# KASHMIR OBSFRVE

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#### **Amit Shah To Release BJP Manifesto Today**

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the BJP's poll campaign and release the party's manifesto during his twoday visit to Jammu and Kashmir beginning Friday.

Shah's visit comes at a critical time for the BJP in J&K as the party faces growing challenges ahead of the assembly elections with several leaders and workers protesting and some of them leaving the saffron party after being denied tickets.

"Amit Shah ji is arriving in Jammu for a two-day visit starting tomorrow. He will be arriving in the late afternoon from Delhi, a senior leader said.

On the first day of his visit, Shah will release the party manifesto at 4 pm here, the leader

Later in the evening, he will chair a meeting with party leaders and meet delegations of parJ&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

# 310 Candidates File **Nominations For Phase 2**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: As many as 310 candidates have filed their nomination papers across 26 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of six districts of Jammu and Kashmir which are going to polling in the second phase of J&K Assembly Election 2024.

Thursday was the last day of filing nomination papers for the second phase of the Assembly Election scheduled to be held on September 25, 2024.

**J&K Assembly** 

**Party Contest** 

**A Complex Multi-**

**Showdown:** 

A total of 310 candidates Election 2024, a statement

have filed 329 nomination papers for the second phase of the forthcoming Assembly

from the office of Chief Electoral Officer informed. A total of I More on P6

he erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir is slated to witness its first assembly elections since the repeal of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for elections on August 16, with polling to be held in three phases across 90 constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir. The major political parties in the poll | More on P6

## **ECI Issues Notification For 3rd Phase**

**Observer News Service** 

**Srinagar:** The Election Commission of India on Thursday issued a notification for the third and final phase of the Legislative Assembly polls for Jammu and Kashmir.

The notification was issued for 40 assembly constituencies, spread across Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts, where polling will

be held on October 1.

In Kashmir Division, 16 assembly constituencies will go to polls, while in Jammu region voting will be held on 24 seats.

The seats going to polls in Kashmir are Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara, Langate, Sopore, Rafiabad, Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg, Wagoora-Kreeri, Pattan, Sonawari, Bandipora, and Gurez (ST).

In Jammu | More on P6

#### Sonia, Priyanka **To Join Congress** Campaign

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar:The Indian National Congress (INC) has filed the list of 40 star campaigners for the second phase of elections in Jammu and Kashmir, slated to be

held on September 25, 2024.
As per the list the star campaigners include AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.

The list further mentioned the names of K C Venugopal, Ajay Maken, Ambika Soni, Bharatsin Solanki, Tariq Hameed Karra, Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, Jai Ram Ramesh, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Sachin Pilot, Mukhesh Agnihotri, Charanjeet Singh Channi, Salman Khursheed, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Amrinder Singh Rajawarring, Syed Nasir Hussain, Vikar Rasool Wani, Rajani Patil, Rajeev Shukla, Manish Tiwari, Imran Pratapgarhi, Kishori Lal Sharma, Pramod Tiwari, Raman Bhalla, | More on P6

# Sarjan Barkati Files Papers From Ganderbal, Beeru

**Press Trust Of India** 

Srinagar: Jailed Kashmiri cleric Sarjan Ahmad Wagay on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls from two seats, Ganderbal and Beerwah (Beeru), days after his candidature was rejected from another constituency.

Wagay, popularly known as Sarjan Barkati, a prominent face at the protest rallies in the south Kashmir districts of Shopian and Kulgam after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in 2016,

had earlier filed his nomination from the Zainpora Assembly constituency in Shopian.

However, his nomination was rejected because the papers did not include the certificate of oath that was to be duly signed by the jail authorities.

On Thursday, Barkati's representatives filed his nomination papers from Ganderbal as well as from Beerwah.

National Conference (NC) vice-president and Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah will also contest the upcoming polls from Ganderbal. | More on P6

# **Omar Files Papers From Budgam, Mehmood Refents**

Says, 'Contesting From Two Seats No Sign Of Weakness'

Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: Former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah has filed a second nomination from the Budgam constituency for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls. The former Chief Minister was accompanied by senior party leaders Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, Aga Syed Mehmood, party treasurer Shammi Oberoi and provincial secretary Shaukat Mir.

Interestingly senior NC leader from Budgam Aga The 54-year-old had filed Mehmood has

nomination from family bastion Ganderbal on Thursday.

his weight behind Omar Abdullah. Mehmood had earlier expressed reservations and indicated that he was not in a position to support Omar's candidature as his supporters were expecting the party to nominate him for Budgam, his home constituency.

Talking to reporters Omar said Agha Mehmood will be leading his campaign in Budgam. He also said that contesting from two assembly seats is not a sign of weakness, but proves | More on P6

## Sajad Lone To Fight From 2 **Seats, Releases Poll Manifesto**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Peoples Conference on Thursday promised a judicial commission to probe electoral rigging of 1987.

In its election manifesto, which was released by the party president Sajad Gani Lone and senior leaders today, the party said that it is committed to fight for the pre- 2019 constitutional position for J&K." It will support all efforts within and outside the legislative forums to restore the pre-2019 constitutional position of J&K," reads the party's The PC, which had challenged

abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court, said that "it stands by its commitment to undertake all exhaustive measures to pursue the cause of the restoration of Article 370 and the return of Statehood". | More on P6

#### INSIDE THE Contest

#### Triangular **Political Showdown In Anantnag**

he Anantnag West assembly seat, one of the largest constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir in terms of population and area, is set for an intense triangular contest in the upcoming election, with candidates working hard to attract more voters. The key contenders are National Conference's Abdul Majeed Bhat Larmi, People's Democratic Party's Abdul Gaffar Sofi and **Democratic Progressive Azad** Party's Bilal Ahmad Deva. Political analysts believe the main contest is between NC's Larmi and PDP's Sofi, but Bilal Deva, being the | More on P6

#### **BJP Faces Tough Challenge In Doda West**

he Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) is facing a tough battle from a newcomer in Doda west Assembly constituency which was being

considered a safe seat for the

saffron party.

This constituency was carved out of Doda and Bhaderwah constituencies of Doda district and some parts of Ramban constituency of Ramban district was also added to it. 87436 electorates including 45567 male and 41869 female voters are eligible to vote in the first phase of Assembly elections for Doda West Assembly constituency | More on P6

#### **5 DPAP Candidates Withdraw Nomination**

total of 25 candidates have withdrawn their for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, including five from the Democratic **Progressive Azad Party** (DPAP). The withdrawn DPAP candidates are Muhammad Aslam Goni (Bhadarwah), Fatima Begum (Inderwal), **Muhammad Asif Khanday** (Banihal), Girdhari Lal Bhau (Ramban), and Urfi Majid Wani (Doda). Additionally, Bahadur Singh from the Jammu Kashmir National Panthers Party and Arshid Mutheir from the Bahujan I More on P6

Plea For Allowing Govt Employee To Contest Polls

# **HC Seeks Response** From ECI, J&K Admin

Srinagar: The High Court of I&K and Ladakh has issued notice to the election commission of India (ECI) and the J&K government on a petition, challenging rules which among others prohibits a Government employee from taking

part in politics. Hearing a petition filed by one Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a senior lecturer in the School Education Department, a

division bench of Justice

Atul Sreedharan and Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani issued the notice for filing reply within four weeks after hearing counsel for the petitioner Advocate and General D C Raina. In his arguments, advocate Shafqat Nazir, counsel for

petitioner, among others submitted that challenge has been thrown to the vires of Rule 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees | More on P6

## We Are Looking For **Journalist/Management Trainees**

This position is part of our management training rotation program. The objective is to introduce to potential journalists/managers experience in all major areas of managing a newspaper including editorial, advertising sales, circulation sales, distribution, operations and finance.

Following a month-long training program, journalists should understand enough of the operations to be a managing editor or advertising manager of a newspaper. During this time associations should become proficient at running an office, recruiting, data mining, Adobe Creative Suite, which includes InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop and Premiere.

> Interested Candidates Can Apply Today hr@kashmirobserver.net



No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Srinagar | Friday | 06-09-2024

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

# **Plastic In Our Brains: Shocking New Study Raises Health Concerns**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

Plastic is in our clothes, cars, mobile phones, water bottles and food containers. But recent research adds to growing concerns about the impact of tiny plastic fragments on our health.

A study from the United States has, for the first time, found microplastics in human brains. The study, which has yet to be independently verified by other scientists, has been described in the media as scary, shocking and alarming.

But what exactly are microplastics? What do they mean for our health? Should we be concerned?

#### What are microplastics? Can you see them?

We often consider plastic items to be indestructible. But plastic breaks down into smaller particles. Definitions vary but generally microplastics are smaller than five millimetres.

This makes some too small to be seen with the naked eye. So, many of the images the media uses to illustrate articles about microplastics are misleading, as some show

Microplastics have been reported in many sources of drinking water and everyday food items. This means we are constantly exposed to them in our diet.

Such widespread, chronic (longterm) exposure makes this a serious concern for human health. While research investigating the potential risk microplastics pose to our health is limited, it is

#### How about this latest study?

The study looked at concentrations of microplastics in 51 samples from men and women set aside from routine autopsies in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Samples were from the liver, kidney

These tiny particles are difficult to study due to their size, even with a high-powered microscope. So rather than trying to see them, researchers are beginning to use complex instruments that identify the chemical composition of microplastics in a sample. This is the technique used in this study. The researchers were surprised to find up to 30 times more micro-



plastics in brain samples than in the liver and kidney.

They hypothesised this could be due to high blood flow to the brain (carrying plastic particles with it). Alternatively, the liver and kidneys might be better suited to dealing with external toxins and particles. We also know the brain does not undergo the same amount of cellular renewal as other organs in the body, which could make the plastics linger here.

The researchers also found the amount of plastics in brain samples increased by about 50 per

cent between 2016 and 2024. This may reflect the rise in environmental plastic pollution and increased human exposure.

The microplastics found in this study were mostly composed of polyethylene. This is the most commonly produced plastic in the world and is used for many everyday products, such as bottle caps and plastic bags.

This is the first time microplastics have been found in human brains, which is important. However, this study is a "pre-print", so other independent microplastics researchers haven't yet reviewed or validated the study.

#### How do microplastics end up in the brain?

Microplastics typically enter the body through contaminated food and water. This can disrupt the gut microbiome (the community of microbes in your gut) and cause inflammation. This leads to effects in the whole body via the immune system and the complex, two-way communication system between the gut and the brain. This socalled gut-brain axis is implicated in many aspects of health and dis-

We can also breathe in airborne microplastics. Once these particles are in the gut or lungs, they can move into the bloodstream and then travel around the body into various organs.

Studies have found microplastics in human faeces, joints, livers, reproductive organs, blood, vessels and hearts.

Microplastics also migrate to the brains of wild fish. In mouse studies, ingested microplastics are absorbed from the gut into the blood and can enter the brain, becoming lodged in other organs along the way.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name has been Wrongly Written As Gulshana Akhter D/O Ghulam Ahmad Marazi & DOB 27-8-2002 while my correct name and DOB is Gulshan Bano D/O Ghulam Ahmad Marazi R/O Sultanpora pattan DOP 13 8 2001. 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 GOVT Primary school Rakh Sultanpora Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

D/O Ghulam Ahmad Marazi R/O Sultanpora

FKO

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for issuance of Backward Class Certificate in favour of my wards Mohd. Momi Ganai, Mohd. Mubashir Ganai and Razyeh Akhter. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd, Bagir Ganaie

R/O Mul Shull Tehsil Beeru District Budgam

#### Office Of Advocate Yakoob Hussain Sofi J&K High Court Srinagar

CHAMBER NO. 07 MUNSIFF/JMFC AT MAGAM Cell No. 9906517553, 9419068005 In the case of

l. Gh Mohi'ud din sheikh S/O Mohammad Akbar Sheikh 2. Maymoona Begum W/o Gh Mohi ud din Sheikh Residents of

Chichilora Tehsil Kawarhama ... Caveator

Versus **PUBLIC AT LARGE** 

...Non-caveator

BMG

IN THE MATTER OF: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of C.P.C. The Caveators have reasons to believe/apprehension that non-Caveator

(s) may file a suit/application/petition or any other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District Courts, Revenue Courts or any other forum may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/ex-parte against the caveators and in such eventuality, the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators may be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order or direction. Seal & Signature

Yakoob Hussain Sofi

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

I have lost my Discharge certificate of class 10th under registra-

tion no: G-94-10457-2010. Now I have applied for the duplicate

of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she

may file his/her objection in the office of the Girls Higher Sec-

ondary School Magam within a period of seven days from the

date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall

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

**Press Trust Of India** 

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 Analysing fats in blood serum, researchers at the Uni-



versity of Sydney, Australia, found that while weight loss through dieting significantly impacted several types of lipids (fats), changes in different fats affected different types of blood sugar.

For example, changes in fasting blood sugar were linked to certain sphingolipids -- a type of fat found in a cell's outer layer -- while those in HbA1c, insulin and insulin resistance were linked to other fats in blood

"Six baseline bioactive sphingolipids primarily predicted changes in fasting plasma glucose. In addition, a number of baseline lipid species, mainly diacylglycerols and triglycerides, were predictive of clinical changes in hemoglobin A1c, insulin and HOMA-IR (Homeostatic Model Assessment for Insulin Resistance)," the authors

Weight loss through a low-energy diet -- low-carb, fibre-rich -- is commonly recommended to help pre-diabetic people bring blood sugar levels back to

However, the researchers said that over half of these individuals do not achieve normal blood sugar levels

They found that measuring certain fats in serum before one loses weight could predict which type of blood sugar will improve following weight loss. The findings are published in The American Journal of Clinical

"Our findings reveal that certain fats in the blood can tell us a lot about a person's chances of improving their blood sugar levels through weight loss," lead author Yanfei (Jacob) Qi from the university's Centenary Institute said.

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. Lipidomics -- the use of AI-based techniques to study changes in hundreds of different lipids -- was used in

For the study, blood serum samples from 104 pre-

analysing the serum samples. "(The findings) could be a game-changer in how we approach diabetes prevention, allowing us to personalise treatment plans for those who are less likely to benefit from standard diet recommendations," Qi said.

#### **General Notice**

I have lost RC of my motorcycle Super Splendor vide Registration No. JK15 8532 while travelling from Hakabara to Hajin. If anyone has found may return the same to below mentioned adress. Other wise I have to apply for its duplicate. In this regard anybody having any objections may contact ARTO Bandipora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained at all. **Naseer Ahmad Wagay** 

S/O. Ab. Ahad Wagay R/O. Hakabara Sonawari Bpr.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

#### **Industrial Training Institute** (ANANTNAG)

Skill Development Department Our motto "skilled hands secured future"

landline: .01932-222581 tele/fax 01932-225374 MIS code CR0100003

Subject:- On spot Admission Against Left Over Scats session 2024-25-26-Counselling Day-01.

#### **NOTIFICATION**

CORRESPONDENCE ADRESS Ashajipora Anantnag Kashmir pic 192101

In view of this office Notification No. ITI/Ang/1013-1019, Dated 31-08-2024 counseling was conducted for vacant seats in respect of following trades and accordingly candidates in annexure-I are provisionally selected for Admission in the Trades shown against each, List available on our official website www.itianantnag.org.

The candidates are informed to complete admission formalities i.e submission of fee etc by 05-09-2024 at 10.00 AM as

atteady informed doming coomsetting.				
S.NO Date of counseling	Counseling held for Trades.	No of Applications		
		Received		
1.	Stenographer and secretarial Assistant	87		
2.	Computer Operator and Programming Assistant	78		
3. 04.09.2024	Mason( Building Constructor)	20		
4.	Computer Hardware and Network Maintenance	17		
5.	Draughtsman Civil	52		

No. ITI/Ang/1027-32 DIPK-5362/24 Date: 05/09/2024

ISO 29990- Certified

Email: itianantnag@gmail.com

Website: www.itianantnag.org

(Imran Wajahat)

#### Office Address: Langate, Near Boys Higher Secondary - 193302 Email id: Exenlangate11@gmail.com Government Of (UT) Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Langate

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER e-NIT No: 19/1768-77/2024-25/RnB/Langate Dated 04/09/2024

Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Langate on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments on JKPWDOMS for each of the

9	S. No	Name of the Work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest	Cost of T/	Time of	Class of	Major Head of
П				money. (In	Doc. (In Rs.)	Completion	Contractor	Account
				Rs.)				
Ιū		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	01.	Making Election related Arrangements at	Rs. 11.75 Lacs	50000/-	600/-	15 Days	"B, C & D"	Election
П		Boys Higher Secondary School Langate						
Ш		designated as distribution -cum- collection						
H		centre for AC-(06) Langate						

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled

uutc	dute given below.			
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	04-09-2024		
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05-09-2024 to 10-09-2024		
3	Bid submission Start date	05-09-2024		
4	Bid Submission End Date	10-09-2024 (upto 02:00 PM)		
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	10-09-2024 (04:00 PM) (in the office of the Executive		
		Engineer R&B Division Langate)		

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of Work/NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security amounting to Rs. 50000/- (Fifty Thousand Only) dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) in form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Langate. which will released after successfully completion of the work. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the Office of the Executive Engineer,

Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process If:-

a) bid. b) c) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

jktenders.gov.into acquaint bid submission process. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can

get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copes if need

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

fko

Dated: - 05/09/2024

Gulshan Qasim D/o Mohd Qasim Sheikh R/o Goom Ahmad Pora Pattan

be entertained.

DOB: 03-04-1979

# University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her Migration Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s: Name: Aamir Ibrahim

Paretnage: - Mohd Ibrahim Parray Residence:- Ionigam Kulgam Migration certificate No: 42040 Certificate/s lost:- B.A 6th Sem Marks Certificate

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as

of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof sku

#### The Jammu & Kashmir Board Of School **Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar** ATTENTION PLEASE

The Candidates whose photograph is Published in this notice is claiming to have lost her 10 th Class Diploma Certificate of Secondary School Examination issued by BOSE with the following particulars

**Result Qualified** 

Parentage.:-Manzoor Ahmad Dar Mothers Name .:- Haneefa Begum Residence .:- Magam Roll NO:-5216484. Session.:- Private 2018-19 Reg No:- N16480300003 Certificate No: 19APBI-4017150

Name.:-Parveena Manzoor

D O B:- 01-02-2003

FKO

**Executive Engineer** 

**R&B Division Langate** 



SD/=

Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate Diploma Certificate before the same is processed and issued in the candidate anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Secretary, BOSE or undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above referred Qualificateion / Diploma certificate bearing serial no:-16ARKAM-1027677 .are be treated as

No:-F(Certs-1-DOC)B/KD/24

Deputy Secretary

#### Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

**Executive Magistrate 1st Class** 

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

### **Public Notice**

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Bashir Ahmad Bhat s/o Asad Ullah Bhat R/o Jamia Mohalla Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with vertified date of event (birth) as 05/08/1951 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

## **Locals Fund Eidgah Constituencies Indep Candidate For Campaigning**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: In a rare display of support, residents of Eidgah constituency in Srinagar are providing monetary assistance to an independent candidate Imtiyaz Khan, encouraging him to launch a robust election campaign.

Khan, a former Congress district president who resigned under public pressure, is contesting against influential politicians like Mubarak Gul of National Conference and Khurshid Alam of Peoples Democratic Party.

Khan expressed his gratitude for the support, stating, "People know that I worked for them and supported them through thick and thin. I am confident of my victory."

Khan emphasized that he is not backed by the BJP, contrary to the misconception that all independent candidates are supported by the party. He stated, "I am here for the people and will never support the BJP." He has spent the last decade serving the community, going door-todoor to ease their sufferings.

The locals' funding of Khan's campaign is a testament to his reputation and commitment to the people. Some donors have contributed as little as Rs 500, while others have deposited up to Rs 10,000 into his bank account. Khan humbly acknowledged the support, saying, "People know I am poor and can't afford election expenses. The real power is with the people, not money."

"He is known for his simplicity and honesty. We accompanied him to the Returning Officer's office to file nomination papers out of love," said a couple of voters to the news agency Kashmir

They added that this unusual display of support highlights the trust and faith the people have in Imtiyaz Khan.

As the election approaches, Khan's campaign is gaining momentum, fueled by the goodwill and generosity of the locals.

The polling for Srinagar has been scheduled for 25 September.

#### Teacher's Day

### **Female Teacher Honored For Exceptional Contribution In Downtown School**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: In a glittering ceremony held in the Zaldagar area of Srinagar City on Thursday, Yasmin Khan, a dedicated teacher. was recognized for her outstanding commitment to education during a celebration for Teachers Day.

The event was orat Government ganized School (GMS) Middle Chamardori, where teachers, students, and nonteaching staff gathered to honor the achievements of their teachers.

"Under the leadership of the school's head, this dignified ceremony showcased the talents of the students, who performed a vibrant cultural program to add to the festive atmosphere. Yasmin Khan was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, acknowledging her remarkable contributions. The audience expressed their

Mirwaiz To Deliver

Sahib (RA) Shrine

**Observer News Service** 

Jama Masjid Srinagar

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf

today announced that Mir-

waiz Umar Farooq, after a

gap of five years following

his house detention, will

follow the age-old tradition

historic Naqshband Sahib

(RA) shrine on the occasion

of Mirwaizeen and will

deliver a sermon at the

of Khwaja Digar on the

3rd of Rabi' al-Awwal on

September 8th.

Sermon At Nagshband

admiration with applause as speakers commended her efforts both within the school and in advocating for its continued existence amidst challenges," the statement said.

It said that Yasmin's dedication was particularly evident in her work to secure a new location for the school in the densely populated Zaldgarh area. "Despite the difficul-

ties posed by the lack of appropriate facilities, Yasmin took the initiative to find a suitable place for the school, engaging with the community and utilizing her resourcefulness. Had she not succeeded, the government would have been compelled to close the school, depriving many underprivileged students in downtown Srinagar of essential educational opportunities. Today. the school's enrollment is steadily increasing, thanks to her tireless efforts," the statement reads.



# **ECI Appoints General, Police & Expenditure Observers For 08 Srinagar ACs**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: In view of the General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, the Election Commission of India has appointed General, Police and Expenditure Observers in for 08 Assembly Constituencies of District Srinagar.

As per an official communication the General Observers appointed include Sandhya Bhullar (6006612389) for 25- Eidgah and 26- Central Shalteng; Chandresh Kumar Yadav (8491826997) for 21-Habbakadal and 22- Lal Chowk; Rajan Vishal (8899917757) for 23- Channapora and 24- Zadibal, besides Akilesh Kumar Mishra (9906329799) for 19- Hazratbal and 20- Khanyar.

Meanwhile, Raghuvendra Suhas H.G. (9419975506) has been appointed as Police Observer for all 08 ACs of Srinagar District.

Also, Capt. Pradeep Shoury Arya (8899744409) has been appointed as Expenditure Observer for 19- Hazratbal, 20- Khanyar, 21- Habbakadal and 22- Lal Chowk constituencies, while Subodh Singh (9906883393) has been appointed Expenditure Observer for 23- Channapora, 24- Za-dibal, 25- Eidgah and 26- Central Shalteng constituencies.

In order to ensure free, fair, transparent and smooth conduct of elections, the District Election Officer Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi Ud-Din Bhat has notified that all stakeholders can approach the

# **ECI Observers Review Poll Preparedness In Srinagar**

rinagar: The General, Police and Expenditure Observers appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for Srinagar District Thursday chaired a joint meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the overall poll preparedness in the District.

District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was present on the occasion. While Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Imtiyaz Hussain, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and Returning Officers of all Assembly Constituencies, Deputy District Election Officer and Nodal Officers monitoring/ overseeing election related activities also at

tended the meeting. At the outset, the Observers sought firsthand status of on-going preparations related to the elections from the District Election Officer.

The DEO through a PowerPoint presentation gave a detailed profile of the District and Assembly Constituency wise brief including electorate count, number of polling stations and polling locations, model polling stations, home voting facilities, SVEEP activities, Assured Minimum Facilities at polling station, election training for polling staff, safety and security of polling booths, polling staff, poll machinery and other units besides District Receipt and Distribution Centre's, Strong rooms and Counting Centre. The DEO assured the Observers of the Administration's full preparedness to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections

While reviewing the SVEEP activities, Dr Bilal briefed the Observers about the attractive Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programs conducted in the previous elections that resulted in improved voter turnout in the district, adding that on the same pattern this time also micro-level planning been done and similarly big SVEEP activity has already been started in colleges to better voter turnout in assembly elections.

Expenditure Observers on their respective contact numbers in case of any information, issue or

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

E-TENDER NOTICE Closing Date/Time: 27/09/2024 15:00

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-23-24-25 Closing Date/Time 27/09/2024 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are ot allowed.

Name of Work	Telecom facilities in c/w (i) Provision of FOIS Connectivity at EIMWB at MCTM station (ii) Crossing of various GAS pipeline under railway track over Firozpur Division.			
Tender closing	27/09/2024 15:00	DateTime of	05/09/2024	
Date & Time		Uploading Tender	15:17	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	8118889.57	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	13/09/2024	
Earnest Money (Rs.)	162400.00	Period of Completion	2 Months	
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-23-24-25 Date:- 05/09/2024				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2770/24				

#### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office Of The Returning Officer

(Sub Divisional Magistrate) Kokernag

42 - Kokernag (ST) Assembly Constituency

Sub: Establishment of Voter Facilitation Centre (VFC) and Notification of dates(s) for Postal Voting- Postal Ballot Voting by employees on Poll duty in respect of 42 Kokernag (ST) AC.

**NOTIFICATION** 

In pursuance of the guidelines issued by the ECI, the following Voter Facilitation Centre is hereby notified for recording of votes through postal ballots by the Absentee Voters on election duty who have opted to cast their vote through Postal Ballot in respect of 42- Kokemag (ST) Assembly Constituency:-

Sr. No	Name Of Assembly Constituency	Name Of Postal Voting Centre (PVC)
01	42 Kokemag (ST)	Auditorium Building , Govt. Degree College, Irkumoo Kokemag

It is further notified that the postal ballot voting facility for AVES category electors at the above notified centre shall remain available on the following dates and time:

Date(s) of Voting	Time.
13,14 & 15th September-2024	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Dated: 05-09-2024

NO: 137/RO/Kng/PB/LA-2024/22191-2205 DIPK-5370/24

Returning Officer 42-Kokernag (ST) AC

### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**NOTICE** 

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites applications for setting up stalls/kiosk stalls Railway Stations over Firozpur Division under One Station One Product scheme. This scheme was started from April 2022 in this Division. The terms and conditions are as under:

. The period for setting up of the stall/kiosk will be 45 days. In such cases, registration fee and ilectricity charges shall increase proportionately. It is a continuous process.

. Details of token fee to be deposited by the applicants is as under:-

S. No.	Category	Total Registration/ Token fee for 45 days (in Rs.)
1	For NSG-1 to NSG-3 Stations	3000/-
2	For NSG-4 to NSG-6 Stations	1500/-
2		

All above charges are inclusive of GST. B. Product to be displayed/sold as under:

(i) Handicrafts/ Artefacts. (ii) Textiles and Handlooms.

(iii) Traditional Garments. (iv) Local agricultural produces/ processed/semi processed foods. . The selection of participants in the OSOP may be done considering that the benefit of this scheme must reach the marginalized sections, i.e those individuals at the bottom of the pyramid.

Priority shall be given to the following: (a) Holder of Artisan/Weaver's ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite State/Central Government Authority. (b) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/ National Handloom Development

Corporation (NHDC)/ Khadi and Village Industries Commision (KVIC) etc. (c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme).

(d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society.

5. The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways. 6. Application should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at Station by

the applicant.

7. A maximum of 20 units of electricity per OSOP outlet shall be permitted for one spell of 15 days as basic facilitation subsumed in the registration charges. For additional units of electricity over and above the limit of 20 units, the applicable charges shall apply on actual basis.

8. Station Superintendent (SS) will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the Station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager/ Sectional CMI.

9. Space and infrastructure at the station for this scheme will be provided by Railways.

10. For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent/Sectional CMI of the respective stations.

No. 23-AC/1203/OSOP/FZR/2022/Pt-III Dated: -30.08.2024 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 

2767/2024

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

#### **AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### **RAILWAYS**

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#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 4:44 **ZUHR** 12:32 **ASR** 5:01 6:56 Magrib **ISHA** 8:18

## This Day In History

- 3114 BC- Date Maya/Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar starts dating from (as corresponds to the Julian Calendar).
  - 394-Battle of Frigidus, Northern Italy.
- 1492- Columbus' fleet leaves Gomera, Canary
- 1522 -Ferdinand Magellen's Spanish expedition aboard the Vitoria returns to Spain without their captain. First to circumnavigate the earth. 1543 - French & Turkish fleet occupies Nice.
- 1776- Hurricane hits Guadeloupe, killing more than
- 1781- The Battle of Groton Heights takes place, resulting a British victory.
- 1839- Great fire in New York
- 1869- Mine fire kills 110 at Avondale, Pennsylvania 1870- Ship sinks in Gulf of Biscay; 483 die
- 1880- Commencement of 1st Test Cricket in England, v Australia at The Oval
- 1885- Eastern Rumelia declares its union with Bulgaria. The Unification of Bulgaria is accomplished.
- 1886 Queen Victoria establishes Distinguished Service Order (DSO)
- 1888- Charles Turner becomes the first bowler to take 250 wickets in an English season - a feat since accomplished only by Tom Richardson (twice), J.T. Hearne, Wilfred Rhodes (twice) and Tich Freeman (six times).
- 1888- Queen Victoria grants William Mackinnon's Imperial British East Africa Company political & commercial rights
- 1889- King Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda resigns 1898- Lord Kitchener destroys Mahdi's tomb in
- Omdurman 1905- Atlanta Life Insurance Company forms 1913- 1st aircraft to loop the loop - Adolphe Pégoud
- in France 1914- World War I: First Battle of the Marne begins, French and British forces prevent German advance
- 1917- French pilot Georges Guynemer shoots down 54th German aircraft

on Paris (till the 12th Sept)

- 1924- Assassination attempt on Benito Mussolini fails
- 1924- Charles Paddock captures 100 & 200 yd AAU national senior outdoor track & field championships 1928- USSR signs Briand-Kellogg-pact 1930- Democratically elected Argentine president
- Hipólito Yrigoyen is deposed in a military coup. 1937-Spanish Civil War: The start of the Battle of El
- Mazuco. 1939 -1st German air attack on Great Britain in WW II.
- 1939 South Africa declares war on Nazi-Germany.
- 1939 World War II: The Battle of Barking Creek.
- 1949- Howard Unruh kills 13 neighbors in 12 minutes
- in Camden, New Jersey 1954- US plane shot down above Siberia
- 1960 American Otis Davis runs a world record 44.9 to win the gold medal in the 400m at the Rome
- Olympics; German Carl Kaufmann records same time but ruled second via photo finish
- 1960- Australian middle distance runner Herb Elliott breaks his own world record in winning the 1,500m at the Rome Olympics in 3:35.6
- 1960- In a famous victory American decathlete Rafer Johnson scores Olympic record 8,392 points to win the gold medal in Rome; beats rival & friend C.K. Yang of China by 58 points
- 1961- USSR performs nuclear test at Kapustin Yar **USSR**
- 1962- US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site 1963- The Centre for International Industrial Property Studies (CEIPI) is founded.
- 1965- India invades West Pakistan official beginning of the Indo-Pakistani War.
- 1968- Swaziland gains independence from Britain (National Day).
- 1978- Begin & Sadat meet at Camp David to discuss
- 1986- Attack on synagogue in Istanbul, 23 killed. 1989- Police computer accuses 41,000 Parisians of murder/prostitution.

# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Friday | 06-09-2024

# Back To Democracy

lthough it is still early days, there is a palpable enthusiasm among people about Assembly elections. One reason for this is that the exercise is being held after a decade. Also, for the past six years, J&K has been under governor's rule with bureaucrats ruling the roost. This may have its advantages as for as pursuing a development-centric agenda, but it can't supplant an accountable democratic rule. The unprecedented circumstances that prevailed in the erstwhile state following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 made the governance more challenging. So, a degree of government-people disconnect has persisted. This, in turn, has given rise to a yearning for a return to democratic rule, something that was evident in the preceding Lok Sabha election. Voters chose to depart from the boycott politics, especially in the Kashmir Valley, and instead participated more freely in the electoral exercise, posting a historic turnout of 58% in five parliamentary seats. Since 1990, J&K's voting percentage had never crossed the 50% mark.

The election holds interesting possibilities for Jammu and Kashmir. The National Conference expects to secure a majority of its own or atleast emerge as the largest single party. The BJP expects to repeat the 2014 performance. In fact, with fresh delimitation giving it an edge in many more constituencies in Jammu, the party expects to even better its 2014 tally. However, there are no signs so far of any political wave in its favour in Jammu. On the contrary, there are signs that people in Jammu are upset with it over not just the delay in Assembly elections and the restoration of statehood but also over the legal and administrative changes that are seen as unfavourable to Jammu. Would this resentment reflect in the election outcome is anybody's guess. It is possible that the newly resurgent Congress under Rahul Gandhi would once again make inroads into Jammu and undercut the BJP. In that case, the BJP would no longer be able to assert a role in the future elected government. That said, in the Valley, the NC could face a tough challenge from the PDP, which remains relevant and also from Rashid's AIP. The parties like People's Conference and the Apni Party may yet get a seat or two. But for an election that truly gives people a sense of involvement and empowerment, it must be held in a free and fair environment. But if the Lok Sabha election is any guide, there is every reason to expect that the Assembly election will also be clean.



#### Did you know?

# An Overview of Futures in the Indian Stock

Irshad Mushtaq

arket In the Indian stock market, futures trading is a part of the broader derivative market. These trades primarily take place on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). Futures are contracts that obligate the buyer to purchase, and the seller to sell, an asset at a predetermined future date and price.

#### Characteristics of Futures

1. Predefined List of Stocks: Futures are typically linked to stocks with high market capitalization. The NSE has a specific list of these stocks.

2. Lot Size: Futures contracts are traded in predefined quantities called lot sizes. For example, if a stock has a lot size of 50 shares, you must buy or sell futures in multiples of 50.

#### Margin and Payment Mechanism

Margin Requirement: To trade futures, clients are required to pay a margin, which is a percentage (usually 10-15%) of the total contract value. This margin can be paid in cash or through collateral, like pledging shares or mutual funds.

Mark-to-Market (MTM): Daily billings are generated to reflect market profit and loss until the contract expires. This MTM ensures that gains or losses are settled daily.

#### Contract Expiry and Life Cycles

Expiry Cycles: Futures contracts in India have a 3-month life cycle, expiring on the last Thursday of each month. If that Thursday is a holiday, the expiry moves to the preceding trading day. Uses of Futures Futures can be used for various purposes: 1. Speculation: Trading to make profits from price

#### Hedging: Managing risk in stock holdings.

Arbitrage: Taking advantage of price differentials in different markets. Risks and Discipline It is often stated that 9 out of 10 traders lose money in the derivatives market. This high failure rate underscores the risky nature of leveraged products and the necessity for a sound understanding of market concepts, proper money management techniques, and disciplined trading.

#### Options in Futures Trading

Call Option: Grants the right to buy but not the obligation
Put Option: Grants the right to sell but not the obligation. Success in
futures and options trading requires expertise, vision, patience, and strict
adherence to risk management principles. Over-leveraging and undisciplined
trading can lead to significant losses. In summary, while the derivative market in India offers opportunities for significant gains, it demands a high level
of knowledge, discipline, and prudent money management.

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

# The Politics Of Pensions And Savings

Pensions are just one form of long-run savings; the real need for govt policy is to take a comprehensive look at the institutional landscape for such savings

Nirvikar Singh

**Many details** of the UPS are unclear, including aspects of its design and implementation. It is clearly a political response to a political problem that emanates from India's economic structure, where government jobs are valuable because good jobs are scarce, and holders of those jobs have disproportionate power as an interest group



ndia is set to grow consistently at about 7%, which is enough to double GDP every decade. That is exceptional compared to historical averages, but short of East Asian miracle growth rates. To achieve those growth rates, and meet aspirations of reaching advanced country income levels, India has to grow faster. That, in turn, requires some combination of higher rates of investment and greater growth impacts of investment expenditures. The latter may require more innovation, both technological and institutional, which presents specific challenges. More investment requires more domestic saving, especially in a world where foreign capital is becoming more cautious in its deployment, as evidenced by falling foreign direct investment (FDI) levels.

Thinking about saving, particularly household saving, turns attention to the government's recently announced plan to reconfigure the National Pension Scheme (NPS). The NPS was formulated over two decades ago, in response to the projected explosion in government pension liabilities, identified in the late 1990s. The Old Pension Scheme (OPS) promised fixed benefits, with no contribution from employees. It was therefore a form of (very generous) deferred compensation, implemented as forced long-term savings for employees, but not reflected in current budgets. Its exemption from taxes amplified its generosity. Households could also save in other ways, mostly through various savings accounts that offered fixed interest rates, where the household saving was invested in government bonds or life insurance policies that promised annuity

payments.

The NPS replaced the OPS, making several changes to the design. Employees now had to contribute towards their future benefits, with the government matching these contributions. Thus, a current savings element was made more explicit in the NPS, rather than being notional and not clearly defined. The NPS also expanded the range of options for investing these explicit savings, in an India that now had modern financial asset markets. Most im-

portant of all, the NPS shifted from the defined-benefit system of the OPS to a defined-contribution system. This meant that the returns to the contributions were no longer guaranteed, but depended on the performance of the assets in which the contributions were invested.

The NPS was implemented slowly, and in a somewhat piecemeal and incomplete fashion. It dealt with the looming fiscal disaster of the unsustainable OPS, but it also meant that the deferred compensation it offered was less generous and more uncertain, leading to unhappy employees especially since those hired earlier under the OPS continued to be covered by their more favourable scheme. Recently, some states have bowed to pressure from their employees, and begun reverting to the OPS, which is constitutionally their prerogative but threatens to bring back the threat of fiscal disaster, which would ultimately be the Union government's responsibility to handle. The Centre has responded with a new Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which is supposed to exist alongside the NPS. It retains the matching contributions, albeit with a higher government match. But it shifts back to defined benefits, and has generous indexation provisions. These features can also create fiscal problems down the road, if not as severely as the OPS.

Many details of the UPS are unclear, including aspects of its design and implementation. It is clearly a political response to a political problem that emanates from India's economic structure, where government jobs are valuable because good jobs are scarce, and holders of those jobs have disproportionate power as an interest group, as well as India's federal structure which is baked into the Constitution. The UPS is clearly a short-term response to an immediate political issue. But this can be an occasion to recall some of the thinking behind the original NPS plan, which was meant to lay the foundations of a pension and savings system that could serve a much larger proportion of the population than the small slice that has government jobs.

nt jobs. Sustainable systems for long-

for investing those savings, across a range of assets with different risk-return characteristics, good low-cost options for choosing among institutions and managers who will guide households in their choices, a great deal of education and information transparency to enable households to make choices, and careful regulation for protecting small investors. None of this is easy. Well-off households, whether they are employed by the government, by private corporations, or run their own businesses, already have many more savings options than they did two decades ago. The challenge is to extend these opportunities to a larger proportion of the population, in a manner that keeps their institu-tional costs and risks down in an appropriate manner. Employer contributions and tax breaks are another component of designing systems that incentivise long-run savings, as well as enabling those savings to be channelled to productive uses.

Ultimately, pensions are just one form of long-run savings, and the real need for government policy is to take a comprehensive look at the institutional landscape for such savings (including financial products such as life insurance), to incentivise them without promoting dissaving elsewhere in the economy, and to channel these savings into growth-enhancing investment, as opposed to going disproportionately into assets such as real estate and gold. It is almost a decade since the report of the committee on household finances, headed by Tarun Ramadorai, which provided a comprehensive analysis of these issues, including pensions, insurance, and financial assets in general. With India's household savings having declined to a five-year low, returning to this approach ought to be a priority for policymakers.

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



OBSERVER MAII

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

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# **Work Life Imbalance**

Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's recent suggestion for "70-hours-work-a-week" among Indian youngsters will no doubt boost productivity, but it will certainly affect the balance of work-life approach, which is equally important. Unsurprisingly Mr. Murthy's comments have evoked a nationwide

controversy, with many have criti-

cised his idea. In fact, a Bengalurubased Cardiologist wrote in his X (formerly Twitter) account saying, "such an inhumane working hours can create a whole generation with a host of heart-related comorbidities." The Cardiologist's comment gains prominence, as WHO says that India accounts for at least one-fifth of the 17.9 million cardiovascular disease-

related deaths globally, especially in the younger generation. Currently, India's labour codes mandate that workers put in 8-hours of work a day, capping the weekly work hours at 48. Despite this, global data shows that India ranks fifth in the world among countries with long working hours. Research has revealed that productivity falls sharply after 50

hours per week, and drops off a cliff after 55 hours. Rather than extended working hours, a streamlined approach with set working hours will work for large enterprises that have plentiful resources.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

# Mindful Fridays

# Parenting for Equality

Wasim Kakroo

en and women are usu-ally expected to do dif-■ ferent kinds of work at home. Earlier, women would take charge of household chores while men would go outside the home for work. In todays world, this idea of distributing work among genders might keep gender inequality going might also support negative ideas about genders, hence increasing the chances of abuse. If boys in our society are taught tasks that are usually done by girls and encourage them to get involved in them in day to day life, it can make such tasks gender neutral, lower the chance of abuse, and help boys learn important skills. Raising children while breaking traditional gender roles can help us in creating a fairer society where respect and shared responsibility is given more importance.

#### **Challenging Gender Stereotypes**

Children in our society are usually taught and conditioned since their childhood to act in ways that match the expectations of people in the society about what boys and girls should do. Boys in our society are groomed to get involved in activities that are seen as manly, like playing sports or working with machines, while girls are often groomed to get involved in household chores and looking after others. This early teaching can have a big impact over time, making people believe that some activities are naturally suited to one gender. Though this approach has its benefits as it helps in distribution of tasks and minimises the chaos and confusion that might otherwise creep in attending to the household affairs, however, it might make males/boys feel that they should not get involved in household chores and that doing such things is being less manly or more feminine.

To address this, it is important to make boys understand that doing household chores is not being feminine or girlish and that there is no shame in helping in household chores such as cooking, cleaning etc. Once boys learn tasks such as cooking, cleaning and caring for the household, they can see such tasks as gender neutral activities. This shift in perspective can help in doing away with damaging stereotypes that force men and women in assuming inflexible roles. By mak-



ing it look normal that boys can participate in domestic tasks, we can open the door for younger generations to appreciate equality and shared responsibility.

Furthermore, boys who grow up learning and understanding that household chores are not meant to be done exclusively by women can have more respect and regard for what women do, both inside and outside the home. This respect and regard is important in reducing abuse of women as it dismantles the idea that women are inferior for doing household chores.

#### Reducing Gender-Based Abuse

It has been observed that traditional gender roles can create power imbalances in the household that can often lead to gender based abuse, especially towards women. If boys are brought up in places where they are taught that men should be the masters over women and that women should be listening to their orders without having any say in any of the important matters of the household, they may take it as normal and hence may act as masters to the women in their lives. This attitude can lead men to act in an abusive manner towards women, because men who think they are better than women may feel entitled to control or dominate women.

These abusive tendencies created by gender based roles can

If boys are brought up in places where they are taught that men should be the masters over women and that women should be listening to their orders without having any say in any of the important matters of the household, they may take it as normal and hence may act as masters to the women in their lives

be mitigated by taking a genderneutral approach to household responsibilities as this approach can induce a sense of equality since childhood in both genders especially in terms of household matters. It is less likely for boys to develop attitudes of entitlement or superiority over women if they are taught to view household chores as a shared responsibility, rather than a woman's duty. By conditioning them to view household chores as a shared responsibility, they learn to value cooperation, respect, and mutual support—qualities that are incompatible with abusive behaviour.

Including boys in household tasks traditionally done by women, can help in dismantling the toxic masculinity, which connects manhood with power, aggressiveness, and emotional detachment. The broader and deeper understanding of what it means to be a man can reduce the chances of such boys to turn into men who support or get involved into violent acts to assert their dominance over women in their lives.

## **Equipping Boys with Essential Life Skills**

Encouraging boys since their childhood to help with household chores is not just about treating every family member fairly, it is also to make them understand the importance of learning basic household chores as essential life skills. Every child irrespective of their gender should get training in basic life skills such as cooking, cleaning, and organising. Boys who get trained in these household tasks from an early age are better prepared to live independently, take care of themselves and manage a home when they become adults and hence be helpful towards their partners in their married life.

Men without training in basic life skills tend to rely heavily on

women in their lives for fulfilling their basic needs, which can perpetuate inequity and promote traditional gender roles. On the other hand, boys who learn how to manage household chores since their childhood, have greater chances of being self-reliant and viewing women as equal partners and not just as caregivers and servants in the household. This approach not only makes such men independent in handling home affairs but also helps in developing more balanced and equitable partnerships when they get married.

Getting trained in household tasks can also make such boys learn additional skills such as patience, attention to detail, and time management. These skills can have a positive impact on other areas of their life such as academic and professional pursuits.

Training in basic life skills such as cooking, cleaning, organising can make such boys competent in domestic responsibilities and this can make them more organised, disciplined, and capable of managing their time effectively, all of which are essential for success in various aspects of life.

#### **Strengthening Family Bonds**A sense of teamwork a

A sense of teamwork and cooperation can be induced in families and hence family bonds can get strengthened in households if household chores are made gender neutral. When boys support and participate with girls in the household chores, it helps in fostering deeper connections with family members and hence can contribute to well-being and happiness of the family members and create a more warm atmosphere free of distress. The family members might seem to be working with each other towards common goals.

In households where tasks are shared fairly, boys learn the importance of fairness and respect for others. These lessons are valuable not just at home, but also in their interactions outside the house. Boys who grasp the significance of fairness and teamwork are more likely to apply these principles in their friendships, relationships, and future families, helping to create a more just and respectful society.

#### **Overcoming Cultural Resistance**

Even though we realise the benefits of training boys in basic life skills such as cooking, cleaning, organising etc., and in supporting females in the household, still there is often resistance to having a gender-neutral approach about such tasks, particularly in cultures where traditional gender roles are deeply embedded. Overcoming this resistance requires a concerted effort from parents, educators, and society as a whole to challenge and change these norms.

Parents are very important in showing children that everyone can do any kind of work, no matter if they are a boy or a girl. When parents do chores together and show that these tasks are not just for one gender, they teach their children a valuable lesson. Schools can also help by teaching all kids, boys and girls, how to do everyday tasks.

TV shows, movies, and other media can also change how people think about who does what jobs. When men are shown taking care of kids and doing housework, it helps people see that these tasks are not just for women. This change in how we see things is important for making sure boys feel good about helping with chores at home.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

# The Foundation of Healthy Relationships

Ilene Strauss Cohen

n the complexity of human relationships, distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy connections can significantly impact our hap-piness and well-being. While each relationship is unique, certain characteristics form the bedrock of thriving, fulfilling partnerships. Trust, honesty, respect, open communication, effort, and collaboration are the foundation of healthy relationships, supporting personal growth and mutual satisfaction. Conversely, unhealthy relationships may lack these elements, leading to feelings of insecurity, mistrust, and stagnation.

For example, in a genuine friendship, two individuals continuously provide unwavering support through life's challenges and come together to cheer each other's triumphs. Friendships should go beyond simply overcoming obstacles; they are also about reveling in each other's happiness. Ideally, friendships are filled with shared experiences and dedication to each other's welfare. The upcoming sections discuss vital components in nurturing and maintaining strong, healthy relationships. These can be applied to any type of relationship, whether friendships, intimate, or family.

#### The Role of Trus

Trust, as proposed by John Bowlby's attachment theory, is the cornerstone of any healthy relationship. Our early attachment styles shape our ability to trust, creating a blueprint for future interactions. Secure, stable, and trusting early relationships instill confidence in future connections. Conversely, unstable past experiences may lead to "trust injuries," emotional wounds that can make it challenging to trust in future relationships. Trust is the foundation that makes individuals feel safe and secure, creating deeper connections and emotional intimacy.

#### Honesty and Its Impact

Honesty is inextricably linked to trust. It's challenging to trust someone who isn't truthful. In a healthy relationship, both partners should feel free to be authentic without fear of judgment or the need to hide. This level of openness strengthens relational trust and fortifies the emotional bond between individuals. Honesty creates an environment where both parties can grow and evolve together.

#### Mutual Respect

Respect is the key to offering support, understanding, and empathy. It is demonstrated through active listening, a



practice that makes the other person feel heard and understood. Fulfilling commitments and appreciating each other's contributions are also crucial aspects of respect. By fostering an environment of mutual respect, individuals can build each other up, creating a safe space for growth and security. This mutual respect ensures that each person feels valued and appreciated, contributing to a healthy relationship.

#### The Heart of Communication

Open communication is the lifeblood of any healthy relationship. It involves expressing thoughts and feelings honestly and empathetically, particularly about conflicts. Navigating arguments with empathy and understanding means genuinely listening to the other person's perspective, acknowledging their emotions, and working together to find a resolution. Effective communication allows indi-

viduals to resolve differences respectfully, ensuring that each person's perspective is recognized and valued. It's not about avoiding arguments but speaking to each other with empathy and understanding. If it's difficult to respectfully communicate when upset, pause and talk about the issue when both parties are calm.

#### Effort and Collaboration

Healthy relationships require effort. This might mean making time for each other, being open to differing perspectives, or collaborating to achieve mutual goals. Successful relationships are reciprocal; they grow with genuine acts of kindness and support without keeping score. While some relationships may not always be perfectly balanced, they work when each person feels valued and supported.

While these qualities are ideal for any relationship, the journey toward healthier connections often begins within ourselves. This self-reflection is not about self-criticism but about empowerment. Rather than focusing solely on others' actions, we should reflect on how we embody these characteristics. Are we open to communication, or do we become defensive? Do we strive for honesty yet resist being truthful ourselves? We

can contribute to more fulfilling interactions by focusing on our own growth. While no relationship is perfect, working toward these efforts can lead to a more fulfilling and enduring bond.

#### Exercise: Discover the Value of Your Connections

Reflect on the impact of your relationships on your mental and physical health. Social connections have been shown to reduce anxiety and depression, enhance self-esteem, and even bolster the immune system. Consider these prompts:

1. Write down five benefits you gain from your relationships.

Example: Emotional support during difficult times.
2. Write down five benefits others gain from being in a relationship with you.

Example: A reliable friend

who listens without judgment. By consciously evaluating and nurturing these aspects, we can journey toward more rewarding and resilient relationships, enriching our lives and those around us. Embrace the opportunity to create connections rooted in trust, hon-

esty, and collaboration, and watch your relationships and personal growth flourish.

The article was originally published by Psychology

# Pope Preaches Unity At South-East Asia's Largest Mosque

Singapore: Pope Francis met with Nasaruddin Umar, the grand imam of Southeast Asia's largest mosque, on Thursday, in a meeting in Indonesia centered on fighting climate change and religious extremism.

The pair signed a joint declaration at the Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, symbolizing the pope's push to promote religious harmony during his visit to Muslimmajority Indonesia.

Francis called the mosque a "great gift" and told people from other faiths that "we are all brothers and sisters, all pilgrims, all on our way to God, beyond what differentiates us."

The joint declaration also called on Catholics and Muslims to unite to push global leaders into action on climate change.

Francis described

"environmental crisis" as "an obstacle to the growth and coexistence of peoples."

Indonesia is the first stop on the pope's 11-day, four-nation Asia Pacific tour.

Home to the world's largest Muslim population, the Indonesian government officially recognizes six faiths: Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Hinduism.

While freedom of religion is enshrined in the country's constitution, there have been incidents of religious intolerance.

"We live a happy Catholic life in Indonesia, but there is sometimes discrimination when we go out to Mass and go to pray," said Saddam Husein Pareto, an Indonesian Catholic who lives on the border with East Timor. Catholics make up around 3%

of Indonesia's population.



During a tour of the Istiqlal Mosque, Francis was shown the Tunnel of Friendship, which connects to a nearby cathedral. The pope praised the underpass as a symbol of how religions can live side by side.

"He [Francis] actually wants some deep, meaningful engagement," said Joel Hodge, a lecturer in theology at the Australian Catholic University.

"He's prioritized that, particularly with the Islamic world, because of how large it is and how important it is within the global context," Hodge said.

Francis will leave Indonesia on Friday, heading to Papua Guinea on the next leg of the tour. He

will also stop in East Timor and Singapore.

It's the longest amount of time that Francis, 87, has ever spent away from the Vatican and marks his first overseas trip of the year. The duration and scale of the tour has surprised some given his recent health issues.

"It's a long distance for a Pope

who's quite frail. He's 87 and he's not in the best of health," said Hodge. "He's making a real

statement here about the im-

portance of Asia to the Church."

Francis has visited the region on a number of occasions, embarking on trips to countries including Japan, South Korea and Mongolia.

"Part of Pope Francis' vision is to make the shift to really emphasize the global nature of the church, and have the church think more globally, not just in a European way," said Hodge.

The pull of the pontiff has been on full display in Indonesia, with huge crowds lining the streets ahead of every engagement.

Dionisius Windarto, an Indonesian Catholic, said he received messages from friends who were "excited to see what the pope looks like and what he wants to say about Indonesia."

The pope has also shunned luxuries during his time in the Southeast Asian country. He flew to Jakarta on a commercial flight and is staying in the Vatican's Embassy in Jakarta, rather than a plush hotel.

"It's quite a contradiction with our current leaders," said Windarto.

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

#### **Amit Shah To**

Shah will officially launch the BJP's campaign from Jammu, where he is scheduled to address a rally in the city on Saturday, he said.

His visit to Jammu is seen as crucial, given the resentment within the BJP over its ticket distribution in the Union Territory. This has prompted the party to launch a damage control exercise, deploying several top leaders, including Union ministers, to calm the situation over the past week.

Jammu district, which has 11 assembly constituencies, holds significant importance for the BJP. The party secured nine of these seats in the 2014 elections, contributing to its total tally of 25.

Shah's launch of the campaign from Jammu is aimed at reassuring the people of the region about the BJP's commitment to their welfare and development.

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister, Dr Nirmal Singh, who is also chairman of party's manifesto committee informed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will unveil 'Sankalp Patra' (Resolution Letter), which was prepared after taking suggestions from the people.

Lashing oppositions for promising unrealistic things in their manifesto, Dr Singh, "BIP's manifesto will be biased on what is achievable and takes care of every section

Shah during his stay in Jammu will also meet senior leadership and take review of the campaign.

Moreover, Shah is scheduled to hold a public meeting in Jammu on Saturday, the second day of his tour, to bolster the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

Ahead of the rally, Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP In-Charge of J&K Assembly Elections,. G. Kishan Reddy, inspected the venue and reviewed the

Reddy stated, "We are ensuring that evmeeting. Amit Shah's visit is a critical part of our campaign strategy, and we are confident it will energize our supporters."

The BJP is gearing up for a robust election campaign, with plans for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders to address rallies across the Union

A party source revealed, "Our star campaigners have begun their campaign efforts, and we are expecting that these rallies will significantly boost our outreach and support base."

He said that the BIP's efforts to mobilize voters and strengthen their position in Jammu and Kashmir are expected to intensify in the days to come.

Security has been tightened in and around Jammu ahead of Shah's visit, officials said. Multi-tier security arrangements have been made at two venues, including the media centre set up by the BJP at a hotel in the Channi area, they added.

Preparations, including security measures, are underway for Shah's rally at Palora Top. Sanitisation operations have been conducted and area domination protocols are in place, they said. (inputs from

#### agencies) **310 Candidates**

112 candidates have filed their nominations in Srinagar district, followed by 68 in Budgam district, 47 in Rajouri district, 35 in Poonch district, while 24 candidates each have filed nominations in Reasi and Ganderbal districts.

In Jammu division, for the three ACs in Reasi district, a total of 7 candidates have filed nomination from Gulabgarh (ST), 10 candidates have filed nomination from Reasi, while 7 candidates have filed nomination from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

In the five ACs in Rajouri district, 11 candidates have filed nomination from Kalakote – Sunderbani, 7 from Nowshera; 14 from Rajouri (ST), 7 from Budhal (ST), while 8 candidates have filed nomination from Thannamandi (ST).

For the three ACs in Poonch district, a total of 11 candidates have filed nomination from Surankote (ST), 13 from Poonch Haveli, while 11 candidates have filed nomination from Mendhar (ST).

In Kashmir division, for the 2 ACs in Ganderbal district, 6 candidates have filed nomination from Kangan (ST), while 18 candidates have filed nomination from

Ganderbal. For the 8 ACs in Srinagar district, a total of 18 candidates have filed nomination from Hazratbal, 10 from Khanyar, 20 from Habbakadal,12 from Lal Chowk, 9 from Channapora, 15 from Zadibal, 15 from Eidgah, while 13 candidates have filed nomination from Central Shalteng.

In the five ACs in Budgam district, 12 candidates have filed nomination from Budgam, 18 from Beerwah,17 from Khansahib, 12 from Charar-I-Sharief, while 9 candidates have filed nomination from

The notification for the Phase-II was issued on 29 August, 2024 and the last date for filing the nominations was September 5, 2024 till 3:00 pm.

The nomination papers will be scrutinised by the respective Returning Officers on 6 September, 2024, while the candidates can withdraw their nomination paper by or before 9 September, 2024 upto 3:00 pm in the office of Returning Officer. Thereafter, validly nominated candidates will be in the electoral frav.

The polling day for these 26 Assembly constituencies in Phase-II is scheduled for September 25, 2024, and the voting will be conducted from 07:00 AM to 06:00 PM.

#### **ECI Issues**

division, the constituencies going to polls are Udhampur West, Udhampur East, Chenani, Ramnagar (SC), Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jasrota, Kathua (SC), Hiranagar, Ramgarh (SC), Samba, and Vijaypur, Bishnah (SC).

Suchetgarh (SC), R S Pura, Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC), and Chhamb are the other constituencies going to polls in the region. According to the notification, the last

date for filing nominations for this phase is September 12, while the scrutiny of the nomination papers will take place on September 13. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is September 17.

The polling for the first two phases of polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held

Assembly polls are being conducted in Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of 10 years and first time since the erstwhile state was carved into two Union Territories following the abrogation of Article 370.

#### **J&K Assembly**

battle include the National Conference-Congress alliance, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Awami Ittehad Party, Apni Party and several independent candidates.

Political Landscape in J&K: 2014-2024

The last assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in 2014, resulting in a PDP-BJP coalition government. However, the government collapsed in 2018 after the BJP withdrew support from PDP under Mehbooba Mufti.

Since then, the political landscape has changed significantly, particularly after the revocation of the region's special status.

The BIP plans to contest the elections independently, while the National Conference (NC) and Congress have formed an alliance. Under this arrangement, NC will contest 51 seats, Congress will contest 32 seats, and there will be 'friendly contests' in five constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, one seat each has been allocated to CPI(M) in south Kashmir and Panthers Party in the Jammu division.

Parties in Fray Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

The BJP, aiming to increase its influence in the Muslim-majority region of Jammu and Kashmir, has so far announced candidates for over 44 out of 90 seats, with plans to potentially contest more. The party's performance in the 2020 District Development Council (DDC) elections was notable, particularly in the Jammu region, although it struggled in the Valley.

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections, while NC and PDP contested against each other for the three seats in Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP focused on Ladakh, Udhampur, and Jammu, facing Congress in these areas.

National Conference-Congress alliance NC and Congress have formed an alliance, with NC contesting 51 seats and Congress 32. Five constituencies will

see 'friendly contests,' while CPI(M) and

Panthers Party will contest one seat each. NC's manifesto pledges to work towards restoring Articles 370 and 35A, reinstating statehood, overturning post-2019 laws affecting J&K's special status, providing jobs for unemployed residents, releasing political prisoners, promoting India-Pakistan dialogue, limiting land ownership to residents, and repealing the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The first list of over 30 candidates includes Omar Abdullah, who will contest from the Ganderbal and Budgam constituencies, reversing his earlier stance of not entering the poll fray until statehood was

Congress has also released its initial list of candidates, with its new state chief Tariq Hamid Karra contesting from Central Shaletang, party general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir running from Dooru, and former state unit chief Vikar Rasool Wani from Banihal.

Congress is heavily relying on Rahul Gandhi to rally its base in J&K. During a recent visit to Srinagar, Gandhi called for restoring J&K's statehood, stating, "Running Kashmir and Jammu from Delhi doesn't make sense."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

Although the PDP is not part of the INDIA alliance, its president, Mehbooba Mufti, has stated that she would support the alliance if it adopts the PDP's agenda.

The party's manifesto echoes NC's, advocating dialogue with Pakistan, the revocation of central laws like the PSA, and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. The manifesto also commits to overturning other central laws, such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), and the Enemy Act.

PDP has released a list of candidates, with some running against NC candidates. Mehbooba Mufti has decided not to seek re-election from Anantnag, instead, her daughter Iltija will make her electoral debut from the Bijbehara constituency.

The PDP has ruled out any alliance with BJP, labelling the Congress-NC alliance as 'power-hungry".

Other key players

Other parties in the race include Saiad Lone's J&K People's Conference (PC), former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), and Altaf Bukhari's J&K Apni Party.

Azad, who quit Congress in 2022, launched DPAP to enter I&K politics. Altaf Bukhari, who was one of the few I&K politicians not detained in 2019, broke away from PDP along with 30 other leaders to establish the J&K Apni Party. The party's primary demands include restoring statehood, reinstating I&K's domicile rights. and extending Article 371 to the region. The party has so far fielded over 23 candidates, with Bukhari himself running for the

Chanapora seat. Delimitation and voter demographics

The delimitation commission's 2022 exercise increased the number of assembly constituencies from 87 to 90, with 43 seats in Jammu and 47 in Kashmir. Additionally, nine seats-three in Kashmir and six in Jammu-were reserved for scheduled tribes.

In 2014, Jammu and Kashmir had 7,316,946 voters, with 3,854,791 males and 3,462,092 females. Currently, J&K has over 8.7 million electors, including 44.46 lakh males and 42.62 lakh females. Notably, there are 3.71 lakh first-time voters (aged 18-19) and 20.7 lakh young voters (aged 20-29)

Election phases & results The assembly elections will be held in

three phases: September 18 for 24 Phase 1:

constituencies September 25 for 26 Phase 2: constituencies Phase 3: October 1 for 40 constituencies

Results for all 90 constituencies will be declared on October 8. Voter turnout in the 2014 assembly elections

The total number of votes polled in the 2014 election (EVM + Postal) in Jammu and Kashmir was 4,794,374, with a voter turnout

Political significance

The mix of seasoned politicians, new faces, regional political parties, emerging political startups, moderate separatist activists turning mainstream politicians, and independents adds to the unpredictability of the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, making it one to watch closely.

## Sonia, Priyanka

Tara DChand, Choudhary Lal Singh, Imran Masood, Pawan Khera, Supriya Shrinate, Kanhaiya Kumar, Manoj Yadav, Divya Maderna, Shahnawaz Choudhary, Neeraj Kundan, Rajesh Lilothia, Alka Lamba and Shrinivas B. V.

Pertinently, the AICC General Secretary Ghulam Ahad Mir said that a list of 120 star campaigners have been prepared for Jammu and Kashmir, who will be visiting Jammu and Kashmir assembly segments to woo the voters ahead of the polls.

He had said that a list of 40 star campaigners in each phase would be issued in Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **Sarian Barkati**

Abdullah represented Beerwah in the last Assembly of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Barkati was first arrested in 2016 and booked under the Public Safety Act.

He was again arrested last year and is facing charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

According to the chargesheet filed against him in a court earlier this year, Barkati -- an active ideologue, promoter and supporter of the terrorist-secessionist nexus -- hatched a criminal conspiracy with others, including his family members, to facilitate, aid, incite, advise, advocate and promote terrorist and secessionist ideologies and activities through his inflammatory speeches.

#### **Omar Files Papers**

the strength of his party. "My colleagues wanted to show that the NC is not fighting this election from a weak position, but a strong one. My contesting from two seats is not a sign of weakness, but strength, it is the proof of the NC's strength,"

ination papers. The former chief minister said if there was any danger of his losing from Budgam, then his party colleagues would not have allowed him to contest from here.

Abdullah told reporters here after filing nom-

"Whether it is Baramulla, Srinagar or Anantnag, there is a wave in favour of the NC and we hope that the party will be successful and the alliance candidates will also win." he added.

The NC has an alliance with the Congress for the three-phase assembly polls.

Abdullah said the ground situation is in favour of his party and expressed hope the results of the election would prove that.

"We are not like those fools who talked

about 400 plus (seats) and then stopped at

240. I hope when the counting takes places, we will be successful," he said. He also said that the mis-governance of the last six years, corruption allegations and other related things will be probed after

To a question about BJP general secretary Ram Madhav's allegations that ex-militants are campaigning for NC and PDP, Abdullah said the BJP leader should prove his charges.

forming the next government in Jammu and

To a question about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on contracts in J&K going into the hands of non-locals, Abdullah said the people of J&K have a right on their

#### resources **Sajad Lone To Fight**

The party promised setting up a judicial commission to probe rigging of 1987 assem-

"We will set-up a judicial commission to probe the murder of democracy in 1987 and hold its perpetrators accountable. It is our firm belief, that the source of major sociopolitical instability that continues to mar Kashmir even today, is a derivative of that one cataclysmic event. The Great Robbery of 1987 - that of our rights, our young, our lives and our collective destiny needs to be brought to account," reads the manifesto.

The PC also committed that it would strive to end arbitrary attachment of properties, destructive demolition drives and unwarranted terminations.

In its manifesto, the party said it "will strive to repeal the Public Safety Act (PSA) and other draconian laws which have been indiscriminately used to punish Kashmiris in the past three decades".

#### **Triangular Political**

only candidate from the Qazigund hamlet, could turn the tables.

Anantnag West was formed after the recent delimitation process when parts of the old Homeshalibugh, Devsar, Anantnag and Dooru seats were merged. The constituency's boundaries extend from Turk Tachloo, Khundur, Dialgam, Qazigund and other parts.

As this constituency is new, none of the

ing the contest more unpredictable. However, parts of Homeshalibugh give an edge to both Larmi and Sofi, who have previously represented the area.

candidates have represented it before, mak-

Abdul Majeed Bhat Larmi

Ab Majeed Larmi, born in 1961 in the village of Larm Ganjipora, comes from a politically connected family. His grandfather, Abdul Kabeer Bhat, was a key leader of the Muslim Conference in 1931. Larmi began his political journey in 1988 when he was appointed youth president for Kulgam and Anantnag districts by the National Conference.

In 2008, NC gave him the mandate to contest the Homeshalibugh constituency. He lost to PDP's Gaffar Sofi by nearly 1,800 votes but won in 2014 by around 1,600 votes.

Abdul Gaffar Sofi

Born in 1951 in Sofigund Wanpoo, Sofi completed his graduation in the early '70s and entered politics. He fought his first election on a Congress ticket in 1996 but lost. In 1999, he joined PDP and became one of its founding members. He won the Homeshalibugh seat in 2002 and 2008, serving as Health and Medical Education Minister. However, he lost

Analysts believe the experience of both Sofi and Larmi will make this a close contest. Both have represented the constituency for a long time, keeping their party workers intact. Bilal Ahmad Deva

Bilal Ahmad Deva, a grassroots worker, began his political career as a sarpanch and later became a DDC member. He is the only contesting candidate from the Qazigund area, which could give him a significant share of votes, making him a strong contender.

Historically, the seat was represented by Abdul Salam Deva of NC in 1977 and 1983, Ghulam Nabi (an independent) in 1987, Gul Mohammad Rafique of NC in 1996, Abdul Gaffar Sofi of PDP in 2002 and 2008 and Ab Majeed Bhat Larmi of NC in 2014.

Anantnag West has 1,26,006 voters

(63,281 males, 62,724 females, and 1 trans-

#### gender) with 146 polling stations (25 urban and 121 rural).(KNO)

**BJP Faces** which will go for polls on September 18. On this seat BJP has fielded former MLA and former minister Shakti Raj Parihar with an aim to win this seat as opposition parties didn't have any big leader to counter BJP. But a few months back a professor Dr. Pardeep Kumar Bhagat joined Congress party and has been given the mandate by the party along

with the support from National Conference. Being a member of the Scheduled Caste community, Bhagat is attracting lots of voters and Muslim population is also supporting him. But Parihar enjoys a good rapport among all the communities as he has never spoken against anybody in the district and has reached out to all the communities.

In this new constituency, BJP will be eveing to win and make sure that it is a safe seat for the party whereas Congress is up for giving

The campaigning of both the candidates is going at full pace and as the area is hilly, reaching out to each and every area is difficult in the next 10 days.

At present there are eight candidates in the fray for this seat which include BJP, Congress. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Democratic Progressive Azad (DPAP), Aam Aadmi Party, Shiv Sena Bala Saheb Thakrey and few inde-

#### pendents.(KNO) **5 DPAP Candidates**

Samaj Party have also withdrawn their nomination papers.

The nomination papers of 36 candidates have been rejected. A total of 594 candidates have filed nomination forms so far.

#### **HC Seeks Response**

(Conduct) Rules, 1971 as the same prohibit a Government employee for taking part in politics or anti-secular and communal

The counsel submitted that his prayers are twofold i.e., firstly, that the Rule itself be declared ultra-vires and be guashed as it prevents the petitioner for taking part in the elections as a prospective candidate to the Legislative Assembly without resigning from his service as Senior Lecturer in Political Science in the School Education Department. In the alternative, the counsel argued that Rule 14 be interpreted in a manner that does not prohibit a Government employee from standing for elections to the State Legislature provided that if he is elected, he would have

to resign from his Government service. The counsel further argued that Rule 14 only prohibits that taking part in politics or

anti-secular and communal activities and does not prohibit taking part in the electoral process as a prospective candidate to the Legislative Assembly. In support of the arguments, he has placed before the Court the rules governing Government servants in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tripura and the Central Services, where the corresponding provision prohibits the Government servant

from taking part in election itself. Under the circumstances, the counsel submitted that the omission of the word "elections" in Section 14 is a conscious omission in the rule.

On the other hand, Advocate General D. C. Raina drew the Court's attention to sub-Rule 3 of Rule 13 which he submitted has to be read in conjunction with Rule 14. As noted by the court in its order, the ar-

gument was made in order to clarify the ambiguity in the terms "politics", "anti-secular" and "communal activities" as these words have not been defined in the rules. Sub-Rule 3 of Rule 13 lays an embargo on the government employee from uttering, writing or discussing or criticizing in public,

in any meeting or any association or body, any policy or action taken by the Government and also prohibited the Government employee from participating in any discussion or criticism. On the basis of sub-Rule 3, the Advocate General submitted that participation in the electoral process and standing for election as a candidate to the UT (Legislature) is an impossibility without being critical of the

included through speeches, manifesto, in writing, canvassing etc. same, he said, would otherwise be discussed or criticized in public. The Advocate General also submitted that while Rule 13(3) has not been challenged in the present petition, the examination of

existing Government and governance, exist-

ing policy of the governance and would be

Rule 14 and whether it is ultravires is an The advocate General also referred to Section 134-A of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 which provides for penalty for Government servants for acting as election agent, polling agent or counting agent. He submitted that a Government servant if found acting as an election agent or a polling agent or a counting agent of a candidate at an election, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three

months, or with fine, or with both. He also submitted that 134-A when read in conjunction with Rule 14 and Rule 13(3), prohibits the petitioner from standing for

election. "As regards Section 134(A) of the RP Act 1951, prima facie we are unable to agree with the learned AG as Rule 134-A is a penal provision in an otherwise regulatory statute. Penal provisions have to be construed strictly as they provide for imprisonment and the loss of liberty," the court said, adding, "Merely because, it finds a place in a regulatory statute cannot be a reason to resort to progressive

interpretation of the said provision." Rule of interpretation, the court said, is clear and unambiguous and Penal provisions

have to be construed strictly. "Under the circumstances, this court on a prima facie appreciation of Section 134-A of the RP Act, 1951, is of the view that the penalty to be imposed is only for persons who are government servants, but acting as election agent, or a polling agent or a counting agent of a candidate and does not extend or provide any penalty for a government employee standing as a candidate himself," the court observed.

Amid this, Hyder Rasool, a young law graduate and Reader of the Court also drew the Bench's attention to two provisions which court found relevant for consideration in the

Firstly, he drew the Bench's attention to Article 191 of the Constitution of India which provides for disqualification for membership for being chosen, as, and for being, a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State by persons who are holding any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State and, an analogous provision in the J&K Re-organization Act, 2019 and also analogous provisions of Section 27 of the J&K Re-organization Act 2019 which is in parimateria with Article 191 of the Constitution

of India. "All the views taken in this order are prima facie and they will be all subject to different interpretation by this Court itself after hearing arguments," the court said and issued notice to ECI and the J&K authorities.

## **Anurag Thakur Slams NC-Cong For Pushing J&K Back Into Era Of Unrest**

Agencies

JAMMU: The former union minister and incumbent Member of Parliament, Anurag Thakur Thursday came down heavily on Congress and National Conference (NC) for pushing Jammu and Kashmir towards anarchy terrorism, and unrest.

Thakur said this during a road show taken out in Padder-Nagseni Assembly Constituency in favour of BJP candidate Sunil Sharma, a former minister in BJP-PDP coalition government.

"By talking of bringing back Article 370, NC and Congress want to push J&K back in an of terrorism," Thakur said as per the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) and added, "There is peace in J&K and development here has been going on at rapid pace after abrogation of Article 370".

The tourists are also arriving in J&K in record numbers, which the NC and Congress are not able to digest, he said.

Thakur said that heavy turnout in the road show and increasing support of the people to BJP from all across J&K shows that "BJP is going to form the next government in J&K".

Thakur appealed to the people to vote for BJP and teach NC a lesson and give befitting reply to Congress and NC in the Assembly elections.

"After ruling the country for more than 60 years, Rahul

Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi could not come to Kashmir to play with snow and enjoy icecream," Thakur said and added, "They played with snow, went around Kashmir and had icecream after Prime Minister Modi abrogated Article 370".

The people have suffered a lot due to misdeeds and follies of NC and Congress since decades and these two parties have again come together to bring back terrorism and violence in J&K, he said.

"There was a time when Kashmir had become synonymous to terrorism, stone pelting and unrest but now under the leadership of PM Modi, it is synonymous with development, peace and prosperity," Thakur said. Today, we have AIIMS in J&K, IIMs, 11 Medical Colleges, NIFT, IIT and IIMC here in J&K under the visionary leadership of J&K,

Commenting on Rahul Gandhi's statement, Thakur said, "The Home Minister had clearly said that J&K will be given the status of a full State as soon as the Assembly elections are held. After the abrogation of Article 370, the incidents of stone pelting, terrorism and separatism have ended. BJP brought peace, prosperity and progress here. The people here are happy. Now, Rahul Gandhi said that he wants to settle here. The suffering caused by your government for 70 years has led to separatism. Where were you at that time?"—(KNO)

# Govt Accepts Er. Rashid's **Brother's Request For Voluntary Retirement**

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The government of J&K has accepted Er. Rashid's brother application for voluntary retirement from services.

In an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the School Education department said that it has accorded sanction to voluntary retirement of Khursheed Ahmed Sheikh, who was working in a school in his native area of Mawar.

As per the order, Khursheed's voluntary retirement is effective from September 01, 2024. Khursheed is likely to be AIP's candidate from Langate segment. He would be locked in a direct contest with Peoples Conference candidate Irfan Panditpuri in the segment. While Rashid won Langate segment in 2008 and 2014, Irfan defeated the AIPcandidate by an impressive margin in 2020 district development council (DDC) polls—(KNO)

# **Ex-Bureaucrat Gazanfar Ali To Contest From Lal Chowk AC**

**Majid Nabi** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) led by jailed Parliamentarian from north Kashmir, Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Thursday released a fresh list of three candidates for the upcoming general assembly elections.

The announcement in this regard was made by the AIP Political Affairs Committee.

Those granted mandate by the party to run for the elections included former bureaucrat Gazanfar Ali from Lal Chowk assembly segment, Dr Burhan Bazaz Zadibal and Shakeel Ahmad from Eidgah assembly constituency.

"In view of the upcoming assembly elections, the political affairs Committee has recommended the mandates of the above-mentioned individuals,' AIP political affairs committee chairman, Ishtiyaq Qadri said.

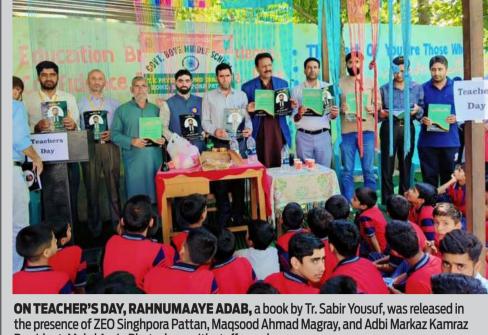
Gazanfar Ali, the former Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) will square off against Ehsan Pardesi of National Conference and Mohammad Ashraf Mir of Apni



Party in the upcoming assembly elections.

Besides having a sizable fan base within the local Sunni and Shia sects being a wellknown social influencer and political pundit, Ali, who has several high-ranking posts during his illustrious career was encouraged by his colleagues and supporters to join the electoral fray.

Ali's announcement to contest assembly elections is considered a significant shift in the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Kashmir, with many believing that his candidature would be well-received by people in the



President, Mohd Amin Bhat, along with staff members.

Drug Menace Soars In J&K:

# Over 9,400 Arrested, Heroin Worth Rs 30,000 Cr. Seized In 4 Years

**Agencies** 

**SRINAGAR:** The drug crisis in Jammu and Kashmir has reached alarming levels, with 6,564 cases registered over the past four years and more than 9,400 people arrested in connection with drug-related offenses. However, the political parties seem to have been playing a proverbial ostrich for such a situation.

None of the major political parties, including the Congress, National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), or Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have made eradicating the drug menace a core agenda during the ongoing Assembly elections. Instead, the political rhetoric continues to revolve around the restoration of special status and statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

Data from law enforcement agencies reveals a steep rise in drug-related cases. In 2021, 1,681 cases were registered, leading to 2,500 arrests, while 2022 saw 1.693 cases with 2,400 arrests. The numbers spiked in 2023-24, with 3,190



cases and 4,500 arrests.

Heroin recovery has also grown over the years. In 2020, 128 kg of heroin was seized, followed by 198 kg in 2021, 212 kg in 2022, and 200 kg in 2023. The total heroin recovered in the last four years is valued at approximately Rs 30,000 crore.

However, despite this growing crisis, political discourse during the elections has largely ignored the issue. The focus remains on constitutional matters such as special status and statehood, leaving many to question why the escalating drug problem is not a priority for political parties. "The Drug menace and its eradication is there in our priorities. Please do not think that

we have ignored it. However, these elections have been held after more than a decade that too when Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its identity and status. We have to tell people about this but at the same time, our youth are our future and eradication of drug menace is very much our top most priority," says Khurshid Alam,a former legislator from PDP.

A Congress leader echoed the similar concerns, stating that immediate measures will be taken to tackle the root causes of drug addiction that has taken the shape of pandemic. Leaders from the National Conference and other parties were not available for comments on this issue—(KNO)

# **Assembly Elections: Female Candidates Urge People To Exercise Vote Wisely**

**SRINAGAR:** Female candidates participating in the upcoming first phase of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, scheduled for September 18, are urging voters to exercise their choice wisely, saying there is a need for change and a departure from the status quo of the last decade.

If people still have to fight for basic needs, it means that those who have ruled J&K for decades, especially in the last 10 years, have failed to do justice on the ground, they said.

They criticised the lack of basic facilities and the inability of past governments to fulfill promises, adding that people in J&K, especially women, should cast their votes thoughtfully and not be swayed by communal or caste-based politics.

National Conference (NC) leader Sakina Itoo said this election is different from previous ones, not only because it comes after a decade but also

because people had become unfamiliar with the election process and its impact.

Meenakshi Kalra, an independent candidate from Doda West, expressed her frustration with leaders who have governed for decades but failed to deliver on basic needs like road connectivity and water facilities. "If they are still doing politics on the same issues as they were 10-15 years ago, they do not deserve our votes," she said. Kalra urged women to vote carefully and not fall for empty promises.

Similarly, Meenakshi Bhagat, running on a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) ticket from Bhaderwah, said she is focused on the need for women's empowerment and improvement in various sectors. Voters are now more mature and aware of their choices, especially since no elections were held in J&K for the past 10 years," she said.

Bhagat lamented the "lack of visible development" since the abrogation of Article 370, despite government claims.

In total, nine female candidates are contesting in the first phase of the elections, five from the Kashmir division and four from the Jammu division.

Notable candidates from Kashmir include Daisy Raina from the Republican Party of India in Rajpora Pulwama, Gulshan Akhter (independent) from Anantnag West, Iltija Mufti of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from Bijbehara-Srigufwara, Afroza Bano (independent) from Kulgam, and Sakeena Masood

Itoo from D H Pora (NC). From Jammu, candidates include Meenakshi Bhagat (BSP) from Bhaderwah, Meenakshi Kalra (independent) from Doda West, Pooja Thakur (NC) from Padder-Nagsani and Shagun Parihar (BJP) from Kishtwar.

These female candidates are hopeful that the electorate will prioritise progress, women's empowerment and real change in their decision-making this election season—(KNO)

# **Cry For Ayushman Bharat Services Rock Partab Park**

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: The recent suspension of Ayushman Bharat services by private hospitals in Jammu & Kashmir, effective September 01, has led to widespread calls for government intervention from hundreds of affected patients.

The suspension has sparked serious concerns among patients who depend on these services for essential treatments.

Today, a protest was held at Pratab Park, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, where patients and their family members from across J&K were seen shouting slogans and raising placards. Patients urged the govern-

ment to act swiftly to restore these crucial healthcare services. The halt in services stems from a financial dispute involving private hospitals, which have not received approximately Rs 200 crore in funds since March. A protester told KNO, "If the

government doesn't resume the Golden Card, how will we afford the treatment? We don't have the money for private hospitals."

Another person, from Pulwama, said, "We want the government to restart the scheme; otherwise, we will lose our family members. It is not a matter of money, but life and death."



In November of last year, IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company, which provided insurance for Ayushman Bharat in J&K, notified the State Health Agency (SHA) of its decision not to renew the contract after its

expiration on March 14, 2025. Previously managed by Bajaj Allianz GIC, IFFCO-TOKIO was introduced as the new insurer but has since sought to withdraw, citing financial losses. Despite the SHA's requests for IFFCO-TOKIO to continue, the company refused.

Additionally, the High Court recently directed IFFCO-TOKIO to continue the existing arrangement under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT (AB-PMJAY-SEHAT) until the dispute is resolved by an arbitrator. However, the company has yet to comply, prompting authorities to file a contempt petition—(KNO)

# **GDC Soibugh Student Secures Spot In National Pencak Silat Competition**



BUDGAM: GDC Soibugh student Anees Yousuf's victory in Pencak Silat at University of Kashmir on the 5th of September 2024 has garnered widespread attention and acclaim. His impressive win has not only secured him a place in the national-level competition but has also sparked celebrations throughout the college. The Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sharique Zahida Deva and faculty members have extended their warm. congratulations to Anees Yousuf for his outstanding accom-

skills and dedication to Pencak Silat have brought honor to the college and raised the spirits of the entire student body.

Anees Yousuf's triumph is a testament to his hard work and talent in the realm of martial arts. His success underscores the importance of perseverance and commitment in achieving one's goals. As he prepares to represent GDC Soibugh at the national level, the college community stands united in support of his journey. Anees Yousuf's to his peers, demonstrating the rewards of dedication and pasplishment. His exceptional sion in pursuing excellence.

# **BJP Chief Raina Files Nomination** From Nowshera Assembly Seat

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: ammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Thursday filed his nomination papers from the Nowshera Assembly constituency in Rajouri district.

Raina held a roadshow in Nowshera with RSS functionary and former BJP general secretary Ram Madhav. This marks Raina's second contest from the seat. "This isn't just my

candidacy, it represents the aspirations of 1.25 lakh people of the Nowshera constituency. It is their mandate and the voice of the people. The overwhelming turnout here, reminiscent of (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji's rallies, shows BJP's imminent victory," Raina said during a public rally.

Raina thanked the people for their support, asserting that the massive turnout was a promising sign for the BIP's prospects in the elections.

"The people of Nowshera await us with even greater enthusiasm," he added.

Expressing confidence in the BJP's victory in the polls, Raina said he was hopeful that the party would form government with a majority.

Raina also criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his alliance partner National Conference for allegedly disrespecting the region's Maharajas.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir will respond to the Congress and its allies," he asserted.

He further denounced the alleged remarks against tribals by some NC leaders and said the people would teach them a lesson in the elections. Madhav urged voters to

support BJP for continued peace, progress, and development.

"BJP will emerge as the single-largest party in Jammu... Our candidates contesting in the valley are strong and poised to lead in the elections," Madhav

said.

"The forthcoming government in Jammu and Kashmir will be of nationalists, not antinationals," he added. Raina,47, who previously

won from Nowshera in the 2014 polls, has been nominated once again from his home constituency. He took over as BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president n May 2018. Raina's primary opponent is

former MLC Surinder Choudhary, who joined the National Conference in July 2023 after over a year with the BJP.

In the 2008 elections, National Conference candidate Radhay Sham Sharma secured the seat. In 2002, Congress candidate Romesh Chander Sharma won the seat.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in three phases with voting for the first phase to be held on September 18 followed by the second phase on September 25 and the third phase on October 1.

# **Karra Files Nomination From Central Shalteng**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra on Thursday filed nomination papers from the Central Shalteng Assembly constituency.

He urged the people to vote wisely asserting that it was not just an election after 10 years, but an opportunity to shape Jammu and Kashmir's destiny "for the next 100 years".

The 69-year-old former Jammu and Kashmir minister also defended his party's alliance with the National Conference, saying it was to fight against "dictatorship" and to "reclaim what is rightfully ours".

Thursday was the last day for the filing of nomination papers for the second phase of the three-phase assembly elections in the Union Territory.

Central Shalteng is among 26 segments spread across Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam in Kashmir, and Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi districts in Jammu that will go to polls on September 25.

Voting for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections is scheduled to be held on September 18, September 25, and

Accompanied by enthusiastic supporters who hailed him

with slogans, Karra filed his papers before the returning officer for the constituency.

"This moment marks sacred responsibility for generations to come as I filed my nomination for the assembly elections. This is not just

my nomination, but a representation of the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have yearned for democracy and justice," he told PTI.

Karra, a former PDP leader, who quit the party in 2016. He was a fierce critic of the BJP-PDP alliance in Jammu and Kashmir that lasted for three years before ending in 2018. He joined the Congress in 2017, a few

months after he re-

signed from the Lok Sabha and the basic membership of the PDP. handed the first-ever electoral defeat to NC president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah by

2014 general elections. "This nomination is a tribute to every single Kashmiri who has cried for democracy, and every single citizen of Jammu and Kashmir who laid down

winning the Srinagar parlia-

mentary constituency in the

his life for the sake of secularism and democratic values. It is a symbol of hope and resilience in the face of oppression and suppression," the Congress leader said.

Karra, who took over as the Pradesh Congress Committee chief in August, replacing former minister Vikar Rasool Wani, said: "This is not just an election after 10 years, but a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shape I&K's destiny for the next 100 years.'

Congress alliance, he said the pact demonstrates the strength and unity of the two parties against "dictatorship".

On the National Conference-

# Sports Minister Hails India's Record Medal Haul At Paris Paralympics

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Sports Minister Mandaviya on Thursday praised the Indian contingent for achieving the country's best-ever medal haul and expressed hope that the athletes would secure more medals in the remaining two days of the Paralympics. With 24 podium finishes in Paris so far, India has already surpassed their previous best of 19 medals from the Tokyo Paralympics.

Mandaviya felicitated Deepthi Jeevanji, who won the bronze medal in the women's 400m T20 event, on Thursday. Deepthi, a world champion, was expected to be a strong contender for gold but was unable to deliver her best performance in the final. She added a bronze to her Tokyo Paralympic silver in the T20 category, which is for athletes with intellectual impairments

intellectual impairments.

"I did well but in the final I could not give my best so that's why I got bronze," said Deepthi.
Born to daily-wage labourer



parents in Kalleda village in the Warangal district of Telangana, Deepthi's achievements are particularly noteworthy.

"The players have not only shown their skill but have made the country proud," Mandaviya said. Parmar Wins Historic Judo Bronze

Kapil Parmar bagged India's first ever Paralympic medal in judo, clinching a bronze in the men's 60kg (J1) after convincingly defeating Brazil's Elielton de Oliveira in the final in Paris on Thursday.

Parmar produced a superlative performance, dominating his opponent from start to finish to record a 10-0 win in the bronze medal contest.

He had earlier lost to S Banitaba Khorram Abadi in the semifinals, beaten 0-10 by his Iranian opponent in Paris at the Champs-de-mart arena.

The J1 class in para judo is for the athletes who suffer from no to very low visual activity. Athletes in this category wear red circles to indicate that they may need guided support before, during and after a contest.

#### Simran Sprints To 100m Final

Continuing her good form, Indian sprinter Simran advanced to the women's 100m (T12) final of the Paralympics after clocking 12.33sec in the semifinal race in Paris on Thursday.

Accompanied by her guide Abhay Singh, the 24-year-old reigning world champion from New Delhi finished second behind Germany's Katrin Mueller-Rottgardt in semi-final 2. Simran, who was born prematurely with visual impairment, was ranked third overall in the semis. She will now compete in the four-sprinter final scheduled for later on Thursday.

# Divisional Level Volleyball Tournament Kicks Off In Ramban



**Observer News Service** 

RAMBAN: Inter-District Divisional Level Volleyball Tournament for Under-19 boys commenced on Thursday at District Police Lines in Ramban. This highly anticipated tournament marks a significant event in the sporting calendar of the Department of Youth Services & Sports, bringing together talented young

players from all 10 districts of Jammu division.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Roshan Lal, Additional District Development Commissioner of Ramban, who played a pivotal role in the opening proceedings. The ceremony commenced with an engaging welcome address delivered by Jagdish Raj Sharma, the District Youth Services & Sports

Officer of Ramban.

The opening match was played between Doda and Rajouri, demonstrating high-energy volleyball.

The competitions are being officiated by a panel of sports experts, including Zonal Physical Education Officers, Physical Education Masters, Physical Education Teachers (PETs), Rehbar e Khel Teachers, NYCs, and other field staff.

# Bandipora Pencak Silat Championship Held At HSS Ajas

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: As part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation initiative, the District Pencak Silat Championship was organised at Higher Secondary School Ajas on Thursday.

The event merged sportsmanship with civic engagement, underscoring the importance of both physical and democratic participation.

The event showcasing

the skills and sportsmanship of local athletes was attended by District Elec-



tion Officer Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri; Chief Education Officer Kishore Kumar; Deputy CEO; Principal Higher Secondary School, students and other stakeholders. The event also witnessed participation of Padmashree Faisal Ali Dar, the Brand Ambassador for SVEEP activities, who highlighted the significance of elections as a cornerstone of democracy.

Addressing the participants, the District Election Officer, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri underscored the importance of enrolling all eligible citizens in the electoral roll.

DEO urged all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote, as it is fundamental to shaping our future and upholding democratic principles.

# **Chief Secretary Reviews Preparations For Kashmir Marathon**



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat on Thursday to review the preparedness for the inaugural edition of Kashmir Marathon

the inaugural edition of Kashmir Marathon.
The meeting discussed the route map,
promotional strategies, registrations
with a particular focus on sponsorship.

While chairing the meeting, Atal Dulloo impressed upon the officers that all the arrangements should be made well in advance for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

He said that focus should also be laid on the sponsorships and a proper plan should be laid to pitch sponsors to sport the inaugural edition of Kashmir marathon.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary inquired about the number of registrations done so far for this marathon.

The inaugural edition is being held on October 20 and runners from across India and abroad are participating in two running disciplines: marathon (42 km) and half marathon (21 km).

Commissioner Secretary Tourism gave a brief presentation during which she informed that Kashmir Marathon has drawn a considerable interest across India and abroad. She informed that so far 1135 participants have registered for the event with 469 for full marathon and 666 for half marathon. She informed that they have received registrations from 40 foreign runners from 11 countries with recently from Kenya, Denmark, Norway and UAE, apart from 27 states/ UTs of the country.

She said that the Tourism Department took a strategic step in promoting the Kashmir marathon by reaching out to well known celebrities and social media influencers which garnered much traction.

The Kashmir Marathon offers an extraordinary blend of historical, cultural, and natural beauty, making it a unique and unforgettable event. Participants will run through breathtaking scenery, including the majestic Dal Lake and the lush Zabarwan mountain range, while passing iconic sites such as the Shankaracharya Temple, Pari Mahal, and Dargah Shrine.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance (through VC); Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; MD Jammu and Kashmir Bank; Commissioner Secretary IT; Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA; Secretary, R&B; Secretary Transport; Director of Tourism, Kashmir and Jammu; Commissioner State Taxes Department and Director State Motor Garages.

# **Short TAKES**

#### **BCCI AGM On Sept 29 At Bengaluru**

The BCCI's 93rd Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) will take place here on September 29, but it is unlikely that the election of the new board secretary will take place at the high-profile summit

However, the AGM will coincide with the inauguration of the state-of-the-art National Cricket Academy (NCA) centre in the outskirts as all the board members will be present in the city. The new BCCI secretary will not be elected at the AGM.

#### New Zealand Gears Up For Historic Test Match Against Afghanistan

New Zealand's cricket team arrived in Greater Noida on Thursday ahead of their historic one-off Test against Afghanistan. Scheduled to begin on September 9, this match will be the first red-ball fixture between the two nations.

The Test will take place at the Greater Noida Sports Complex Ground, and New Zealand has named a strong squad for the occasion. Veteran pacer Tim Southee will lead the team, which includes former captain Kane Williamson.

#### **Musheer's Century Sparks India B Revival In Duleep Trophy Opener**

On the opening day of the first match of the Duleep Trophy 2024 season, uncapped right-hand batter Musheer Khan delivered a spectacular century for India B against India A. At stumps on Day 1, India B finished at 202/7 in 79 overs, with Musheer (105) and Navdeep Saini (29) not out.

India A skipper Shubman Gill opted to bowl first after winning the toss, putting India B on the back foot early as they lost seven wickets for just 94 runs.

#### Jos Buttler To Miss Three-Match T20 Series Against Australia

England white-ball captain Jos Buttler will miss this month's three-match Twenty20 series against Australia due to a right calf injury, with Phil Salt leading the side in his absence, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Thursday.

Buttler, who also missed The Hundred, has been named in the squad for the five-match One-Day International (ODI) series against the same opponents later this month but remains a doubt, the ECB added.

#### Ugandan Olympic Athlete Dies After Being Burned By Partner

Ugandan Olympic athlete Rebecca Cheptegei has died at a Kenyan hospital where she was being treated after 80% of her body was burned in an attack by her partner. She was 33.

The long-distance runner died early in the morning after her organs failed. She had been fully sedated on admission at the hospital.

Cheptegei competed in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics less than a month before the attack. She finished in 44th place.

## Osimhen's Loan Deal From Napoli To Galatasaray Announced

Victor Osimhen finally found a way out of Napoli when a loan deal with Turkish club Galatasaray was announced on Wednesday.

Napoli said the deal lasts through the end of the season, and that Osimhen also extended his contract with the Italian club for one more year, through 2026-27.

The Nigeria forward had been linked to Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Saudi club Al-Ahli in recent weeks and months but the transfer window in Europe's biggest leagues closed last week without a deal for him.

# Bahrain Stun Australia, Palestinians Shut Out Koreans In WC Qualifying

Agencies

**SEOUL:** Australia fell to a shock 1-0 loss to Bahrain at home in the opening game of the third round of Asian World Cup qualifying on Thursday.

Meanwhile, South Korea

was held to 0-0 by the Palestinians in Seoul.

Despite losing all six pre-

vious games against Australia, Bahrain won thanks to an own goal from Harry Souttar with a minute remaining on the Gold Coast.

Abdulla Al-Khalasi's cross from the left side of the area hit the defender and flew past goalkeeper Mat Ryan.

Australia dominated the

game but was reduced to 10

men when Kusini Yengi was red-carded after 77 minutes for a reckless tackle. Bahrain is second in Group C behind Japan, which thrashed China 7-0

in Saitama.

The 18 teams remaining in Asian qualification have been divided into three groups of six. The



top two from each qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup while the six teams that finish in third and fourth will advance to the fourth round where there are two more places

South Korea last missed

out on the World Cup in 1982 and got off to a poor start in Group B due to the Palestinians.

South Korea missed chance after chance — captain Son Heung-min hit the post — but could not find a way through a determined

defense from a visitor that has never reached this stage before.

The Palestinians almost snatched what would have been a stunning victory in added time. Through on goal, Wessam Abou Ali's shot was saved by Jo Hyun-woo.

# Bellingham Gets Ballon d'Or Nomination, But No Messi Or Ronaldo

Agencies

For the first time since 2003 neither Cristiano Ronaldo nor Lionel Messi have been included in the nominees for the men's Ballon d'Or award, which were announced on Wednesday, with England's Jude Bellingham among the 30 players named.

Portugal's Ronaldo, who has won the award five times, also failed to receive a nomination last year, while Messi, who won for a record eighth time in 2023 and has been nominated 16 times, misses out despite Argentina's Copa America win this year.

Spain, winners of Euro

2024, have six players nominated including 17-year-old Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal, along with Nico Williams, Alejandro Grimaldo, Dani Olmo, Rodri and Dani Carvajal who also won the Champions League with Real Madrid.

Real have a total of seven players nominated, including Kylian Mbappe who re-



cently signed from Paris St Germain, with Bellingham and Brazil's Vinicius Junior among the Spanish club's other nominees.

England, runners-up to Spain at Euro 2024 have five other nominees apart from

Bellingham: Harry Kane, Bukayo Saka, Declan Rice, Cole Palmer and Phil Foden. In the women's Ballon

In the women's Ballon d'Or Feminin, Champions League winners Barcelona have six nominees in total, including last year's winner Aitana Bonmati and two-time winner Alexia Putellas.

The 2024 Ballon d'Or Awards ceremony, to crown the world's best player, will take place on Oct. 28 in Paris.