

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 the | [More on P6](#)

'Jammu Will Decide Formation Of Next Govt'

The 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

The 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: Srinagar district is all geared up for polls in second phase on September 25. The district comprises eight Assembly Constituencies of Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lalchowk, Chanapora, Zaidibal, 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 Assembly Constituencies of the district, 24-Zaidibal Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,12,864 registered electorate, comprising 56,408 males and 56,451 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 **3,86,654**

Female Voters **3,87,778**

Third-gender Voters **30**



polling station at Gazidoori, PwD manned polling station at Kalla Mohalla Behrar, Youth manned polling station at Kandi Mohalla Mir 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 been established at DD Bagh. Hazratbal Assembly Constituency comes next with a voter population of 112,541, among which 56,175 are males and 56,366 are females and notably, no voters are registered under the third gender category in this constituency.

To facilitate the voters to exercise their | [More on P6](#)

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 elections from Kashmir division include an independent candidate Bismah Nabi from Budgam, Nilofar Sajad Gandru an independent candidate from Chadoora Assembly Segment, Aafiq 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 violations.

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 Ittehad Party (AIP), led by jailed Member of Parliament 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 | [More on P6](#)

Rashid's Brother To Contest From Langate



Awami Ittehad Party on Saturday released the list of candidates for remaining seats for the upcoming assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the list, Khurshed Ahmad Sheikh, brother of jailed AIP supreme Er Rashid, will contest from the | [More on P6](#)

Jailed Candidates Being Used To Target Me: Omar Says Independents No Different From BJP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) 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 struck 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](#)

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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 NASA. 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 metabolism.

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

results can help develop safeguards 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.

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. Eligibility: Female students from Haryana, Uttarakhand and Bihar who have passed Class 12 and are currently pursuing graduation (any year) in STEM-related subjects 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: 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
• Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UG03

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! Eligibility: Female students from Class 8 up to the graduation are eligible to apply. To qualify, 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
• Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IRGC3

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
• Short Url: 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

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 to 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 2nd round 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 reserved category

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

- The eligible and willing candidates have to report at the BOPEE offices Jammu / Srinagar for registration/Attendance & fulfilment of other formalities, from 08:00 a.m. upto 09:00 a.m. on the day/date of counselling.
- 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:
 - Domicile Certificate
 - 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
- 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
- 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.
- Those candidate(s) who have been allotted seat(s) during the Second Round of Counselling 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 counselling.
- The Candidate(s) who have not been allotted any seat during the First or Second Round of Counselling 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 counselling.
- 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-2024.
- The candidate(s) who have been allotted Seat(s) during the Second Round of counselling, 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 counselling.
- 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 above.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Board shall stop the counselling process immediately as and when the seats are fully exhausted.

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

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

No. BOPEE/Exam/17/2024(7472503)
Srinagar
Dated: 06-09-2024

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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 issued under as per below mentioned details:-
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Class 10th
Year & Session 1995- Oct-Nov
Registration:
Name : Parvaze Ahmad Rather
Father's Name: Gh Mohi-ud-din Rather
Mother's Name : Jaana Begum
Date of Birth:- 10-04-1980
Residenc- Archanderhama

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" bearing No: 556781 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer-is-I-DQC)/B(KD)/22
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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 Voters Participation

Srinagar: To boost the voter's participation in the forthcoming Assembly Election in the district a Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) awareness program was today organized at GHSS Gund Hassi Bhat. Besides, Chief Education Officer Srinagar who was Chief Guest on the occasion, the SVEEP Program was overwhelmingly attended by Students & Teachers.

During the event participants were educated regarding the importance of voting in a democracy in which every eligible individual can exercise his franchise in a free, fair & transparent manner to choose a representative.

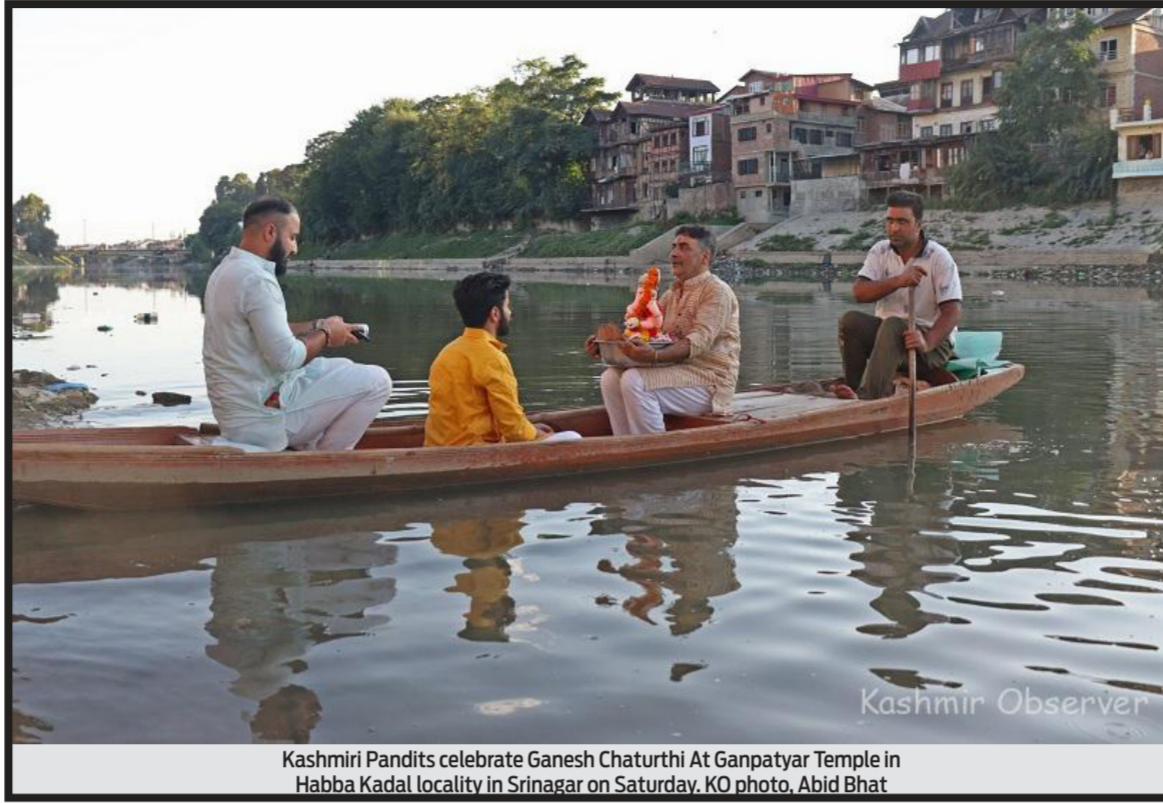
In his address, CEO Srinagar appealed to voters to make the election process successful by active participation in the electoral process.

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.

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

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



Kashmiri Pandits celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi At Ganpatyar Temple in Habba Kadal locality in Srinagar on Saturday. KO photo, Abid Bhat

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 celebrate 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

and peace.

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.

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 wages, 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," Bukhari said.

Advertisement for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) therapy. It features the text: 'OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER 8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY', 'I did wash my hand ... but.... did I clean it enough? Wash it again? Is it clean now?', 'It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN distress myths and stigma associated with OCD', and contact information for KASHMER/Kashmir American Society of Healthcare and HPVT.

Emergency and public services contact list including: TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686; AIRPORTS: SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311; RAILWAYS: SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259; HIGHWAY STATUS: Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open), Mughal Road - (Open), Srinagar- Leh- (Open).

PRAYERS section for Hijri Calendar 03 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446. It lists prayer times: FAJR 4:46, ZUHR 12:31, ASR 4:59, Magrib 6:54, ISHA 8:16.

This Day In History section listing historical events from 1689 to 1978, such as '1689- China & Russia signs Treaty of Nerstjinsk', '1978- Iranian army fires on Khomeini followers in Teheran, 100s killed', and '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 VDCs 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 army-men 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 Police along with setting up of 114 additional Border Posts of Police, behind BSF or Army lines. 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

Maulana 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 happened 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 techno-rational worldview is not enough. To regain psychological and emotional balance, some in the West are looking 'Eastward'. It is here that Rumi, Sun Tzu, and Indian yoga 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 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 Aberdeen, Scotland

The 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.

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



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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

Books

Srinagar's Critical Biography

In Conversation with Sadaf Wani

Diya Malhotra

Kashmir'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 writer?

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 medium.

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 to?

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 experiences.

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

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 touch-based 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



distinctions between rural and urban areas, particularly the 'Gaam' and 'Shahr' divide. During your research and interviews in Srinagar, did you encounter any of these biases firsthand? How did these experiences inform your portrayal of this urban-rural dynamic in your work?

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 experiences, 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 condescension. It became a bit awkward for him when I revealed that I wasn't from Srinagar but rather a product of 'gaam culture'.

This instance seemed relatively benign compared to the more pronounced experiences of 'shahrgaam' discrimination I encountered in other interviews. The 'shahrgaam' 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 particularly striking given Kashmir's significant rural population.

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 'shahreki' enough revealed a deeper insecurity within Srinagar. This dynamic reflects Kashmiris' historical struggles with poverty and the suffering associated with agrarian life, marked by famines, floods, crop failures, and state neglect. The promise of urbanity and modernization was seen as a means to escape this unpredictability. 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 interpretation compelled me to explore the issue further.

5. You describe the transformation

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 individuals, particularly

to listen to their voices. This book is my attempt to contribute to the ongoing conversation that many Kashmiris have sustained through their art forms.

6. Your book appears to be a coming-of-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, how did you

plex 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 covered.

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 male-dominated 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 writing?

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 driving force.

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 necessarily poor.



women 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 years, 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 future 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

approach this challenge?

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 com-

What Makes People's Creative Juices Flow?

Muzamil Farooq

Knowing 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 well-known 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 well-known 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 creative.

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 creative.

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 work-

ing 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

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

Press Trust of India

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, a tough time. "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 straighten 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: J&K Bank FC was trounced 4-0 on Saturday by Gokulam Kerala FC in the Climate 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 match. 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.



Gokulam wasted no 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 Bank had three shots on goal, while Gokulam dominated with seven. Gokulam defender Mashoor Shereef was named player of the match.

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 medalist, All India University Silver Medalist 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 said in a statement.

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 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 performances. In the tournament, BHSS Bijbehara secured the third place.

The tournament featured the U-19 age group



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 performances. In the tournament, BHSS Bijbehara secured the third place. The tournament featured the U-19 age group

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

occasion, Sheeba Rahim 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.

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 three-match Twenty20 series.

Travis Head, fresh from his hundred in Wednesday's opener, was out for a first-ball duck after Scotland won the toss at the Grange.

But his exit brought Leeds-born wicketkeeper 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 reply.

"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-



pening (on the pitch) early 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

is pretty key." 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 first-innings 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 ENGLAND LIONS HEAD COACH Former England all-



rounder Andrew Flintoff has been appointed as the head coach of the second-tier 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 seriously 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 coaching 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.

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

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

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 said on Friday.

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 check-up.

"I was shocked," Wood wrote on Instagram.

PCB Dismisses Venue Change, Confirms England Test Series In Pakistan

PCB 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.