KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Sunday 08 September 2024 | Srinagar | Vol. 27 | Issue: 212 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net ● twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

First Polls Under One Flag, One Constitution: Shah

'Only Centre Can Restore Statehood'



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday dismissed the opposition's attempt to revive the autonomy plank during the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls and asked the NC-Congress alliance to stop fooling people by promising statehood as only the Centre can restore the status

Shah assured people about the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood after the assembly election, which he said is the first under the national flag and the Constitution following the abrogation of Article 370 by

'Jammu Will Decide **Formation Of Next Govt'**

he Jammu region would decide the formation of a government in the assembly poll-bound Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday while | More on P6



Rajnath Singh To Address Rallies In Ramban, Banihal

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched an aggressive campaign to support its Assembly Election candidates, with senior leaders and star campaigners taking center stage in various parts of the Union Territory. | More on P6

Over 7.7 Lakh Voters Set To Cast Ballots In Srinagar More Women Voters Than Men In 6 Of 8 Constituencies

Observer News Service

Srinagar trict is all geared up for polls in second phase on September 25.The district comprises eight Assembly Constituencies of Hazratbal, Habbakadal, LalChowk, Chanapora, Zadibal, Eidgah and Central Shalteng with a total of

7,74,462 electorate, among which 3,86,654 are male voters, 3,87,778 are female voters while 30 belong to the third gender. To facilitate the voters

for smooth and hassle free electoral participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 932 polling stations, of which 885 are urban polling stations while 47 are rural polling stations.

Among all the eight Constituencies Assembly of the district, 24-Zadibal Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,12,864 registered electorate, comprising 56408 males and 56451 females and 05 transgender voters in Srinagar District. The constituency also

houses the highest number of polling stations in the district-143 to facilitate a smooth and inclusive voting experience for all registered voters. In order to boost voter

turnout and ensure that every voter can exercise their franchise with ease, specialized polling stations have been established in the constituency including an all women Pink **Polling Date** Sept 25

Polling stations 932

Assembly Constituencies 08

Voters 7,74,462 Male Voters

Female Voters 387,778

386,654

Third-gender

polling station at Gazidoori, PwD manned polling sta-

Behri Bud Dal, while Unique polling stations have been set up at Nehrupark Abikarpora, Mir Mohalla Abikarpora A, Mohalla Abikarpora B, Khar Mohalla Abikarpora and Kabotarkhana besides,

a Green Polling Station has

tion at Kalla Mohalla Behrar,

Youth manned polling sta-

tion at Kandi Mohalla Mir

been established at DD Bagh. Hazratbal Assembly Constituency comes next with a voter population of 112541, among which 56,175 are males and 56366 are females and notably, no voters are registered under the

constituency. To facilitate the voters to exercise their | More on P6

third gender category in this

J&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

10 Women In Fray For Phase-II

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A total of ten female candidates are in the electoral fray in the second phase of assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, slated to be held on September 25, 2024.

As per the details, out of ten female candidates in fray, eight are contesting from Kashmir division while two others are from Jammu division.

Candidates fighting tions from Kashmir division include an independent candidate Bismah Nabi from Budgam, Nilofar Sajad Gandru an independent candidate from Chadoora Assembly Segment, Aafiqa Ali a candidate of Rashtriya Samaj Dal from Chadoora Assembly constituency, Rubina Akhter of National Loktantrik Party from Habba Kadal, Khatija Zareen an independent | More on P6

44% of Candidates In First Two **Phases Are Independents**

AIP's 26 Candidates Running Independently Agencies

Srinagar: As Jammu and Kashmir heads into the first two phases of its highly anticipated assembly elections, a remarkable surge in independent candidates has emerged in Jammu and Kashmir. With 44% of the total candidates running as independents, they are all set to play a crucial role as potential kingmakers in a post-poll scenario.

A total of 214 independent candidates have opted to fight from different assembly



segments across Jammu and Kashmir in phase-I and phase-II. The independent candidates include those associated with the Awami Ittehad Party

(AIP) led by jailed Member of Parliament Engineer Abdul Rashid Sheikh.

Notably, AIP has fielded 26 candidates in the first two phases of assembly elections from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The details gathered from the official website of Election Commission of India (ECI) has revealed a surge in the number of candidates fighting the upcoming polls from different constituencies as independent candidates.

In the first phase of elections, at least 24 assembly segments are scheduled to go to polls while | More on P6

175 MCC Violations Reported Across J&K

9 FIRs Filed, 5 Govt **Employees Suspended**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Acting tough against the violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) guidelines imposed across the Jammu and Kashmir after the announcement of General Elections to Legislative Assembly, the Election Department has registered 9 FIRs, suspended 5 government employees, besides issuing warning in 23 such cases, even as the inquiry has been initiated in 48 cases of

In a statement, the Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K UT said that 175 MCC violations have been reported across the UT ever since the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct on 16 August, 2024.

These included | More on P6

'Free Laptops, Release Prisoners'

Er Rashid's AIP Announces Manifesto

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Awami Ittihad Party (AIP), led by jailed Engineer Abdul Rashid Sheikh, released its party manifesto in Srinagar on Saturday, pledging the unconditional release of all individuals imprisoned across India.

The document reads that if the party is voted to power, no innocent youth would remain in jail and promised to



work towards revoking laws like the Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA). The party promised to fight for the restoration I More on P6

Rashid's **Brother To Contest From** Langate



wami Ittihad Party on saturday released the list of candidates for remaining seats for the upcoming assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the list, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, brother of jailed AIP supremo Er Rasheed, will contest from the | More on P6

Jailed Candidates Being Used To Target Me: Omar

Says Independents No Different From BJP

Observer News Service

(NC) Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Saturday alleged that the BJP is negotiating deals with regional parties and independent candidates to form the next government in Jammu

and Kashmir. Addressing a rally in Ganderbal, Abdullah criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah for not naming certain parties, like the Apni Party (AP) and the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), in his recent manifesto speech, suggesting that these parties

may be part of a post-poll alliance with the BJP.

"Those who have a deal with Delhi will not fulfill your demands. If you need evidence for this, just look at the statement of Home Minister Amit Shah in Jammu yesterday," the NC vice president said.

While releasing the party manifesto in Jammu on Friday, Shah expressed confidence in forming the government in J-K. "There will be no government by the PDP, NC, and Congress ruled by dynasties. Rest possibilities, BJP will explore," Shah said He said | 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



Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 08-09-2024

How Space Travel Affects Body Systems, Study Examines

Press Trust Of India

Space travel can cause shifts in the gut that might suppress the immune system of astronauts and affect their metabolism, according to a study.

The findings help understand how space missions of long durations could affect health of astronauts, researchers said.

Using genetic technologies, a team of researchers, led by those at Canada's McGill University, analysed changes in the guts, colons and livers of mice onboard the

International Space Station or the ISS over a period of three months. An international collaboration of NASA and other space agencies, the ISS is a spacecraft in the Earth's orbit. It is a unique science lab and serves as a "home where crews of astronauts" live, according to the

The authors found significant shifts in gut bacteria that indicated changes in the mice's liver and intestinal genes, suggesting that spaceflight might suppress the immune system and alter metabo-

These interactions suggest disruption of the signals, metabolites, and immune factors exchanged across the gut-liver axis which are likely to drive glucose and lipid (fat) dysregulation," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal npj Biofilms and Microbiomes. "Collectively, these multiomic findings suggest host-gut microbiome

are likely to underlie widespread changes to host physiology which could pose a risk to health," they The researchers said the study's

interactions during spaceflight

and ensure success of future space missions, from establishing a long-term presence on the Moon to sending humans to Mars. "Spaceflight extensively alters astronauts' bodies, yet we still don't fully understand why. By using advanced techniques to study both gut bacteria and genes at the same time, we're beginning to see patterns that could explain those changes and help us develop safeguards for future missions," lead author Emmanuel Gonzalez from

the McGill University said.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd, Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K)

Ph.0194-2477949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras,

Public Notice

This is to information of general public that i want change the

name of my Son from Ruhail Ahmad wani S/O Bilal Ahmad

Wani R/O Khonmoh, Srinagar to Farhan Bilal Wani S/O Bilal

Ahmad Wani R/O Khonmoh, Srinagar studying Class 4th at Sheikh Ali Mission School Khonmoh, Srinagar Now If anybody

having any objection in this regard he/she may contact to

Srinagar within seven days From the date of publication of

the Concerned Principal Sheikh Ali Mission School Khonmoh,

this notice in daily newspaper after that no objection Shall be

The Jammu and Kashmir

State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this

notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s is-

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for

issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before

the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules,

anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the

notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant

Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s'

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

bearing No: 556781 be treated as "CANCELLED")

sued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 802231

Registration:

Year & Session 1995- Oct-Nov

Name: Parvage Ahmad Rather

Mother's Name : Jaana Begum

Date of Birth:- 10-04-1980

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22

bmg

Residenc:- Archanderhama

Father's Name: Gh Mohi-ud-din Rather

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops.

Security System and Refilling of all Types

of Cartridges, Toners

Registered

Government

order Suppliers.

results can help develop safeguards

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study. com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir



Scholarship Name 1: OakNorth STEM Scholarship and Mentorship Programme

Description: OakNorth STEM Scholarship and Mentorship Programme aims to provide financial support to meritorious and underprivileged female students belonging to Uttarakhand, Bihar and Haryana pursuing graduation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects from government colleges/universities.

Female students from Haryana, Uttarakhand and Bihar who have passed Class 12 and are currently pursuing graduation (any year) in STEM-related subjects from government universities/colleges are eligible. The annual family income of the applicants must be less than INR 3.5 lakh from all sources. Aggregate marks secured by candidates in the Class 12 (or equivalent) examination must be 80% or above (with the exception of children with single parents or orphans) and 65% in the previous class/semester/year (if applicable).

- Prizes & Rewards: INR 30,000 (fixed amount)
- Last Date to Apply: 18-10-2024 Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ONSS3

Scholarship Name 2: Nikon Scholarship **Program 2024-25**

Description: An initiative of Nikon India Private Limited to financially support students from disadvantaged sections of society to pursue photography-related courses.

Eligibility: Open for Indian students who have completed Class 12 and are pursuing photography-related courses with a duration of three months or more. Annual family income (from all sources) should be less than INR 6 lakh.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1,00,000 Last Date to Apply: 20-10-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only www.b4s.in/observer/NIKON12

Scholarship Name 3: U-Go Scholarship **Program 2024-25**

Description: U-Go Scholarship Program 2024-25 is a CSR initiative by U-Go to financially support young women pursuing professional graduation courses.

Eligibility: Open to young women pursuing the first year of professional graduation courses such as teaching, nursing, pharmacy, medicine, engineering, architecture, law, etc., in India. Applicants must have secured at least 70% marks in Classes 10 and 12. The annual family income of the applicant from

all sources must be less than INR 5 lakh. Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 60,000 per year for the length of the program

- Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only www.b4s.in/observer/UGO3

Scholarship Name 4: Intuit Rise Girl Child **Education Program 2024-25**

Description: Intuit India is dedicated to empowering underprivileged girl students from Class 8 through graduation by providing comprehensive educational support. This support will help these students achieve their full potential, paving the way for a brighter future!

Female students from Class 8 up to the graduation are eligible to apply. To quality, applicants must have secured over 60% in their previous academic year The annual family income of applicants must be less than INR 3.5 lakh.

Children of employees of Intuit India and Buddy4Study are not eligible.

- Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of up to INR 46,305
- Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only www.b4s.in/observer/IRGC3

Scholarship Name 5: Infosys Foundation STEM Stars Scholarship Program 2024-25

Description: An initiative by Infosys Foundation to support female students in India who aspire to pursue undergraduate degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects.

Eligibility: Female students who are citizens of India and enrolled in the first year of their 4-year undergraduate course in the fields of engineering, medicine (MBBS), and other related STEM subjects at institutes of repute (NIRF accredited) are eligible.

Applicants must have obtained admission into the identified colleges and must have completed their Class 12. The annual family income of the applicants

from all sources must be less than or equal 8 lakh. Candidates must not have availed other

scholarships for the same expenses Prizes & Rewards:

The selected candidates will receive a scholarship of up to 1 lakh per annum, covering tuition, living expenses, and study materials, for the duration of the course against paid receipts.

- Last Date to Apply: 15-09-2024 Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ISTS2

The J&K Board Of Professional **Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)**

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu) Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Conduct of 3rd/Mop-Up Round of Physical Counselling for upgradation/allotment of seats for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course - 2024 in various Govt./Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K.

Reference: 1) Notification No. 088-BOPEE of 2024 dated 29.08.2024. 2) Notice No. 021-BOPEE of 2024 dated 06.09.2024

> Notification No. 096-BOPEE of 2024 Dated: 06-09-2024

Pursuant to Notification No. 088-BOPEE of 2024 dated 29-08-2024, the Board has received shortfall from various private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K. In order to fill up these shortfall seats along with the seats which have remained unfilled during the 2ndround of counselling, it is hereby notified for the information of all concerned candidates that the Board shall conduct the 3rd/Mop Up Round of Physical Upgradation/Allotment counselling as per the schedule given below:

S.No.	Date/Day of Counselling	Rank	Remarks
1	09-09-2024(Monday)	001-1186	All Candidates including
	71 11113331	100	reserved category

The following procedure shall be followed during 3rd /Mop-Up Round of Physical Counselling:

- 1. The eligible and willing candidates have to report at the BOPEE offices Jammu / Srinagar for registration/Attendance & fulfilment of other formalities, from 08:00a.m. upto 09.00 a.m. on the day/date of counselling.
- 2. All the candidates who are participating in the counselling shall bring along the following documents in original on the day of their counselling failing which they shall not be allowed to attend the counselling:
 - DomicileCertificate
 - D.O.B Certificate (10th class Marks Card/Diploma)
 - 12th Class Marks Card GNM Marks Card of all Semesters /Years
 - Valid Category Certificate, if any
- 3 The candidates participating 1st time shall have to deposit the Counselling fee for Rs. 1000/-(Rupees one thousand only) through the POS Machines available at the BOPEE office Jammu / Srinagar through Debit /Credit Cards. Any candidate who fails to deposit the counselling fee shall not be allowed to participate in the counselling process
- 4 The candidate(s) who have been allotted Seat / College of their choice and have joined the respective institutions need not to attend the 3rd / Mop-Up Round of counselling.
- 5 Those candidate(s) who have been allotted seat(s) during the Second Round of Counseling and have joined against the said seat/College, if, interested for upgradation are eligible to participate in the this Round of Physical Counseling with the condition that he/she shall have

to produce his/her fee deposition receipt of the concerned allotted College at the time of Registration/Attendance on his/her day/date of counseling.

- The Candidate(s) who have not been allotted any seat during the First or Second Round of Counseling are also eligible to attend the 3rd/Mop Up Round of physical counseling for allotment of seats of Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course-2024 on the respective day / date of
- Candidate(s) who has / have opted for C.N.A. / S.N.A. or who could not attend counselling due to unavoidable circumstances, are also eligible to attend the 3rd / Mop-Up Round of Physical Counselling for up-gradation / allotment of seats of Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course-
- The candidate(s) who have been allotted Seat(s) during the Second Round of counseling, but have failed to join or have resigned against the said allotted seat/College, he/she is also eligible to participate in the Mop Up Round of counseling.
- The candidate(s) participating in this physical round of counselling and allotted a seat, should in their own interest not to leave the Board office as there is a possibility that a seat of his/her choice, which was not available on his/her turn of counselling may become available during the process. He/ she can stake a claim on such a seat immediately once the seat is displayed in the seat matrix on the monitor of the Board, consequent upon its vacation by a candidate so that such a candidate is considered for allotment of the seat on merit cum preference basis. The seat allotted to him/her earlier shall become vacant and be added to the seat matrix. The Board shall not be responsible in case a candidate leaves the Board office and he/she fails to stake a claim on a seat as may become available as discussed
- 10 The Board reserves the right to notify such changes as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reasons beyond its control.
- 11 Seat matrix shall be uploaded separately within due course of time before counselling and all the participating/eligible candidates are advised to go through seat matrix before participating in the counselling process.
- 12 The Board shall stop the counselling process immediately as and when the seats are fully

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified by the Board in the e-Information Brochure and Notifications/Notices issued from time to time in this regard.

E & O E

DIPK-NB-1535/24 dated: 07-09-2024

Sd/-(Prof. Gurvinder Raj Verma) Controller of Examinations J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam/17/2024(7472503)

Dated: 06-09-2024

IS AVAILABLE IN SRIANGAR AT FOLLOWING PLACES						
ABDULLAH NEWS AGENCY	AMIRA KADAL	BUDSHAH NEWS AGENCY	AFTAB MAR- KET			
SIKENDER NEWS ANGENCY	AMIRAKADAL	RASHEED GAZALA	LAL CHOWK			
GUPKARI NEWS AGENCY	LAL CHOWK	RAFIQ NEWS AGENCY	BATMALOO			
KHAN NEWS AGENCY	REGAL CHOWK	MEHRAJ NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE			
RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL			
IMRAN NEWS AGENCY	KOHNKHAN	SAMA NEWS AGENCY	SHALIMAR			
KOHINOOR NEWS AGENCY	NISHAT	WANI NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA			
SHEIKH NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA	AL NOOR NEWS AGENCY	NOWGAM			
FAIRDEAL NEWS AGENCY	AIRPORT	BISMILLAH NEWS AGENCY	BAGH E MEHTAB			
AL FALAH NEWS AGENCY	NATIPORA	FIDA NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH			
FIRDOUS NEWS AGENCY	PIRBAGH	HARMINDER NEWS AGENCY	GOGJI BAGH			

TANTRAY NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH	BASHIR NEW AGENCY	NOWHATTA
ARIF NEWS AGENCY	JAWHAR NAGAR	AGA NEWS AGENCY	ALI KADAL
MUSHTAQ KALASH- PURI	KALASHPORA	HABBAKADAL NEWS AGENCY	HAB- BAKADAL
ALTAF NEWS AGENCY	FATEHKADAL	FAROOQ NEW AGENCY	GOJWARA
JEELANI NEW AGENCY	KHAWAJA BAZAR	DAR NEWS AGENCY	QAMAR- WARI
NAZIR NEWS AGENCY	RAINAWARI	CHANDER NEWS AGENCY	BEMINA
KHALID NEWS AGENCY	HAMDANIYA COLONY	JONSON NEWS AGENCY	SEKIDAFAR
BHAT NEWS AGENCY	JAMALLATTA	SHAFAT NEWS AGENCY	HAWAL
BILAL NEWS AGENCY	KAK SARAI	KHALIQ NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH- RA
MUZAFFAR ALI NEWS AGENCY	ALAMGIRI BAZAR	BILAL NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH- RA
TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	BUCHPORA	BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAI
AIJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA

DEPTT.: 0194-2502327

NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT

Meeting To Review Preparedness For Assembly Polls Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to meet all requirements for smooth conduct of Assembly Elections-2024 in the District, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of Returning Officers (ROs) and Nodal Officers of the District.

The meeting deliberated over vast aspects of arrangements to put a meticulous mechanism in place at General Polling Stations and Unique Polling Stations.

At the outset, DEO directed ROs and District Forest Officers to plant 100 to 150 plants in Green Polling station of every Assembly Constituency or as per the available space while 10 to 15 plants in general Polling Stations.

He instructed them to engage the first two voters in a plantation at the polling station.

The step is to create mass awareness regarding conservation and protection of the environment and collective responsibility to participate in the social cause along with the participation in the festival of democracy.

DEO complimented ROs for ensuring smooth process of Nomination filing and scrutiny of nominations.

The DEO emphasized on Officers to understand their critical role to address and execute all the matters with clarity to ensure free, fair, transparent and smooth conduct of Elections in all 8 Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District.

He also instructed ROs to interact with the Media so the general public, voters of constituencies and other stakeholders remain updated with overall data, facilities and arrangements.

Regarding SVEEP activities to boost voter awareness and participation in the district, Dr Bilal directed to increase Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation programs involving students and local communities.

SVEEP Program Held To Increase

Srinagar: To boost the vot participation boost the voter's participation in the forthcoming Assembly Election in the district a Systematic Voters Education and (SVEEP) awareness program was today or-Hassi Bhat.

the SVEEP Program & Teachers.

participants were educated regarding which every eligible individual can exerfree, fair & transpara representative.

In his address, CEO Srinagar appealed to voters to make the election process successful by active participation in the electoral process.

With respect to Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all Polling Stations, he directed for enhancing qualitative aspects of arrangements regarding ramps, separate toilets for women and men, electricity & drinking water facility.

To ensure no inconvenience is faced by PwD voters, DEO directed ROs to set up Red Polling Stations at such locations where road connectivity is exceptionally good.

Meanwhile, DEO is-

Voters Participation

Electoral Participation ganized at GHSS Gund

Besides, Chief Education Officer Srinagar who was Chief Guest on the occasion. was overwhelmingly attended by Students

During the event the importance of voting in a democracy in cise his franchise in a ent manner to choose

He also directed to constitute Booth Awareness Groups at each polling station to facilitate voters.

sued a slew of directions for Home Voting, Service Voters and Postal ballot facility to cover the target population.

Election Aimed To Get J&Ks Lost Identity Back: Bukhari



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari Saturday said that upcoming Assembly elections in the region are aimed to get the lost identity of J&K restored.

He said the upcoming assembly election is an opportunity for people of J&K to show people of India that we believe in democracy.

"Election was important for the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Today this is an opportunity for us to get back our lost identity. This is to show people of India that we people of J&K believe in democracy. And most importantly this would be a loud and clear message to BJP that J&K people do not approve of your rule and decisions," Bukhari told the media during his outreach program in Chanapora Assembly Constituency.

He said Apni Party has already made its manifesto public and the party is committed to fulfill all those promises made therein. "We have talked about general amnesty, addressing power crisis, two lakh jobs to unemployed youth, addressing issues of daily wagers, enhancement of old age pension & marriage assistance, restoration of darbar move tradition and importantly restoration of Statehood to J&K. And we are committed to get back

our rights," he said.

Bukhari said people were waiting for elections for a long time and their response towards the ongoing democratic exercise is commendable.

"How political leaders see these elections is not important. The basics is how people see it. They have been waiting for polls for the last ten years, and their participation is immensely heartwarming. People want their own representative who will address their concerns and flag up their demands at higher levels, Bhukhari said.



Son Booked For Assaulting, **Ousting Parents From Home**

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police on Saturday booked a person for allegedly 'assaulting' his ailing, old aged parents and 'ousting' them from home at Nowgam locality in uptown Srinagar.

Police action comes in response to a complaint filed by the mother of the accused, alleging that not only did their son physically assaulted them, but barred their entry to their own house for the past one year as well.

Taking cognizance of the complaint, Srinagar police booked the accused under various sections of Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), including section 74 (assault or use of

criminal force to woman with Intent to outrage her modesty), Section 126(2) (wrongful restraint as the act of voluntarily preventing someone from moving in any direction they are legally permitted to go) and section 351(2) (criminal intimidation).

The victims have been identified as Ghulam Ahmad Wani and his wife Taja Banoo of S.A Colony Nowgam.

A formal case FIR number 77 of 2024 stands registered at police station Nowgam in this regard.

The accused (son) identified as Mohammad Ashraf Wani son of Ghulam Ahmad Wani, according to police, has been brought to the police station concerned for questioning pending investigation.

Confirming the allegations of cruelty meted out to the parents by their son, a police spokesman said the accused is being questioned at the moment.

"Acting upon a written complaint of accused person's mother namely Mst Taja Banoo wife of Gh Ahmad Wani, a criminal case FIR No. 77/2024 under section 74, 126(2), 351(2) BNS has been registered in Police Station Nowgam and investigation initiated," the spokesman added.

A video depicting the cruelty meted out to the ailing, old aged parents by their son, spokesman claimed, is being widely circulated on social media platforms.

Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrated At Ganpatyar Temple

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmiri Pandit community congregated to cele-brate Ganesh Chaturthi at the historic Ganpatyar temple in Habba Kadal area of Srinagar on Saturday.

Traditional prayers, rituals, and offerings to Lord Ganesha were conducted during the event as devotees prayed for prosperity

Sanjay Tikku, President Ganesh temple said, "Ganesh Chaturthi is not only a religious celebration but a way to keep in touch with our roots. Despite difficulties, we are proud to continue this tradition here in Kashmir.'

"The locals here are really enjoying the celebration. It feels good to see the temple so lively," he said.

"It brings the community together and keeps our traditions alive," Tikku added.

Meanwhile, the celebrations were done in a peaceful manner, and all necessary arrangements had been made for the devotees.

Moreover, the temple was decorated, and the prayers were followed by the distribution of prasad to those attending.



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

2479488,2452222,2452155



RAILWAYS



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 4:46 **ZUHR** 12:31 **ASR** 4:59 Magrib 6:54 **ISHA** 8:16

This Day In History

- 1689- China & Russia signs Treaty of Nertsjinsk (Nierchul)
- 1855- British and French troops capture Sevastopol from the Russians, effectively ending the Crimean
- 1870- Netherlands & Britain sign "Koelietraktaat" Br-Indian contract work in Suriname
- 1926- League of Nations Assembly voted unanimously to admit Germany
- 1944-1st V-2 rockets land in London & Antwerp 1944- Russians march into Bulgaria; Bulgaria
- declares war on Germany 1945- US invades Japanese-held Korea
- 1945- Hideki Tojo, Japanese PM during most of WW II,attempts suicide rather than face war crimes
- tribunal attempt fails, later he is hanged 1946-Bulgaria ends monarchy 1951- Japan signs peace treaty with 48 countries
- 1958- Oman turns over Gwadur (on Baluchistan coast) to Pakistan
- 1959- The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) is established.
- 1962- Chinese troops exceed Mac-Mahon-line (Tibet-India boundary)
- 1967- Surveyor 5 launched; makes soft landing on Moon Sept 10
- 1969 Suleiman Maghrabi appointed premier of Libya 1975- Guinee-Bissau declares independence from Portugal
- 1978- Iranian army fires on Khomeini followers in Teheran,100s killed

From KO Archives

Govt To Set Up VDCs In Valley

Observer News Service

Srinagar- More than 900 Village Defence Committee's (VDC's) will be set, up in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir to check infiltration.

Director General of JK Police, Gurbachan Singh Jagat, told a visiting group of reporters here today.

Members of these VDCs were being armed, trained and provided with single-band communication equipment to tackle infiltrators, who were now aiming soft targets in far-flung and scattered regions, the Police Chief said.

He said about 10 to 15 villagers were being identified for each of these VDCs for imparting arms training by army or paramilitary forces stationed nearby. This was being done in order to reduce dependence on the regular paramilitary forces, he added.

Areas like Doda, Baramulla, Poonch and Rajouri had been identified for creation of these VCDs and 651 such committees have already been set up in Doda district, he said.

Describing the perceived Taliban threat as being over-rated and exaggerated, Jagat said most of the infiltrators were Pakistani Nationals with a majority being Punjabis. He said the victory of Taliban in Afghanistan was mainly due to regular Pakistani armymen who took part in operations there.

He said the biggest difficulty they face was that of infiltration. Even though more than 30 groups were intercepted in the last two months, a large number of them mostly comprising foreigners had still crossed over, he added. He said army and other forces have taken steps, including redeployment of forces and introduction of new technologies, to counter this menace.

Stating that Rs 200 crore had been given to strengthen J&K Police, he said future plans included creating three more battalions of Indian Reserve a Police along with setting up of 114 additional Border Posts of Police, behind BSF or Army lings• Such rings, he said, had been set up in Kupwara, Baramulla and some other places and had started achieving good results. Implementation of all these plans would be over within the end of next year, he said.

(Kashmir Observer, September 08, 1998)



Western Rationality And Eastern Spirituality

Wajahat Qazi



As the 'East' modernizes in a warped, zig zagged and convoluted and imitating way, the West is looking 'eastward' to connect with the more transcendental aspects of the self

aulana Jalaludin Rumi, great mystic and poet of Islam has migrated to the West. While the twist of the phrase is intended here, the meaning alluded to here is that Rumi is studied, appreciated better understood there.

Sun Tzu, the great theoretical and philosopher of war is studied in war colleges and academies of the West. Yoga whose provenance is from India is practiced more in the west. These three essentialized examples from the 'East' and their transmutation or migration to the West are suggestive as well as indicative: the pedestals and premises upon which the East defines itself have been lost in the maelstrom of modernization.

As the 'East' modernizes in a warped, zig zagged and convoluted and imitating way, the West is looking 'eastward' to connect with the more transcendental aspects of the self. In an ideal world, what should have happed is a two-way osmotic process where the East and the West would enter into a dialogue and craft a bold and beautiful world. But, nay, the direction is not two way; the East drools over the west(badly) while as the West seeks to learn and imbibe the best that the East had to offer. The two-way direction would have been the perfect closure in the post-colonial world to the depredations of western colonialism and imperialism in the not-so-distant past. What, the question is, does this tell us about the west and the east?

One prong of the answer is that the west is superior. But this would be trite and pedestrian. This needs qualification. The west is superior on grounds of technos and logos- technology and rationality- and their integration. The marriage of technology with reason not only gives the west a 'first mover advantage' but also allows it to create a template- social, cultural, political, economic and technological- that the rest of the world can only follow. But as the west surges ahead,



it appears to realize that the technorational worldview is not enough. To regain psychical and emotional balance, some in the West are looking 'Eastward'. It is here that Rumi, Sun Tzu, and Indian voga come into play: many in the west are studying and imbibing these but most in the East are ignoring them. This is a fundamental paradox with multiple implications. One is that the 'east' is basically in transition and after a lag of time, it too will become like the West. And that in this period of transition, its bad mimicry of the West is just an interlude or a prelude to a fuller becoming like the West. This implies that the west is superior. But if the west is indeed superior in all domains of life, why are many sober westerners looking and delving into Eastern philosophical, spiritual traditions and practices?

While the West, at the risk of being tautological is actually and really superior in many cross-cutting domains- rational, technological,

scientific, political and even perhaps social- there are many pathologies that define it: extreme and hyper individualism, social Darwinism, high divorce rates, residual racism, marital and the attendant social breakdown and social ruthlessness. But if 'voting with feet' is any answer to social, political and economic superiority, world immigrant flows are unidimensional: almost all immigrants and refugees head westward. Hardly any choose to live in the East.

The west then, despite its pathologies, appears to be superior. While the East meanders toward a West determined end point in a warped and convoluted way. This, for me, at a personal level is a very painful admission. My adult intellectual life has been predicated around studying the west- its political philosophy, political theory, economics and culture., organizations and so on. In the main I have found fault with the West. I do not mean to say all is well and great

with the West. But considering an n number of themes and factors, and a baseline comparative analysis, it appears that the west scores above the East. Does this mean I am doomed to become the eternal 'mimic man' - an easterner who mimics the west? No. Not at all. Pared to essence I am the quintessential Easterner and proud of that! I will read, study and appreciate the great Rumi and savor his works. But I can only do that by employing the idiom of Western rationality, understanding its limits and then seek to understand the world, and life through Rumi. More than anything else, this quest, in itself, telling!

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is a Masters with Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberden,

he downfall of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unfolded faster than almost anyone expected. In early July, students took to the streets to protest the job-quota system that reserved 30% of civil-service positions for veterans of the 1971 War of Independence and their descendants. Police were ordered to quell the unrest, and given permission to shoot if needed. By August 5, nearly 300 people had been killed, and Hasina, under serious pressure from the army, had resigned and fled the country.

The controversial job-quota system, which came under fire amid increasing economic hardship, rising youth unemployment, and soaring inflation, is widely viewed as the cause of the revolt. But this was merely the spark that lit the fuse. The deeper and more significant problem was Hasina's growing authoritarianism, which upended Bangladesh's political landscape and left little room for dissent.

I sensed this shift during my visit to Bangladesh last year. The people I spoke to, including many supporters of Hasina's Awami League – the party that led the country's independence movement under the leadership of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – were critical of her increasing authoritarianism, intolerance of dissent, and intimidation of the media. They lamented, albeit sotto voce, the destruction of Bangladesh's founding principles: democracy and secularism.

The tragedy is that it did not have to be this way. Hasina was a courageous, secular leader who steered Bangladesh away from religious fundamentalism, which can impede economic and social progress. At the same time, she oversaw the country's remarkable growth story. In 2019, Bangladesh overtook India in per capita GDP, an outcome that would have seemed impossible even five or ten years earlier. To be sure, it was partly caused by India's 2016 policy of demonetization, a failed attempt to curb "black money" and corruption that led to a steady deceleration in the economy's growth rate over the next five years. But Bangladesh's robust exports and development gains also played a vital role.

The power vacuum resulting from this unexpected revolt can jeopardize Bangladesh's stability. History has repeatedly shown that countries often take unexpected turns after a rebellion, no matter how justified. Religious extremist groups will undoubtedly try to seize power. If that happens, it might spell the end of Bangladesh's successful trajectory.

sful trajectory. Still, there is cause for hope. Both the stu-

The Revolution Next Door

Kaushik Basu



dents who led the rebellion and the country's military leaders have acted responsibly: instead of grabbing power for themselves, they established an interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus. Bangladesh's constitution does not offer clear guidance on how long such a government can rule. Some have called for swift elections, but I think that they should be delayed until at least next summer. The economy must be stabilized, and political institutions must be rebuilt before a national vote can be held.

Despite being one of the world's economic success stories, Bangladesh has struggled in recent years. The country's two biggest economic challenges – high youth unemployment and in-

flation rates – cannot be corrected in a matter of weeks. The central bank's autonomy has clearly been eroded over the last few years and will need to be restored, and the government must make several fiscal corrections to boost employment.

On the political front, it will be important for the interim government to be – and to be perceived as – non-partisan. Some factions may try to ban the Awami League and its affiliated groups. This would be a mistake. Individual members who committed crimes should not be allowed to run for office. However, as a party, the Awami League has played a crucial role as a progressive force and as a bulwark against extremism. Many of its members opposed Hasina's authoritarian turn in recent years but were too



that it did not have was a courageous, secular leader who steered Bangladesh away from religious fundamentalism, which can impede economic and social progress. At the same time, she oversaw the country's remarkable growth story. In 2019. Bangladesh overtook India in per capita GDP, an outcome that would have seemed impossible even five or ten years earlier

The tragedy is

afraid of retribution to voice their concerns. My last meeting with Hasina was at the

World Bank on May 1, 2023, when then-President David Malpass invited her to celebrate 50 years of partnership between the Bank and Bangladesh. As I walked to the Bank's main building in Washington, I had to navigate a throng of Bangladeshis who had gathered outside to protest against her. In the meeting, Hasina was surrounded by a small group of staff and advisers who nodded in agreement to whatever she said. Did they really see eye to eye with Hasina, or was it simply too costly to disagree?

Project-Syndicate

Srinagar's Critical Biography

In Conversation with Sadaf Wani

Diya Malhotra

Tashmir's bildungsroman is interspersed with its contentious history and political landscape. Hence, its cities are much more than ordinary geographies. Its cities have breathed through a blend of varied experiences, one often taking over another. It is at once a beautiful place as well as a conflicted one. In Sadaf Wani's "The City as Memory", the author takes us through the story of Srinagar. What stands out in Wani's narrative is its unique insight into Srinagar which refuses to present it as one monolith. She zooms into the various topographies of Srinagar through a critical lens, to present for every reader, a new insight especially one that is fresh and new.

We interviewed Sadaf Wani about her newly published book. Here are the excerpts:

1. What inspired you to become a

I think I have always known I wanted to write; it's the one thing I have consistently enjoyed. I was drawn to literature in school because it was the one space that placed value on feelings, emotions, desires, and all such sensibilities-both personal and political—that make us human. I've been shifting modes of writing ever since my adolescence. It started with experimentation in poetry and short prose. Then, as I grew older, academic writing caught my fascination, so I dedicated a few years to that. However, I didn't find it too fulfilling due to its inaccessibility.

Over the past few years, I've been writing some essays and short stories. I enjoy fiction writing, and I think that's the direction I want to explore further in the coming years. During this time, City as Memory came to me, and it quickly became one of my favorite projects to work on because it allowed me to blend my love for storytelling with my fondness for sociological research. It allowed me to situate both in Kashmir, and home has been central to all my writings, regardless of the

As for what inspired me, I'm not entirely sure, but I came across a quote from Gloria Steinem that best describes why I have stuck with writing. She says, 'Writing is the only thing that when I do it, I don't feel I should be doing something else.

2. Your book vividly portrays Srinagar, though you're from Baramulla. How did you capture the essence of a city you weren't native

I think not being from Srinagar made it easier to create an anthology of lifeworlds from the city. It was easier to de-center myself while writing about it and that allowed me to give space and importance to other people's narratives. Had I been writing a biography of Varmul, the task would have been trickier because the city spaces there are too interwoven with my own experiences of childhood and adolescence. It

would have taken more effort to see the city beyond those personal ex-

With Srinagar, it came relatively easier to me. I learned to see the city through the prism of my father's eyes, and later, as I grew older, my interactions with the city were often tied to various research projects. This allowed me to create a relationship with Srinagar where I approached it seeking answers. This time. however. I didn't have any concrete questions. I just wanted to under-

stand, for my own sake, what the different worlds within the city look like.

distinctions between rural

During your research and

interviews in Srinagar, did

you encounter any of these

your work?

biases firsthand? How did these

of this urban-rural dynamic in

experiences inform your portrayal

I didn't encounter such biases

directly during my fieldwork and

interviews, likely because my

role as an interviewer altered the

power dynamics; people knew I

was documenting their experienc-

es, which sometimes changes how

they respond. During one interview,

someone described Srinagar as the

cultural hub of Kashmir, implying

that the 'gaams' (rural areas) lacked

cultural richness, with a tone of con-

descension. It became a bit awkward

for him when I revealed that I wasn't

from Srinagar but rather a product

nounced experiences of 'shahr-

gaam' discrimination I encountered

in other interviews. The 'shahr-

gaam' divide emerged as a crucial

theme in my book because 'gaam'

frequently came up unsolicited in

discussions about 'shahr,' often with

a condescending tone. This was par-

ticularly striking given Kashmir's

I was also struck by the lack of

consensus on what constitutes the

'shahr' or who the 'shahr' people are.

Frequent accusations of neighbors

being 'gaamek' and not 'shahrek'

enough revealed a deeper insecurity

flects Kashmiris' historical struggles

with poverty and the suffering as-

sociated with agrarian life, marked

by famines, floods, crop failures, and

state neglect. The promise of urban-

ity and modernization was seen as a

means to escape this unpredictabil-

ity. Thus, the derision of the 'gaam'

can be partly seen as a remnant of

this historical connection, where the

'gaam' is viewed as a reminder of

primitive times, and there is a desire

to dissociate from it. This interpreta-

tion compelled me to explore the is-

5. You describe the transformation

within Srinagar, This dynamic re

significant rural population.

This instance seemed relatively benign compared to the more pro-

of 'gaam culture'.

and urban areas, particularly

the 'Graam' and 'Shahr' divide.

3. Your work delves deeply into the issue of caste, which is often overlooked in discussions about Kashmir. What motivated you to focus so intently on this topic? In your view, why hasn't caste received the attention it deserves in the broader narrative of Kashmir's social and political landscape?

Muslim cultures in South Asia have a complex relationship with caste. While caste-based discrimination is prevalent in Muslim communities, including Kashmir, it often goes unacknowledged due to the lack of religious justification in scriptures and religious precedents. My initial introduction to the concept of caste came through my undergraduate studies, but it quickly became evident that caste practices had long been present in Kashmir. Everyday phrases like "ye kumo maenz" or "emis kya zaat" were direct attempts to categorize individuals based on caste, and the shame and pride associated with the caste system were ingrained early on. This is why, even in schools, some children emphasized their last names while others downplayed them, reflecting the nuanced ways caste permeates everyday life in Kashmir.

Despite the pervasive nature of caste in interactions, marriage proposals, and practices like touchbased pollution, there is often a facade of superiority in theory. This contradiction has troubled me for a long time, which is why it was crucial for me to address it in my book

My work has only scratched the surface, and I hope others will continue to explore this topic further. We cannot effectively address this issue until we acknowledge its presence. Additionally, while the ongoing conflict in Kashmir has overshadowed social reform efforts for decades, it is important to recognize that addressing caste-based discrimination cannot be deferred until a larger resolution is achieved. Social reform and conflict resolution will need to proceed simultaneously to ensure dignity for all.

4. In your book, you highlight the

of Kashmir in the late 1980s and early 1990s. As a female author writing about such a turbulent period, what unique perspectives do you believe you bring to this narrative?

In Kashmir, there is a significant lack of literature focusing on the lived experiences of Kashmiris during the 1980s and 1990s. While many books trace the historical trajectory and provide macro-level analyses of the conflict, exploring both global and local factors, there is a glaring absence of narratives that capture how individuto listen to their voices. This book is my attempt to contribute to the ongoing conversation that many Kashmiris have sustained through their

6. Your book appears to be a comingof-age story set against the backdrop of conflict. In writing about Srinagar, were there any groups or perspectives you felt you couldn't fully represent – perhaps people from certain social classes or backgrounds? How aware were you of these limitations? Did you attempt to include a wide range of perspectives, and if so,

particularly Memory

this challenge?

made sense of their shifting realities—how they navigated changes in their communities and coped with traumatic political events.

Kashmir has undergone drastic transformations over the last 30-40 vears, and Kashmiri women have had to change with it, yet their stories remain largely undocumented. I feel a deep sense of frustration at this gap —I want to understand how our foremothers dealt with grief and joy, their political conflict, and their connection to the land, water, and the aspirations they held for the fu-

ture of Kashmir. Historically we've had a rich tradition of oral storytelling, but the rapid pace of change today makes the need for documentation more urgent. In our everyday lives, we risk missing critical historical context, and without it, our future generations might assume that before Kashmiris opened their first Instagram accounts, there was nothing. We can't allow that to happen. Kashmiri women authors are responding to this historical void, and we need

It was crucial for me to include diverse perspectives from Srinagar in my book, so I made a concerted effort to capture a range of experiences. When approaching people, I relied on past affiliations and common contacts to build trust and ensure ethical engagement with those I interviewed.

The book had to be written within several logistical constraints, including word limits, publisher guidelines, limited access to various social groups, and the challenge of balancing a full-time job with the demands of the project. These constraints, along with limited financial resources, meant that I had to make difficult decisions about which areas to explore.

I regret not being able to include voices from Sikh, Christian, and Tibetan migrant communities, as well as queer and trans narratives. I struggled to find entry points into these communities, and even when I did, I felt it was not ethical to extract narratives without investing adequate time in rapport building. These communities have faced complex challenges and deserved more sensitivity and investment than I could offer at that stage.

Additionally, I chose not to interview individuals or families directly affected by violence. I felt that, as a researcher, I had nothing meaningful to offer them in return and did not want to risk triggering their trauma without providing substantial support. Moreover, I believed that a brief biography could not do justice to the complexity and depth of their narratives, given the multitude of subjects

7. Do you think this is a good time to be a woman and a writer, or not? Is writing still a man's world?

I think it's a relatively good time. The internet has done a lot to democratize writing, making it accessible to a wider range of people. It has unclogged some communication channels, allowing writers to connect with publishers, editors, and fellow writers. It has also allowed for direct engagement with readers, which has both advantages and challenges. While privilege and networks still play a role in the publishing industry, more women from diverse backgrounds are now part of the conversation, revealing just how incomplete the literary landscape has been.

We're also seeing growing recognition of the nuanced perspectives women bring to previously maledominated spaces. To think that at least 15 of the last 20 books I've read were by women writers makes me happy because it shows the range of women's voices now available to us. I see this as a small but significant win for feminist and social justice movements globally.

8. Is there anything that you'd like to share with our young readers about your book or your experiences in

The most important step in writing is getting your first draft on paper, no matter how terrible it may seem. As you write, it's crucial to have clarity on your motivation and why what you're creating matters to you and your community. I firmly believe that writers, especially in their early stages, shouldn't aim for recognition or fame. Starting with that mindset can taint your motivation, and this lack of authenticity will inevitably seep into your work. Recognition can be a byproduct of good art, but it can never be its driv-

If I were to give advice to young people-or anyone embarking on a passion project—it would be to focus on enjoying the process and not let the capitalist logic of consumption, extraction, and accumulation dictate their creativity. In this digital age, there's a heavy emphasis on numbers-likes, views, purchases-but it's essential to discern that just because something is popular online doesn't mean it's good, and conversely, art that doesn't meet these thresholds of virality isn't necessar-

What Makes People's Creative Juices Flow?

Muzamil Farooq

nowing what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for example, the wellknown 15th-century artist and scientist? He created beautiful paintings as well as nice blueprints for various types of innovations, such as aeroplanes, long before they were built. He is regarded as one of the greatest minds that ever lived. How about Thomas Edison? Among many of his novel inventions, he invented the light bulb and the motion picture camera, both of which were implemented in various products and found to be extremely useful. What about the well-known artist Salvador Dali? He was wellknown not only for his beautiful surrealistic paintings, but also for his sculptures and jewellery.

What do these individuals have in common? What inspires these creative geniuses? Some argue that creative geniuses are slightly insane, and that it is the madness that drives them to be

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer to how effectively and imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be cre-Let's take a closer look at

these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of knowledge such a problem? For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on something that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of motivation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing motivation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed on because you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an activity, but you do so in exchange for a reward. There is

also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to overcome obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important aspect of creativity, failing, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This is difficult because many people live their lives like robots, as if everything is pre-programmed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For example, when we say goodbye to someone, we simply wave and say bye bye. This is something we do automatically. We don't have to consider it. This is also true for many of the things we do. We don't consider them: we just do them. While this is beneficial because it is efficient, it works against you if you want to come up with a creative solution. Being creative may be difficult if you behave like a robot. When you use automatic scripts and schemas from your head, you stop thinking too soon before you find the best solution. You also make far too many assumptions about what is going on. In some ways, it's better to think like a child, like someone who hasn't learned all of these assumptions, all of these au-

tomatic scripts and schemas, a person who sees a box and thinks it's more than just a box.

It's a fortress. It's a ship. That kind of thinking, thinking outside of the box, is exactly what it takes to create and be creative. So, let's sum it up. What inspires people to be creative? Is this insane? Perhaps for some, but for others, there are three critical elements. Having enough knowledge, being intrinsically motivated, and having creative thinking skills are all necessary for being creative. Creativity is the generation of novel and useful ideas, while innovation is the successful implementation of these ideas within a company. In other words, every innovation begins with a creative idea, and with the mentioned three elements of creativity, the good news is that everyone has the ability to be creative.

The author is a Student M.Sc. Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NIT Srinagar

First Polls Under

Narendra Modi government.

At a BJP workers' rally at Ploura in the Jammu North assembly segment, told them that "Jammu would decide the formation of government" and the National Conference-Congress alliance would "never be able to form a government".

Accusing the Congress-National Conference alliance of attempting to revive the "old system" and pushing Jammu and Kashmir into the fire of terrorism and corruption again, Shah said, "The time when someone else was deciding whose government will be formed (in J&K) has gone. Now Jammu will decide the formation of government."

The NC and Congress, however, claimed the BJP was attempting to sow confusion and fear among the electorate as it was in a state of panic since the two parties announced a seat-sharing arrangement and asserted that the 10-year BJP rule in the country was a "disappointment".

Shah was in Jammu on a two-day visit to boost the BJP's election campaign for the assembly polls, voting for which is scheduled on September 18, 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be held on October 8.

He released the party's manifesto on his first day of visit on Friday and also chaired meetings with senior leaders to discuss the campaign

upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir are historic because, after Independence, the polls are happening for the first time under our national flag and Constitution, unlike the past practice of two flags and two constitutions. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, we have only one prime minister and he is Modi," Shah told the rally before leaving for Delhi.

"(PM) Modi restored your honour by end-ing discrimination and injustice faced by you... Ensure (the formation of) a government that will work for you so that you do not have to go to Srinagar with a begging bowl. It is possible by strengthening Modi's hand," he said.

Shah started his over half-an-hour speech at the BJP workers' rally by paying tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and Baba Daleep Singh Manhas and extended greetings to the nation on Ganesh Chaturthi and the Jain community on Paryushana Parva.

He introduced the BJP's candidates from 11 seats of Jammu districts that are going to polls in the last phase and said, "We have to not only defeat their opponents but also ensure that they lose their security deposits.

"This election is being held outside the shadow of Article 370. We have seen a miracle in the Lok Sabha elections when 58.46 per cent of voters exercised their franchise unlike in the past when 10 per cent voting was being celebrated by the previous governments in Delhi.

"This is the biggest success of democracy." he said, reiterating that there will be no talks with Pakistan till terrorism ends and peace is

On the opposition's poll promise of state-hood restoration, Shah said, "I want to ask Faroog Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi, who is going to restore the statehood. You cannot give it back. Why are you misleading the public?'

"It is the central government and BJP and I have already said inside Parliament that we will restore statehood at an appropriate time after assembly elections. They should hear my speech on August 5 and 6 (in 2019)."

He also criticised the NC for its promise of releasing "stone-pelters and terrorists" from jails and alleged that their aim is to revive terrorism in the peaceful Poonch, Rajouri and Doda dis-

Kashmir has borne the brunt of terrorism because there were governments that used to close their eyes and the people at the helm used to flee.

"If NC-Congress returns to power, consider that as a revival of terrorism. Jammu and Kashmir, especially Jammu has to decide whether they want terrorism or peace and development... Nobody dares to infiltrate when there is the BJP.

"When the Modi government took over (in 2014), it spelt destruction for those funding terrorism by sending them to jails. They are talking about starting suspended LoC trade, the dividends of which go to terrorism," he said.

The BJP-led government has brought down terror incidents in the Union territory by 70 per cent, the home minister claimed.

The NDA government would not allow the revival of terrorism, "autonomy" and injustice with any community, including Gujjars, Pahari, Bakerwals and Dalits who have been granted reservation by the BJP dispensation, he said.

Referring to the NC's promise of implementation of the autonomy resolution, Shah said no power can talk about autonomy as more than 40,000 people have lost their lives to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2000, the National Conference government under Farooq Abdullah passed a resolu-tion in the Assembly seeking to restore the pre-1953 constitutional position in the state. It was, however, rejected by the Union Cabinet headed by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

'Jammu Will Decide

appealing to the people to ensure the victory of the BJP's candidates in the elections.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled on September 18, 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be held on October 8.

Addressing a workers' rally at Ploura in Jammu north assembly segment, Shah introduced the BJP's candidates from 11 seats of Jammu districts that are going to polls in the last phase and said, "We have to not only defeat their opponents but also ensure that they lose

their security deposits."

He said the BJP will fight the elections with its might and nobody should have any doubt about its victory.

"The time when someone else was deciding whose government will be formed (in J&K) has gone. Now Jammu will decide the formation of government," Shah said at the rally before concluding his two-day election campaign in the Union Territory.

"(PM) Modi restored your honour by ending discrimination and injustice faced by you... Ensure a government which will work for you so that you do not go to Srinagar with a begging bowl. It is possible by strengthening Modi's hand," the senior BJP leader said.

He asked the BJP workers at the rally to "take a pledge to ensure the victory of party candidates before leaving this place"

Recounting the Modi government's works, Shah said it has spent over Rs 32,000 crore for the development of the Jammu region alone in the past 10 years.

Power projects worth over Rs 25,200 crore to generate 3,000 MW electricity and make Jammu and Kashmir surplus in electricity and boost development are underway, he informed

Shah said it was the BIP that fulfilled the aspirations and long-pending demands of the people of the Jammu region and mentioned the announcement of a holiday on the birth anniversary of the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh to bolster his claim.

"Should those who insulted the maharaja and forced him into exile win?" he posed while alleging that the NC-Congress alliance has a "divisive" agenda. "The NC-Congress wants to bring back the old system which means injustice, discrimination and corruption."

"Do you agree with changing the name of Shankaracharya Hill (in Srinagar) to 'Takht-e-Suleiman'? This is on their agenda," he asked

"The past when you had to fight for your rights and development through agitations has gone. You have seen the months-long Amarnath agitation (of 2008). The system was changed by the Modi government and all your demands were met without any agitation or pleading," Shah said.

The home minister also referred to the annual Amarnath Yatra and said over 5.12 lakh pilgrims from across the country offered their prayers at the shrine this year without any fear.

He credited the Modi dispensation for it and said the government has done a lot of work in the past 10 years besides restoring democracy at the grassroots level by holding local body elections.

At the rally, Shah talked about the 25 guarantees in the BJP manifesto and asked each party worker to ensure voting by their families along with three other families in favour of BJP candidates before 11 am on the polling days.

Rainath Singh

As per reports, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address public rallies in Ramban and Banihal on Sunday, tomorrow.

Earlier today, Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed a massive rally in Jammu, where as per the BJP, hundreds of people gathered to hear him speak.

Shah emphasized the government's commitment to development and national security, drawing enthusiastic responses from the

With the first phase of the Assembly elections scheduled for September 18, other prominent leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP President J.P. Nadda, Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Nitin Gadkari, Manohar Lal Khattar, G. Kishan Reddy, and others are expected to hit the campaign trail in the coming days.

The state election marks a historic moment as it is the first Assembly poll in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in

The second phase of voting will take place on September 25, followed by the third on October 1. The results will be declared on

Over 7.7 Lakh Voters

franchise, 118 polling stations have been established in this constituency among which 107 are urban polling stations and 11 are rural polling stations.

The special polling stations that have been set up in the constituency include an all women Pink polling station at Daggapora Anchar, PwD manned polling station at 105 New Colony Nigeen, Youth-manned polling station at Gasoo and a Green Polling Station at Check Dara.

The Central Shalteng Assembly Constituency comes next with 1,07,770 total registered voters, of which 54185 are males and 53576 are females whereas 09 are third gender voters.

To ensure thorough voter access, 114 polling stations have been established across the constituency, of which 110 are urban and 04 are rural polling stations.

The special polling stations that have been set up in the constituency include all an women Pink polling station at Bemina-I (ITI). PwD manned polling station at Ranbirgarh, Pratapgarh (Sericulture Building), Youthmanned polling station at Ranbirgarh, Pratapgarh B (Boys Middle School Ranbirgarh, Pratapgarh) and a Green Polling Station at Batmaloo B Govt. Girls High School Batamaloo east side.

Similarly, Lal Chowk Assembly Constituency has registered 1,07,199 electorate, among which 53,425 are males and 53,773 are females, besides 01 transgender.

A total of 137 polling stations have been set up in the constituency among which 115 polling stations have been established in urban areas while 22 are in rural areas to ensure smooth and hassle free voting process.

Among special polling stations established in this Assembly Constituency include an all women Pink polling station at Chinar Bagh, PwD manned polling station at Guru Bagh, Youth-manned polling station at Kursu Padshahi Bagh and a Green Polling Station at Balhama.

Likewise, Habbakadal Assembly Constituency has 95,546 electorate among which 47,404 are males and 48,133 are females while 09 are third gender voters. To facilitate the voters of this constituency, 128 polling stations have been set up.

For accessible and inclusive elections, special polling stations have been established which include an all women Pink polling station at Patlipora, PwD manned polling station at Khankahi Moulla B, Youth-manned polling station at Bagwanpora and a Green Polling Station at Sathuballa B.

Khanyar Assembly Constituency has a total of 91,226 voters, of which 45,407 are males and 45,816 are females besides 03 third gender voters are also registered here. In order to ensure participatory voting process, 126 polling stations have been established in the constituency among which 122 are in urban areas while 04 are in rural areas.

In a bid to enhance voter inclusivity, special polling stations established include an all women Pink polling station at Bandebagh, PwD manned polling station at Brane D, Youthmanned polling station at Brane G and a Green Polling Station at Brane H.

Likewise, Chanapora Assembly Constituency has registered 85,431 voter population, of which 42,556 are males and 42,874 are females besides one transgender voter. For a smooth voting process, the ECI has established a network of 91 polling stations, 85 are urban polling stations while 06 are rural polling stations.

For easy and accessible voting the specialized polling stations established in constituency include an all women Pink polling station at Channapora E, PwD manned polling station at Baghat Barzulla B, Youth-manned polling station at Baghat Barzulla C and a Green Polling Station at Rawalpora B.

Eidgah Assembly Constituency has a 61.885 voter population. Among these, 31,094 are males and 30,789 are females besides 02 third gender voters. 75 polling stations have been set up in the constituency, all falling in urban

In order to ensure fair voting chances, among special polling stations a Pink polling station has been set up at Takanwaripora B, PwD manned polling station at Sangam C, Youthmanned polling station at Pallapora B and a Green Polling Station at Bakshipora A.

Meanwhile, all arrangements are being put in place for a smooth and peaceful polling in the district where voting is taking place in the second phase of General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024 on September 25. Currently, a number of voter education programmes are underway in the various parts of the district to generate awareness among the electorate regarding the importance of exercising the franchise, and maximise voter turnout.

10 Women In

candidate from Lal Chowk, Fancy Ashraf an independent from Eidgah, Asiea Naqash of PDP from Hazratbal and Shameema Firdous of NC from Habba Kadal.

Two candidates from Jammu division include Diksha Kaluria an independent candidate from Reasi and Pinty Devi an independent candidate from Kalakote-Sunderbani in Rajouri.

The female candidates said that they will work for the welfare, protection and education of women if elected to power

Aafiqa Ali said that she has been fighting elections for the first time but if she is elected, she will work to ensure better education and job opportunities for women folk.

"I have worked as a social worker for the last several years and I know what kind of problems women folk have been facing and once elected, these issues will be sorted out," she said.

She added that there is a need for starting skill development programmes for women so as to make them financially independent besides that there is a need to upgrade education facilities to such a level that every student may get better education facilities than private

Nilofar Sajad Gandru said that she is fighting elections for the first time and will work for women empowerment and creating employment opportunities.

Diksha Kaluria, an from Reasi said that she has worked as a social activist in the area for the last several years and managed to develop heritage sites in the area. She said that if she is elected, she will work

for the better education, empowerment and safety of the women folk. Other women candidates while echoing the similar voices said that women folk are still

behind in many things and they will fight for women empowerment at every front. They said that inflated electricity bills, water issues and unemployment are the major issues

in J&K that need to be redressed immediately. The constituencies going to polls in the second phase of J&K Assembly elections include Kangan (ST), Ganderbal, Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zadibal, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Budgam, Beerwah, Khansahib, Chrar-I-Sharief, Chadoora, Gulabgarh (ST), Reasi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowshera, Rajouri (ST), Budhal (ST), Thannamandi (ST), Surankote (ST). (KNO)

9 FIRs Filed,

96 reports of violation against the political parties and the candidates, 53 against the government employees; two against the media persons and 24 against others.

Taking the cognizance of the MCC violations, the concerned FSTS/SSTs and officers after investigations found that 89 violations were dropped as these were baseless and false. Acting tough against the violations of MCC

guidelines, five Government employees were placed under suspension by the authorities in Srinagar for participating in political activities and further inquiry was initiated against them. Warnings were issued in 23 cases to the vio-

lators to remain careful in future, while FIRs have been registered in 9 cases where there were violations of serious nature. Additionally, the inquiry has been initiated in 48 cases of

The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India to ensure a transparent electoral process, upholding its sanctity.

The MCC comes into force from the day and time the election schedule is announced by the ECI and remains in operation till the completion of election process as per the election notification.

44% of Candidates

92 contestants are vying as independent

In Pampora constituency, seven candidates are contesting as independents, six in Tral constituency, seven in Pulwama, two in Rajpora, four in Zainapora, six in Shopian, two in D H Pora, four in Kulgam, three in Devsar, four in Dooru, six from Kokernag (ST), three in Anantnag West, five in Anantnag, six from Shangus Anantnag-East, two from Pahalgam. four from Inderwal, three from Kishtiwar, three from Padder-Nagseni, three from Bhaderwah, three from Doda, two from Doda-West, five from Ramban and two Independent candidates are contesting from Banihal assembly segment.

However, Srigufwara-Bijbehara going to polls in the phase-I is having no independent candidate in the electoral fray where only three candidates are vying for the seat including PDP's Iltija Mehbooba Mufti, NC's Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri and BJP's Sofi Yousuf.

From the 26 constituencies going to polls in the second phase of elections, a total of 122 independent candidates are vying for different

Seven candidates are contesting from Ganderbal assembly constituency, five from Hazratbal, six from Khanyar, seven from Habba Kadal, five from Lal Chowk, three from Chanapora, seven from Zadibal, eight from Eidgah, eight from Central Shalteng, five from Budgam, seven from Beerwah, four from Khansahib, five from Char-e-Shareef, two from Chadoora, two from Gulabgarh (ST), four from Reasi, four from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, five from Kalakote-Sunderbani, one from Nowshera, seven from Rajouri (ST), one from Budhal (ST), two from Thanamandi (ST), six from Surankote (ST), four from Poonch Haveli and seven independents are contesting assembly elections from Mendhar (ST) segment.

The highest independent candidates whose nominations have been accepted are vying from Central-Shalteng and Eidgah constituencies with eight candidates each

Furthermore, from Kangan (ST), no independent candidate is contesting the polls.

It is notable to mention here that 19 independent candidates have withdrawn their nomination papers from different assembly constituencies. (KNO)

Er Rashid's AIP

of Article 370, securing jobs and land rights for J&K's people, and ensuring the holistic development of all regions.

The manifesto laid out plans to combat unemployment, drug addiction and address the welfare of daily wage workers, while promising to turn Kashmir into a "jail-free" state.

The manifesto also includes a complete ban

on liquor sales and free medical tests in hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir.

Additionally, the party promised to restore schemes and the autonomy of the University of Kashmir (KU). It also vowed to provide free computers to students who have passed the 8th standard.

The manifesto further pledged to safeguard Kashmiri students and traders working and studying in different parts of India.

While addressing the press, the party also promised to reinstate the decades-old Darbar Move practice, which was stopped by the Lieutenant Governor-led administration in Jammu and Kashmir a few years ago.

The spokesperson, Inam un Nabi, denounced NC's Omar Abdullah and accused him of living in a bubble of comfort while Engineer Rashid and countless others suffer in jail.

"Soon after the abrogation of Article 370, Omar Abdullah was in safe custody, treated with five-star luxuries, while true leaders like Engineer Rashid have been subjected to real hardship for the last five years," Inam said.

Taking a strong swipe at Omar Abdullah's campaign antics, Inam condemned his theatrics as undignified, particularly his act of removing his cap to ask for votes. "This is a cheap political stunt from someone who has lost touch with the ground realities," he remarked.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir are awake now, and NC's days of fooling them are over," Inam said, expressing confidence that AIP will lead the charge against the anti-people politics of parties like NC.

Rashid's Brother

Langate seat. Advocate Mursaleen will contest from Sopore, Er Muneer Khan from Uri, Mohammad Muzaffar Dar from Rafiabad, Adil Nazir Khan from Gulmarg, Peerzada Firdous from Kupwara, Er Jahengeer Khan for Khansahib, Abdul Majid Banday for Handwara and Ashok Kumar Raina for Chamb.

Jailed Candidates

that the independent candidates contesting the assembly elections are no different from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Abdullah also claimed that candidates behind the bars, such as Sheikh Abdul Rashid of AIP and separatist leader Sarjan Ahmad Wagay, are being strategically being fielded against him. "I wonder why people in jail are after me and want to contest elections against me. What is the reason?" he asked. He had earlier suggested that Barkati, who was from Zainapora, Shopian, was contesting against him as part of "a conspiracy from Delhi", hinting again at the central government.

Abdullah said it was not a coincidence that these jailed people are contesting polls against him. "They want to target only one person -- the National Conference candidate from Ganderbal," he said.

In the assembly elections, Barkati is also seeking election from the Beerwah seat, which was represented by Abdullah from 2014 to

Barkati was 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. 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

The former chief minister said if the only criticism against him is that he does not live in Ganderbal, then it would be injustice against the people of the constituency. Candidates who ave nothing to talk about raise issues like "lo cal versus outsider", he said.

"Wherever I may come from, I have worked in Ganderbal. I was MLA for six years from here and the MP three times. Leave aside that my grandfather was MLA from here, my grandmother was MP and my father was both MLA and MP for this segment.

"My request to my detractors is to put forth what they have done for Ganderbal and I'll list my work here... Do you have anything to compare with the district hospital, the central university, the roads, physical education college and new administrative units? If you have done something to match these works of mine, I bear witness before God that I will leave the contest," he added.





The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 27 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world.

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

https://www.youtube. com/c/kobserver

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

KTA Delegation Meets LG Sinha, Raises Key **Business Issues**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA), led by its president Aijaz Shahdhar, met with Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan to discuss a range of issues affecting the traders and business community of Kashmir.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the meeting focused on various matters that require urgent government intervention to support the local economy.

During the meeting, Shahdhar highlighted several pressing concerns, including the need for an extension of the Power Amnesty for commercial customers

He also emphasized the need to expedite the pace of Smart City projects in Srinagar and Jammu, which he said hold significant transformative potential for urban development in the region.

"The Smart City projects in Srinagar and Jammu hold transformative potential for the urban development of these cities. However, the slow pace of implementation has raised concerns among the local business community," said

'We request your intervention to expedite these projects, ensuring their timely execution. Involvement of local businesses and stakeholders in these projects would not only accelerate the development process but also ensure that these projects are well-aligned with the community's specific needs and foster inclusive economic growth."

Another major issue raised by the KTA was the extension of the Jammu & Kashmir One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Shahdhar noted that while the OTS scheme has provided essential relief to businesses burdened by NPAs, many enterprises are still struggling financially and have not been able to benefit from it.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha assured the KTA delegation of a positive response to the issues raised. He acknowledged the concerns of the business community and expressed his commitment to addressing them in a timely and effective manner. The LG reiterated his administration's support for fostering a conducive environment for economic growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Resident Commission Organizes Interaction Of Bharat Darshan Student Group



Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: On the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) has organised a Bharat Darshan tour for students from various districts of the Kashmir division.

As part of this tour, the students shall visit historic sites in Delhi and have the opportunity to engage with notable dignitaries.

In support of this initiative, he Resident Commissione Office provided a platform for interaction under hello JK.

Since its inception, Hello JK has consistently conducted both online and offline sessions, focusing on meaningful and impactful themes. To date, eight programs have been successfully completed under this campaign, and the current event is another initiative within the same framework.

As scheduled, students from Class 5th to 12th, representing various schools and including those from the families of

martyrs, visited the RC office on 7th September 2024. These students began their Bharat Darshan tour on 3rd September 2024, travelling from Srinagar to Mumbai and visiting numerous historic landmarks along the way.

The event opened with Principal Resident Commissioner, Dr. Rashmi Singh warmly welcoming the students virtually.

Additional Resident Commissioner, Anil Sharma also engaged with the students addressing their queries and sensitizing them about role of youth in countering negative narratives and building a good image of the region, while emphasizing the importance of self-awareness and trust in the process.

The officers of RC Office also gave the students an overview of the functioning of the office vis-i-vis roles and responsibilities. The students also shared their experiences of the tour with Resident Commission officers and officials.

Atal Dulloo Takes Stock Of The Readiness Of Legislative **Assembly Complex**

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Ahead of the scheduled Assembly polls in the UT, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, visited the Legislative Assembly Complex Jammu to review

the progress of upgradation and renovation works.

During the visit, Secretary R&B; Secretary Legislative Assembly; Director Estates Jammu; Chief Engineer, Jammu

along with engineering staff remained present on the occasion.

During his visit to the Complex, Director Estates briefed the Chief Secretary about the progress of various components and the timeline for its completion.

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

Dulloo visited different sections of this complex to take first hand appraisal of the progress made in renovating

different sections including the Chamber of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, library and other areas. He urged upon the Estates department to complete the upgradation works in all respects

He also emphasised upon ensuring the operational readiness of sound systems, internet connectivity, furnishings and overall façade improvement of the complex.

He also took this occasion to visit the nearby MLA hostel to take stock of the improvements made there. He called for provisioning of requisite facilities in the hostel complex. He took the round of the complex and urged the executing agencies to create all amenities for safe stay of the legislators there.

Director Estates, Jammu, Tariq Ahmad Ganai apprised the Chief Secretary that the upgradation works on both the Complexes is in full swing. He said that these works are being monitored regularly and will be completed very soon.

2014 FLOODS ANNIVERSARY

Is Kashmir Prepared For The Next Big Flood?



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Every time flood alerts are issued in Kashmir due to incessant rainfall, the memories of the devastating 2014 floods come rushing back. This catastrophic event killed over 285 people and caused immense damage to property, infrastructure and agriculture, marking one of the worst natural disasters in the region's history.

As September 07, 2024, marked the 10th anniversary of the 2014 floods, the scars remain vivid, with lingering questions about the effectiveness of flood management and preparedness in Kashmir. Just a few days of heavy rain are enough to trigger flood fears, with rising water levels in the Jhelum River and other water

From September 2 to 6, 2014, relentless rainfall caused the Jhelum River and its tributaries to overflow, flooding vast areas of Srinagar and other districts. The deluge destroyed homes, schools, hospitals, and government buildings, crippling communication networks and essential services.

According to a government report from 2023, nearly two million people were affected, over 287 lives were lost, and the economic, social and physical infrastructure sustained irreparable damage. The report cited poor preparedness, inadequate mitigation efforts, and ineffective response planning as major contributors to the extent of the devastation.

Research indicates that around 2,600 villages were flooded, with 300 fully submerged. Half of Srinagar was underwater, with levels rising as high as six meters. Approximately 15% of houses (as per the 2011 Census) were damaged, with 20,000 homes completely destroyed and 2,34,516 structures affected.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to review

the security scenario and

preparedness for forthcom-

ing Assembly Election-2024,

DIG SKR Anantnag Javid Iqbal Matoo Saturday conducted

a significant visit to district

Shopian where he chaired a

comprehensive meeting with

officers of Shopian Police and

CAPF at Conference Hall DPO

On the occasion, SSP Shop-

ian Anayat Ali Choudhary gave

a detailed presentation re-

garding the security scenario

and proactive measures in-

Shopian.

Experts Call For Environmental Conservation

ronmental resilience.

Experts called for working on im-

portant issues like environmental

protection, preparedness and sus-

tainable development. "The flood

was not merely a natural disaster

but a reminder of how fragile our

environment is. We need to rethink

how we manage our resources and

adapt to the changing climate. It

can be done through sustainable

practices and community involve-

ment to safeguard our future," said

He said that EPG has drawn valu-

able lessons from the past and has

renewed its commitment to pro-

moting eco-friendly policies and

practices, supporting climate-resil-

ient infrastructure and empowering

local communities to take owner-

ship of environmental stewardship.

lighted the contribution of notable

During the event, experts high-

Faiz Bakshi, a member of EPG.

SRINAGAR: The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) on Saturday observed the 10th year of the 2014 floods that had devastated Kashmir, displaced thousands and caused severe environmental damage

On the occasion, experts called for environmental conservation, sustainable practices and community support to overcome the climate challenges

The experts said the 2014 floods were a "wake-up call for all of us". They highlighted the fragility of Kashmir's environment and the urgent need for sustainable water management and conservation. "We must act now to ensure that future generations inherit a more resilient and eco-friendly Kashmir," said one of the experts.

On the occasion, key environmental issues were discussed. including climate change and its impact on Kashmir, equitable water management, ecosystem restoration and conservation and community-led initiatives for envi-

environmentalists, including Faiz Bakshi, M M Shuja, Nadeem Qadri, Peerzada Faiyaz Ahmed, Ajaz Rasool, Javed Shah and Shafqat Nazir. ing significant lapses in the

estimated at Rs 2,630 crore. Following the disaster, the government launched a twophase flood management and disaster mitigation plan aimed at preventing a repeat of such devastation.

The damage to hotels, build-

ings, roads, and bridges was

The first phase, costing Rs 399 crore, was intended to increase the discharge capacity of the Jhelum River from 31,800 cusecs to 60,000 cusecs. However, progress has been inconsistent. Experts in flood-prope are

In 2021, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) conducted an audit, reveal-

DIG SKR Anantnag Visits Shopian,

cluding enforcement of model

code of conduct, security plan,

security of contesting candi-

dates/strong rooms, transport

and communication plan and

the functioning of SSTs and

FSTs taken by the police with

other security agencies to ad-

dress challenges at the grass-

root level for conducting the

forthcoming assembly elec-

tions-2024 peacefully, a police

spokesman said in a state-

ment issued to the news agen-

cy-Kashmir News Observer

Officers including COs of

CAPF, Addl. SP Shopian, DySP HQRs Shopian, DySP PC Keller,

Reviews Election Preparedness

completion of required flood management targets by the Irrigation and Flood Control (IF&C) Department.

On the 10th anniversary of the floods, concerns remain over whether Kashmir is ready for another large-scale flood. While some improvements have been made in flood forecasting and disaster response, questions about the region's vulnerability to extreme weather events persist.

Kashmiris are left wondering if enough has been done to

vits and compliance reports on preventive measures to address potential floods in the Kashmir Valley—(KNO)

DySP DAR Shopian, DySP PC

Imamsahib, DySP Zainapora and

The meeting focused on

DvSP Telcom were also present.

devising strategic measures

to enhance security, combat

the threat of OGWs as well as

ANEs to ensure the peaceful

conduct of forthcoming as-

During the meeting, DIGP

SKR Anantnag urged the of-

ficers to make successful and

incident free conduct of elec-

tions and directed the officers

to be more alert and vigilant

in strengthening the security

grid and to plug the gaps with

strict security measures.

sembly elections.

highlight that the dredging prevent another disaster, or if process remains inadequate, history is bound to repeat itself. The High Court of Jammu & the river's carrying capacity is still a concern, and many Kashmir and Ladakh, in June 2024, directed the administraembankments remain vulnerable to breaches, particularly tion to submit detailed affida-

NC, Congress Leaders Say BJP In Panic Over Their Alliance In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Asserting that the 10year BJP rule in the country was a "disappointment", the National Conference and Congress on Tuesday said the saffron party was in a state of panic since the two parties announced a seatsharing arrangement for the three-phase assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The two parties hit out at the saffron party for trying to "paint the INDIA alliance in a negative light".

The BJP released its manifesto for the J&K assembly polls at an event in Jammu on Friday in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. On Saturday, he addressed a BIP worker's rally in Ploura, Jammu, where he attacked the NC-Congress alliance.

Polling in Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled on September 18, 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be held on October 8.

"Despite ruling the country for 10 years, the BIP has done nothing remarkable for J&K, apart from stripping away the rights of its citizens, most notably through the abrogation of Article 370. It has miserably failed to stand on the expectations of the people of J&K," National Conference provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta said.

Addressing a party joining function here, Gupta termed BJP's manifesto released by the home minister as an "election gimmick" to mislead the people for votes.

"The abrogation of Article 370, division of J&K into two parts... snatching the statehood of J&K was a direct attack on the dignity and identity of the people of this region," the NC leader said.

Gupta raised serious concerns over the BJP's "inability to tackle terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Amit Shah has repeatedly promised the eradication of terrorism, but the ground reality is different. Terrorism is not only present in Kashmir but has started rising in Jammu as well. The BJP's hollow promises of peace and security have failed, and the people of J&K continue to live in fear," he said.

The NC leader urged the people to not be "misled" by the "false promises" of the BJP and

instead rally behind the INDIA alliance in the upcoming assembly polls.

"The BJP's 10-year rule has brought nothing but disappointment for the people of this region. It's time for a change. The INDIA alliance is committed to restoring the dignity, rights, and development of Jammu and Kashmir. I urge everyone to stand with us for a better and brighter future for our people," he said.

Referring to the 25 guarantees in the BJP's manifesto, Gupta said they were a "bundle of lies" designed to "mislead and deceive"

"Despite being in power at both the Centre and in J&K, the BJP has failed to meet the basic needs of the people, leaving them to suffer," he said.

Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) working president and former minister Raman Bhalla also slammed BJP for targeting the NC-Congress alliance.

"BJP is visibly shaken and resorting to smear tactics against the INDIA Alliance, sensing a resounding defeat at the hands of the people," Bhalla said.

"Instead of engaging in meaningful debate on their dismal governance record, they are attempting to sow confusion and fear among the electorate. But let me tell you this - their tactics won't work," he said addressing a gathering in R

He said the BJP, in sheer desperation, is trying to paint the INDIA alliance in a negative light. "But the INDIA alliance is not just another political arrangement – it is a people's movement that represents hope, unity, and progress."

Bhalla lambasted the BJP for its "complete failure" in governance in J&K, pointing out key issues such as inflation, unemployment, and recruitment scams that have plagued the region under their rule.

"In the 10 years of BJP governance, what have they given to the people? Hundreds of farmers protested against antifarmers policies, inflation is at an all-time high, crimes against women are on the rise, youth are jobless, and the recruitment processes are riddled with scandals.

"Their hollow promises have brought nothing but misery to the common man," he said.

NC Leader Accused Of Inciting Hate During Rally Speech

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Authorities here have recommended filing a case against a National Conference leader for allegedly inciting hatred at an election rally of party leader Omar Abdullah in the Ganderbal segment of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Nodal officer, Model Code of Conduct, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani recommended registering an FIR against Mohammad Ashraf Ganaie, former sarpanch, for using the term "assassination" during an election speech at Kachan in Ganderbal.

"Given the gravity of the situation, it is recommended that stringent action be taken

against the said person. An FIR should be lodged against the culprit under the applicable laws for promoting hatred through his speech and violating the model code of conduct," the nodal officer said in the letter to the concerned official.

Ganaie, during an election rally where Abdullah was present, said "We can kill" anyone for disrespecting the party flag.

In a video, which formed the basis of the complaint, Ganaie was, however, promptly stopped by Abdullah and prevented from addressing the rally any further.

Several persons in the audience also expressed their resentment of Ganaie's statement.

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2024

SVEEP Activities Held Across B'la To Maximize Participation

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: As part of the ongoing preparations for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, the District Administration of Baramulla conducted a series of voter awareness activities across all the seven constituencies in the district.

These activities, held under the umbrella of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, aimed at raising voter awareness and encouraging maximum participation in the electoral process.

The initiatives, designed to foster a sense of civic responsibility among citizens, focused on both environmental consciousness and active civic engagement.

As part of the Green Election Initiative, plantation drives were conducted across the district, witnessing widespread participation from locals, youth

groups, students, and public officials, who planted hundreds of saplings in various areas. This initiative emphasized the theme of 'Green Voting,' urging voters to not only participate in the democratic process but also contribute to environmental sustainability. Meanwhile, pledge-taking cer-

emonies were held across all 7 assembly constituencies, where enthusiastic citizens took a solemn pledge to vote in the forthcoming elections, demonstrating a collective commitment to the democratic process.

To engage the youth and new voters, a series of sporting activities were also organised across various schools and colleges, incorporating special focus on voting awareness messages during these events, with banners, posters, and information desks set up to inform the younger generation about the importance of their vote.

Smartphone Filmmaking Course Being Conducted For NCC Cadets Of JK&L DTE

(KNO) said.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The JK&L Directorate continues its mission to empower the youth of Jammu & Kashmir by offering them avenues to build valuable skills for their careers.

One such initiative is the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) conducted by the 1 J&K Battalion NCC, Srinagar, at the NCC Training Academy, Nagrota, from 02 to 11 September 2024. The camp has attracted 468 cadets from across the region, a defence spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

As part of the camp, 51 cadets are participating in a specialized "Smartphone Filmmaking"

course from 05 to 09 September, led by Mr.Amjad Jami, a distinguished director from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Mr. Jami, a visual communication expert with over 35 years of awardwinning experience, is guiding the cadets through the nuances of smartphone filmmaking. This initiative, under the aegis of the JK&L Directorate, focuses on teaching cadets how to creatively harness smartphone technology for filmmaking.

On 06 September, Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, ADG, JK&L Directorate, visited the camp. He was briefed by Col SaurabhSaxena, the Camp Commandant, on the training activities, particularly the filmmaking course. This intensive five-day program aims to provide cadets with practical knowledge of camera functionalities, light effects, and movie editing, both indoors and outdoors. The cadets will also learn about linking pictures and sound in group projects. In his address, Maj Gen Sa-

chdeva emphasized the significance of learning new skills and making the most of this unique opportunity. He highlighted that technology is shaping the future, and it is crucial for the youth to stay ahead by mastering such tools. The training not only boosts technical know-how but also empowers the cadets to explore their creative potential using modern technology-(KNO)

Experience Of Playing In India Will Give Us Edge Over NZ: Afghan Batter Rahmat Shah

Veteran Afghanistan batter Rahmat Shah said his team's "past experience" of playing in India will give them an edge over New Zealand in the one-off Test, beginning in Noida from Monday.

Shah was a part of the Afghanistan sides that played Tests in Bengaluru (2018 vs India), in Dehradun (2019 vs Ireland) and in Lucknow (2019 vs West Indies).

"Our past experience in India will help us. We had our home ground in Noida and in Lucknow, and we have played a lot of matches here and done a lot of camps here.

"We are also accustomed with the weather and pitch conditions of India, so we certainly have an edge," Shah told Cricbuzz.



Shah, the leading run-scorer for Afghanistan in Tests and

ODIs, wanted to give the Kiwis. the inaugural WTC champions,

"We will try to give them a

tough time. They have won the ICC Test Championship and we tried to have the best of preparations and we are looking forward to the challenge that is lying ahead," he said.

The 31-year-old top-order batter said he has made some technical changes to adapt to the conditions here.

"I just tried to concentrate more and practice more (to make technical adjustments). Earlier my shoulder used to get open and I tried to make it sideways and tried to straighter my alignment.

"When the fast bowler used to come, I used to move towards off stump a bit more and as a result I used to fall down.

"I used to play my shot through my wrist but now I am trying to take my feet and just worked hard to get it into my batting template," Shah added.

J&K Bank Lose 4-0 To Gokulam **Kerala In Climate Cup Final**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: I&K Bank FC was trounced 4-0 on Saturday by Gokulam Kerala FC in the Cimate Cup 2024 final in Leh, Ladakh. The game was held at Astro Turf, Open Stadium in Spituk, Leh.

The two-time I-League champions romped to an easy victory in the finale and looked in control of the proceedings throughout the matchup. The Kerala side opened the scoring in the 23rd minute, before an own goal from J&K Bank defender Farhan Ganie made it 2-0 in the 34th minute.



time in the second half, making it 3-0 in the 46th minute. The team added its fourth goal in the 87th minute of the match. J&K

Gokulam wasted no Bank had three shots on goal, while Gokulam dominated with seven.

Gokulam Mashoor Shereef named player of the match.

District Level Badminton Tourney For Girls Begins In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag kick started its District Level Inter Zonal Inter-School Badminton Tournament for Under-19, Under-17 and Under-14 girls on Saturday at Girls High School Khanabal. Anantnag. The tournament features female students representing different Educational Zones and Higher Secondary Schools of District Anantnag.

On the opening ceremony of the tournament, Principal GHS Khanabal Sheeba Rahim, along with Senior Master Gulshan Akhter, interacted with the players and gave them best wishes for the tournament.

While speaking on the

hailed the Department of Youth Services and Sports for organising sports events for the students on regular basis. She further said that participation of girls in sports activities will certainly bestow them physical as well as mental benefits. Later, she lauded the female students for their participation in the tournament.

Mehreen To Represent J&K At 33rd National Wushu C'ship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mehreen Jaan, a Khelo India Wushu Center Handwara trainee, has been selected to represent Jammu and Kashmir at the 33rd Senior National Wushu Championship, scheduled to take place in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The selection trials were held at the Indoor Stadium in Srinagar and were conducted by the Wushu Association of J&K.

Mehreen has the opportunity to advance to the



national games if she secures a top-eight finish at the championship. She is a Khelo India National bronze medallist, All India University Silver Medallist and a three-time state champion.

"Mehreen extends her gratitude to Honourable LG J&K, YSS department, J&K Sports Council, Wushu Association of J&K Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee), Chief Coach of the Indian Wushu Team, and her coach, Aijaz Hassan, for their support and guidance. She is thankful for their contribution to her success and is eager to make them proud at the national championship, the J&K Sports Council

HSS Wanpoh Lifts U-19 Inter School Volleyball Tournament



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Govt. Higher Secondary School Wanpoh emerged victorious in the District Level Inter School Volleyball Tournament by defeating HSS Dailgam on Saturday at SRJ HSS Khanabal Anantnag.

In the final match of the tournament, HSS Wanpoh

outclassed HSS Dailgam 2-0. Aflak Irfan Khanday, Irfan Mubarak Wani and Suhaib Sajad were the best performers in the finale and guided their team to victory by their outstanding performanc-

the third place. The tournament featured the U-19 age group

es. In the tournament,

BHSS Bijbehara secured

male students of different **Higher Secondary Schools** of district Anantnag.

At the award ceremony, Principal SRJ HSS Khanabal Gurdeep Singh was the chief guest and presented the trophies to the finalist teams. The tournament was organised by District Youth Services and Sports Office

Short TAKES

Volleyball Match Held At GDC Women Pulwama Under SVEEP



To promote Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program, the Electoral Literacy Club, in collaboration with the Physical Education Department and NSS Unit of Government Degree College (Women), Pulwama, organized a volleyball match on the college campus on Saturday.

The event was held under the patronage of the Principal, GDC, Pulwama Dr. Huda Galzai.

The event was aimed to raise awareness about the importance of voting in the upcoming Assembly Elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

YSS Ganderbal Organises Badminton Competition Under SVEEP

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal held an Inter-school Zonal Level Badminton competition for boys in the AAG category at Qamaria Higher Secondary School, Saloora, on Saturday.

This event was organized as part of the ongoing SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) 2024 campaign.

In addition to the sporting competition, participants were educated about the significance of voting and how each vote plays a vital role in strengthening the country's democracy.

Afghanistan's Zadran To Miss New Zealand Test Due To Injury

A fghanistan bowler Naveed Zadran will miss next week's test match against New Zealand with a side strain injury, the Afghan cricket board said on

The 19-year-old, who has taken nine wickets in his two tests, has been told to rest for three to four weeks in the hope of recovering before this month's One-Day International series against South Africa, the board posted on X.

Allrounder Rashid Khan has also been ruled out with a back injury.

England's Mark Wood Out For The Year With Injured Elbow

England fast bowler Mark Wood will be out for the year with an injured right elbow, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the player

Wood, who injured his right thigh during last month's first test against Sri Lanka and was ruled out from the rest of the series, discovered that he had some bone stress in his elbow during a medical

"I was shocked," Wood wrote on Instagram.

PCB Dismisses Venue Change, Confirms England Test Series In Pakistan

CB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday confirmed that the upcoming home Test series against England will be held in Pakistan, dismissing rumors of a venue change due to ongoing stadium renovations. Naqvi assured, "No Tests will be played outside [the country]. Multan and Rawalpindi venues are final.'

Earlier in the week, social media speculated a possible shift of the series to Sri Lanka or the UAE due to preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy.

Inglis' Record Ton Powers Australia To T20 Series Win Over Scotland

Agencies

EDINBURGH: Josh Inglis's record-breaking century laid the platform for Australia's 70 run-hammering of Scotland in Edinburgh on Friday as they took an unassailable 2-0 lead in a threematch Twenty20 series.

his hundred in Wednesday's opener, was out for a first-ball duck after Scotland won the toss at the But his exit brought Leeds-born wicketkeeper

Travis Head, fresh from

Inglis to the crease, with the number three smashing seven fours and as many sixes as he raced to three figures in just 43 balls, the fastest hundred for Australia in men's T20s.

Inglis's innings was the cornerstone of Australia's 196-4, with Scotland managing just 126 all out in

"It's pretty special to be honest," the 29-year-old Inglis said after stumps. "To hold

that record is really nice. "There was a bit hap-



doors," he said. "Once the new ball wore off, it got easier. I was just looking to play some good shots and show some intent.

"It's a good opportunity for me to get some game time and try cement my spot. There's a lot of good players but to put some performances on the board

Opening batsman Head was bowled for a golden duck by Brad Currie, the paceman leading Scotland's attack with 3-37.

But there was no stopping Inglis as he powered his way to a century before he was caught in the covers off Chris Sole.

Scotland's chase never

got going, with Brandon McMullen playing a lone hand of 59 as Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis took 4-23. **Brief scores:**

Australia 196-4, 20 overs (Josh Inglis 103; Brad Currie 3-37) v Scotland 126 all out, 16.4 overs (Brandon McMullen 59; Marcus Stoinis 4-23)

Third Test: Sri Lanka Adrift On 142-5 In Reply To England's 325

Agencies

LONDON: Sri Lanka were in the doldrums on 142 for five at the tea interval in reply to England's firstinnings total of 325 on the second day of the third test on a grey Saturday under lights at The Oval.

Opener Pathum Nissanka (64) put up solid resistance before becoming England debutant Josh Hull's first international test wicket victim.

The visitors' other top-order batters mostly struggled to reach double figures, but Dhananjaya de Silva and Kamindu Mendis steadied the ship somewhat, not out on 16 and 34 respectively at the break.

England were all out for 325 just before the lunch interval, with captain Ollie Pope underpinning the innings with a knock of 154, peppered with 19 fours and two sixes.

FLINTOFF NAMED AS ENG-LAND LIONS HEAD COACH Former England all-



rounder Andrew Flintoff has been appointed as the head coach of the secondtier England Lions team for the upcoming year, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Saturday.

The 46-year-old will take charge in October, overseeing their tour of South Africa, followed by a red-ball series in Australia in January and a summer series against India A and Zimbabwe on home soil. Flintoff, who was seri-

ously injured while filming on the set of BBC's "Top Gear" show in December 2022, was part of England's white-ball coaching set-up, including the Twenty20 World Cup, where they lost

to eventual champions India in the semi-finals. He recently had a coach-

ing stint with Northern Superchargers in The Hundred.

"It's a fantastic opportunity to work with some of the best up-and-coming talent in the country and to help shape the future of the men's game," Flintoff said in a statement.