024. (KNO)

Australia Captain Cummins Eyes Redemption In India Test Series



Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Australian captain Pat Cummins is looking at the upcoming five-match Test series against India as an opportunity to "make amends" for the successive home series defeats against their fierce rivals. The Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which begins on November 22 in Perth, is expected to be a closely contested affair.

India has retained the trophy in the last four series, spanning from 2016-17 to 2022-23, including defeating Australia in their own backyard in the 2018-19 and 2020-21 series. However, Cummins hopes to draw confidence from Australia's victory over India in the World Test Championship Final in London last year.

"The last two series here in Australia, we haven't been successful, so it's been a long time. Hopefully, it's time to make

amends," Cummins told Star Sports. "You know, we've played them (India) plenty of times where they've beaten us, but we've also had plenty of wins against them as well, which we'll draw confidence from. The most recent Test match was, of course, the World Test Championship in neutral conditions, and we came out on top in that match. It's always fiercely competitive, and it always feels like it's 50-50. I'm 10 out of 10 excited for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy."

Senior batter Steve Smith echoed the skipper's sentiments, emphasizing that it will be a "big summer" for Australia against a "well-balanced" Indian team.

"You know, it's going to be a great series. India has been playing outstanding cricket. We've been playing really good cricket the last couple of years. You know, we haven't beaten

India the last two times they've come out here," Smith said. "Obviously got a terrific side, very well-balanced team, all bases covered. So, you know, they've played really good cricket out here. They've played good cricket when we've been over in India as well, where we know they're very, very difficult to beat. So it's going to be a big summer. It's going to be an exciting one."

Pacer Mitchell Starc highlighted the importance of the rivalry, placing it on par with the Ashes.

"For Australian cricket, you've got the Ashes and then you've got the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in there. I mean there's a long history in the Ashes but that Border-Gavaskar rivalry, if you like, has just grown from strength to strength over each series," Starc said. "And now we see it as a five-Test match series, which is fantastic for not only the rivalry but for the Test series as well. Whether it's the calibre of player, the calibre of matches that we see as fans and as cricketers just continues to grow strength on strength each series."

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell noted that an India-Australia contest in any format has become a must-watch affair.

"I think over the last few years, definitely, it feels like the two teams sort of swap places in the rankings quite a bit. Whichever format it is, you will always see these two teams at number one at some stage around the world," Maxwell said.

Bangladesh Thumps Pakistan In 2nd Test To Complete Historic Sweep



Agencies

RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh completed a second Test victory against Pakistan on the last afternoon on Tuesday and achieved an historic sweep of the series.

Needing 143 more runs on the final day with 10 wickets in hand, Bangladesh knocked them off for the loss of four wickets when Shakib Al Hasan hit the winning boundary through the covers.

Bangladesh recorded only its second overseas series win; the last was against the West Indies in 2009.

The tourists won the opening Test by 10 wickets and required just four days in the second after the first day was washed out in Rawalpindi.

Coming into the series, Bangladesh had lost 12 of its last 13 Tests against Pakistan and drew the other in 2015 at home.

But Shanto said the team believed in itself this time.

Bangladesh was 26-6 in the first innings but Litton Das' 138 and Mehdi Hasan Miraz's 78 allowed Pakistan only a 12-run lead.

Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana and Taskin Ahmed then dismissed Pakistan for 172 in the second innings — the

first time Bangladesh fast bowlers have taken all 10 wickets in an innings — and left Bangladesh a victory target of 184 in four sessions.

The top order showed plenty of resilience to flatten Pakistan plans of a dramatic comeback on the final day, with meaningful contributions from opener Zakir Hasan (40), Shanto (38) and Mominul Haque (34). Shakib, 21 not out and Mushfiqur Rahim, 22 not out, expertly finished the chase at 185-4 in the 56th over.

Pakistan missed chances when it chose not to review when fast bowler Mohammad Ali found the edge of Zakir's bat in the third over on Tuesday after Bangladesh resumed on 42 without loss. And Salman Ali Agha couldn't hold onto a difficult catch of Shadman Islam in the slips.

Shanto and Mominul then kept Pakistan's pacers at bay and watchfully played out leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, who finally got his first wicket in the match when Mominul miscued to mid-off.

The result extended Pakistan's miserable home record in tests to 10 consecutive matches without a win in 2 1/2 years. That's happened only once before, when Pakistan lost 11 straight at home from 1969-75. Shan Masood is the first Pakistan captain to lose his first five tests.

FIFA Says \$6.5 Billion Of International Spending In Transfer Window

Agencies

ZURICH: Spending on transfer fees in international men's player deals cooled off during the mid-year trading period, according to FIFA research published on Tuesday.

FIFA said clubs committed to spend \$6.46 billion on buying players in cross-border deals during the June-to-September transfer window — down from \$7.43 billion in the same period a year ago.

The average of transfer fees paid by clubs in Europe, by far the richest market, was \$3.13 million compared to \$3.8 million one year ago. The FIFA study is not a complete guide because it does not count the biggest transfer deal of the European offseason, nor does it include moves by players between two clubs in the same country.



Kylian Mbappé joined Real Madrid without a transfer fee being paid because the France star was a free agent after letting his contract expire at Paris Saint-Germain. Still, Madrid had to pay Mbappé a signing bonus variously reported as between \$110

million and \$165 million. The biggest transfer fees in cross-border deals were Julián Alvarez's move from Manchester City to Atletico Madrid, reported to be about 75 million euros (\$83 million) and Leny Yoro from Lille to Manchester United for a reported 62

million euros (\$69 million). ZURICH (AP) — Spending on transfer fees in international men's player deals cooled off during the mid-year trading period, according to FIFA research published on Tuesday. FIFA said clubs committed to spend \$6.46 billion

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Quitting Portugal Never Crossed My Mind, Says Ronaldo

Agencies

Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo dismissed suggestions he had considered ending his international career in the near future, adding that post-Euro criticism did not worry him.

Portugal host Croatia in their Nations League opener on Thursday before welcoming Scotland in League A Group One on Sunday.

"That's all from the press. It never crossed my mind that my cycle (with Portugal) had come to an end. Quite the opposite: it gave me even more motivation to continue to be honest," Ronaldo told a press conference on Monday.

"The motivation is to come to the national team to win the Nations League ... We've already won it once and we want to do it again. I might say the same thing over and over again, but I don't think long term, it's always short term." Ronaldo captained Portugal



gal to success in the opening edition of the Nations League in 2018-19, three years after they became European Champions for the first time

in France. "Until the end of my career, I will always have the mindset that I will be a starter," Ronaldo added.

Short TAKES

J&K District Weightlifting Championship Held In Srinagar

The J&K UT District Weightlifting Championship was held on Tuesday at Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Complex in Srinagar. The winners of the competition will represent J&K at the upcoming national weightlifting championship.

Tuesday's event was organised by J&K Weightlifting Association under the aegis of Indian Weightlifting Federation. The event was sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

The championship was held between 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM and saw Qazi Salman, Director News Door-darshan, as the chief guest.

Ajay Ratra Joins BCCI As New Selector For Men's Cricket Team

The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced on Tuesday the appointment of former India wicket-keeper Ajay Ratra as a selector for the men's cricket team, replacing Salil Ankola in the five-member panel.

Traditionally, all five selectors represent different zones, and Ratra will cover the North Zone in the committee led by Ajit Agarkar. The panel had two West Zone selectors after Agarkar's selection, prompting the change.

Lord's To Host WTC Final From June 11-15, 2025: ICC

The third World Test Championship final will be played at the iconic Lord's from June 11 to 15 next year, the International Cricket Council announced on Tuesday. The ICC has also marked June 16 as a reserve day, if required.

This will be the first time Lord's will host the WTC final, after Southampton (2021) and The Oval (2023). India featured in both finals but lost to New Zealand in the inaugural match, and last year they were defeated by Australia.

Test Coach McCullum Takes Charge Of England's White-Ball Teams

England Test coach Brendon McCullum will also take control of the white-ball teams, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Tuesday.

The ECB said the New Zealander would be in charge of both the Test and limited-overs teams from January 2025, coinciding with England's limited-overs tour of India and the ICC Champions Trophy.

McCullum and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), which has extended his contract until 2027, believe it is now possible because of changes to the calendar.

Steven Bergwijn's Saudi Move Ends Netherlands Career

Steven Bergwijn's transfer to Saudi club Al-Ittihad has effectively ended his career with the Netherlands national team. The former Ajax captain moved for 21 million euros (USD 23 million) this Monday.

In commenting on Bergwijn's decision, Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman remarked, "sporting ambition is not the main consideration" for the ex-Tottenham Hotspur forward. Koeman confirmed that Bergwijn is unlikely to return to the Dutch team.

Luis Suárez To Play Final Game For Uruguay After 17-Year Career

Striker Luis Suárez will play his last game for Uruguay on Friday, marking the end of a remarkable 17-year international career. The match, a World Cup qualifier against Paraguay at Centenario Stadium, will be his final appearance.

Suárez, visibly emotional, made the announcement at a press conference, stating, "I am retiring because I want to step aside. I am 37, there are a lot of talented players, and I know it would be difficult to get to the next World Cup."