

2 Terrorists Killed In Rajouri Encounter

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Days ahead of the first phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, two heavily armed terrorists were killed in a gunfight with the security forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district, officials on Monday.

The gunfight broke out in the Laam area of the Nowshera sector late on Sunday night after alert Army troops noticed terrorists trying to sneak into this side from across the border, they said.

Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled to take place in three phases -- September 18, September 25 and October 1.

"In a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Army successfully foiled an infiltration bid by terrorists in the Nowshera sector. Intelligence inputs received since August 30 indicated the presence of terrorists opposite the Nowshera Sector. All likely infiltration routes were kept under surveillance," Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said. He said | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Polls Phase II

239 In Final Fray After 27 Withdraw Nominations

Observer News Service

Jammu: On the last day of the withdrawal of nomination papers for the second phase of the forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024 in the 26 Assembly Constituencies, 27 candidates withdrew their Candidature in the Office of respective Returning Officers across six districts on Monday, leaving 239 candidates in the final poll fray.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K UT informed that out of the total 266 valid nominations, 27 candidates withdrew their Nominations by the last date of withdrawal i.e. Monday, 09 September, 2024.

With this, only 239 validly Nominated Candidates



now remain in fray for the 26 Assembly Constituencies where polling will be held in the second phase of the J&K Assembly Elections on 25

September, 2024. Highest 9 candidates withdrew their nomination in Budgam district, followed by 6 in Srinagar district, 5 each

in Rajouri and Poonch districts, 2 in Reasi district, while no candidate withdrew their nomination in Ganderbal district. | [More on P6](#)

Total Candidates Initially **309**

Valid Nominations: **266**

Candidates Remaining: **239**

DISTRICT BREAKDOWN

- Srinagar: 93 candidates
- Budgam: 46 candidates
- Rajouri: 34 candidates
- Poonch: 25 candidates
- Ganderbal: 21 candidates
- Reasi: 20 candidates

Highest Withdrawals:

- Budgam: 9 candidates
- Srinagar: 6 candidates
- Rajouri & Poonch: 5 candidates each

Govt Appoints 10 Spl Anti-Corruption Judges

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The Government on Monday appointed ten Judicial Officers as Special Judges, Anti-Corruption, for trial of offences specified in section 4 of the Act within their respective territorial jurisdiction.

According to an order issued by government here, Haq Nawaz Zargar has been posted as Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Jammu; Masarat Roohi, Additional District and Sessions Anantnag (designated Special Court under the Prevention of Corruption Act); Amarjit Singh Langeh, 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla (designated Special Court under the Prevention of Corruption Act); Adnan Sayeed, Special Judge, Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases) Court; Archana Charak, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Doda (designated Special

Court under the Prevention of Corruption Act); Bashir Ahmad Munshi, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri (designated Special Court under the Prevention of Corruption) | [More on P6](#)

BJP State VP Issues Ultimatum Over Ticket Distribution

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir State vice president Pawan Khajuria gave an ultimatum to his party to change the candidate from Udhampur east constituency within two days.

He held a meeting with hundreds of his supporters in Udhampur and said the candidature of former MLA R S Pathania announced by the party is not acceptable to the workers.

The BJP released its sixth list of 10 candidates including Pathania for the assembly polls on Sunday, taking the total number of candidates named by

the party to 62.

Khajuria, who was hopeful of getting the ticket from the seat, told PTI, "Pathania's candidature is not acceptable to the ground-level workers. He had indulged in anti-party activity during Lok Sabha elections and the workers have already submitted proof in the form of videos and photographs to the party leadership."

The trouble for BJP over ticket distribution for assembly elections is far from over as there was also a protest by BJP workers in the Marh assembly segment over the naming of Surinder Bhagat instead of Balbir Lal who was supported by former | [More on P6](#)

Where Is The Alliance?

NC Flag Stained With Blood Of Kashmiris: Ex PCC Chief

Srinagar: In a fiery election rally ahead of the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, Vikar Rasool Wani, senior Congress leader and former Chief of the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee, launched a scathing attack on the party alliance partner National Conference (NC) on Monday.

"NC flag is red because it is stained by the blood of



Kashmiris, especially the people of Banihal," Wani said while

addressing a gathering of supporters in Banihal.

Wani also accused the NC of attempting to buy Congress workers in an effort to weaken his party.

"National Conference is trying their best to purchase our workers, but our people are steadfast in their mission to support Congress," Wani said during the rally. | [More on P6](#)

Karra Condemns Remarks

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Monday disassociated itself from the "derogatory remarks" made by senior party leader Vikar Rasool Wani against its alliance partner National Conference (NC). JKPCC president Tariq Hameed Karra strongly condemns the | [More on P6](#)

AIP Proxy Of BJP: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

Anantnag: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday accused jailed MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party of being a proxy of the BJP, and warned the people of Jammu and Kashmir not to come under the influence of such parties.

Her remarks came a day after PDP candidate from south Kashmir's Shopian assembly segment Yawar Shafi Bandy was injured in an alleged attack by the workers of the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), which is led by Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, in Balpora area of Shopian.



"Our candidate was going to his constituency, some workers associated with AIP assaulted them, even our candidate Yawar Bandy was beaten and he is fighting for his life, his ribs broken, his condition is serious," Mehbooba claimed while addressing | [More on P6](#)

Apni Party Backs Taj Mohi-ud-Din

PDP Withdraws Support

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Apni Party on Monday announced support to former Jammu and Kashmir minister Taj Mohiuddin, who is contesting as an independent candidate from Uri assembly segment in Baramulla district.

The support was announced by Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari at a press conference here.

"The Apni Party has decided to back Mohiuddin. We will lend our full | [More on P6](#)

Omar Abdullah Vs. Aga Muntazir

Stage Set For A Strong Two-Tier Battle In Budgam

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Ahead of the upcoming assembly elections in J&K, central Kashmir's Budgam is set for a high-voltage political contest between arch rivals NC and the PDP.

With eight candidates in fray for the Budgam seat, observers maintain that the main contest is going to be between the National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah and



Aga Syed Muntazir the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate and son of Hurriyat leader Aga Syed Hassan. Both Omar

and Muntazir are locked in a fierce battle for dominance in this politically crucial constituency. Interestingly Omar enjoys support of Muntazir's cousin Aga Ruhullah who is sitting NC MP.

Pertinently, the National Conference has represented the Budgam Assembly segment since 1977 and has never witnessed any NC candidate's defeat so far. However, this time the | [More on P6](#)

TRAL ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

NC-Congress Split May Give Edge To PDP

Agencies

Srinagar: As the first phase of the Jammu & Kashmir assembly elections approaches, the Tral constituency in south Kashmir's Pulwama district is set for a three-way contest between candidates from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the National Conference-Congress alliance, and an NC-backed independent.

According to details, the contest will see PDP's Rafiq Ahmad Naik, NC-Congress alliance candidate Surinder Singh Channi, and independent candidate Dr Gh Nabi Bhat, supported by National Conference, as the main competitors.

Rafiq Ahmad Naik

The son of former MP and Revenue Minister Ali Mohammad Naik, | [More on P6](#)

16 Candidates In Fray For NC Bastion Habba Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: One of the eight assembly segments of Srinagar district—Habba Kadal, is heading towards a thrilling contest with the highest number of 16 candidates vying for the seat, slated to go to polls in the second phase of elections on September 25.

According to details, a total 95546 electorate are set to decide the fate of 16 candidates, which include 47404 male and 48133 females. | [More on P6](#)

EPS #2

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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DECODING AI

CS Chairs SKIMS Standing Committee Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the SKIMS Standing Committee Meeting constituted to advise about the academic matters of the institute.

Besides Secretary H&ME, the meeting was attended by Director SKIMS; Principal GMC Srinagar/Jammu; Dean, Medical Faculty, SKIMS and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the Institute administration to bring coherence in the courses

market once completed by the admitted candidates. He advised for making such courses market driven so that pass outs do not face hiccups in finding career options.

The Committee later reviewed many of the courses, whose nomenclature requires to be altered to bring them at par with NMC norms. This move was termed to bring the degrees offered in such courses in sync with nation-wide nomenclature for the overall benefit of these candidates.

The committee also deliberated over the B.Sc/M.



offered by them and those recommended under National Medical Commission (NMC).

He observed that this measure would bring conformity of these degrees with those offered all over the country for the overall benefit of the pass outs.

Dulloo also went through the list of courses offered by the Institute, their intake capacity and their uptake in the

Sc courses offered by the institute and the need for enhancing their intake capacity as per the upgraded infrastructure. The need for introduction of new courses was also discussed and it was given out that the exercise should be done to choose best of the medical courses which are in demand throughout the country as per the advanced standards and techniques in vogue all over the world.

Training Program On PFMS For All DDOs/POs Of Home Department Begins



Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, a two-day comprehensive training program on Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and Pay Officers (POs) of the Home Department, Jammu and Kashmir, commenced today at Kashmir University.

The inaugural session was graced by the presence of ADGP (Headquarters), PHQ, M.K. Sinha, as the chief guest.

On the occasion, ADGP (Headquarters) PHQ, M.K. Sinha delivered a keynote address, emphasizing the significance of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public financial management. He underscored the crucial role of PFMS in streamlining financial transactions, reducing errors, and promoting good governance. He also highlighted the importance of equipping officers with the knowledge and skills to effectively utilize PFMS in their daily operations.

The Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, Rema Rokhum Lalremruata, also addressed the officers on the occasion, providing valuable insights into the functioning and benefits of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

He shared his expertise on the system's capabilities and highlighted the importance of accurate and timely financial reporting. He emphasized the need for effective financial management and the role of PFMS in achieving this goal.

ment and the role of PFMS in achieving this goal.

To facilitate the training program, a team from office of the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, along with a team of PFMS experts, has arrived to impart comprehensive training to the DDOs and POs of the Home Department, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage public finances.

The expert team providing comprehensive training and guidance on the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) includes Pankaj Kochhar, Sr.AO, Jyoti Nagpal, Sr.AO, Surekha Kumari, AAO, Balram Jain, Consultant, Amit Khedar, Sr. Accountant, Shubham Saini, Accountant, Abhinav Yadav, Accountant, Pankaj, Accountant, Naveen Meena, Accountant, Pratik Asthana, AAO.

The program was organized and supervised by FA/CO PHQ Naila Zahoor and was coordinated by Director IT University of Kashmir, Dr. Maroof Naeem Qadri.

PFMS is a web-based application that provides financial management services for the Government of India. PFMS was developed by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) of the Ministry of Finance.

PFMS offers modules for digital payments, receipt collection, accounting, reconciliation, and financial reporting. It provides an IT platform for cash management through "just in time" fund transfers and tracking of funds from release to credit into beneficiary bank accounts.



Fire Damages Three Residential Houses In Srinagar

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: At least three residential structures were gutted in a major fire incident at Noorbagh area of the city here this morning, causing extensive damage to the property, officials said.

Fire, according to officials, originated from a residential house in Gatta Colony, Noorbagh at about 7 am and quickly spread to two other nearby structures.

The first and second floors of the house were completely damaged while the attic portion of two nearby houses suffered partial damage in the incident.

Given the intensity of the fire,

the fire and emergency services had to call in a number of fire tenders from several city fire stations to put out the flames.

The operation, officials claimed, continued for nearly two hours till the fire was brought under control while no loss of life or injury reported in the incident.

"A distress call was received around 7:10 am, and several fire tenders from different fire stations were pressed into service to douse off the raging flames. The first and second floors of the main house where the fire originated were completely destroyed while the attic portion of two other houses suffered partial damage," an F&ES official told Kashmir

Observer, adding, adding the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

Nusrat Jan, one of the survivors, described the harrowing experience: "We had just started our day when the fire broke out. There was no time to think. All I could do was grab my children and run to save our lives. We left with nothing but the name of Allah on our lips. Everything—our food, clothes, and memories—are gone," she said, tears streaming down her face.

Jalal Ud Din, another victim, recalled how the fire quickly spread from a small room to the entire house: "We were helpless, watching everything reduce to ashes," he said..

DEO Srinagar For Intensifying SVEEP Activities In All City Pockets

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to amplify voter's awareness, the District Election Officer Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Monday chaired a meeting regarding Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), here today.

The meeting was attended by District Nodal Officer SVEEP; Nodal Officer MCMC; Nodal Officers SVEEP of all Eight Assembly Constituencies; District Social Welfare Officer; Chief Medical Officer, Nodal Officers of SVEEP

NIT, University of Kashmir; Nodal Officer Colleges, Representatives of Colleges, Institute of Music & Fine Arts.

While addressing the meeting, DEO elaborated the dynamic role of Officers regarding SVEEP to amplify the message of voter's participation & awareness.

He underlined the need to craft qualitative messages and programs to encompass a wide range of electoral processes to celebrate the festival of democracy.

DEO emphasized on identification of places of prime importance with historical social, cultural, environmental & eco-

logical importance to organize SVEEP programs.

Dr Bilal urged all the concerned to understand the power and importance of Social Media to portray and promote SVEEP activities to enhance voter awareness and participation in electoral process.

He also maintained that the administration is committed to free, fair & transparent elections and ensures impartiality in the entire process. Further, DEO asked all the officers to channelize their resources and integrate their SVEEP activities to foster inclusive democracy.



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8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
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- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 47
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	4: 58
Magrib	6:53
ISHA	8:15

HIJRI CALENDAR
05 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1446

This Day In History

- 1547 - Battle of Pinkie, Midlothian: English beat the Scots
- 1785 - Prussia signs trade agreement with US
- 1910 - Great Idaho Fire destroys 3 million acres of timber
- 1919 - Treaty of St Germain: Austria ends incorporation with Germany
- 1919 - China becomes a member of the League of Nations
- 1926 - Allies-German treaty of Koblenz drawn
- 1926 - Germany joins League of Nations
- 1939 - Canada, under the leadership of Mackenzie King, declares war on Germany
- 1942 - British troops land on Madagascar
- 1942 - RAF drops 100,000 bombs on Dusseldorf
- 1943 - British 8th army occupies Tarente
- 1943 - German troops occupy Rome and take took over the protection of Vatican City
- 1951 - British begin economic boycott of Iran
- 1965 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1972 - West Germany beats Pakistan 1-0 to become first European nation since 1920 to win the field hockey Olympic title; marred by disgraceful behaviour of Pakistani players, fans & officials after losing the Munich final
- 1973 - Muhammad Ali defeats Ken Norton
- 1974 - Portugal recognizes independence of Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- 1990 - Iran agrees to resume diplomatic ties with Iraq

From KO Archives

Cable Operators Threatened, Suspend Functioning Temporarily

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Most of the cable television operators in the Srinagar city have decided to block music and movie channels following threats by unidentified persons.

"We have collectively decided to stop feeding of moral and unethical television channels like MTV, Star Movies, Star World etcetra to our customers," a press release of Cable Network Association said here on today. There have been reports of threats to Cable operators in certain areas of Srinagar city by unidentified persons, asking them to close down their businesses. "We have been receiving let-ten from unidentified persons asking us to close down the cable networks," the press release said.

The association appealed the separatist political amalgam, Hurriet Conference to intervene in the matter. "It is our humble appeal to Freedom Conference and militant groups to direct us what we have to do," the statement said.

The association urged the separatist leaders to take a sympathetic view of their case as they have invested huge sums in establishing their businesses in Srinagar, after selling off their land and property.

"We are unemployed youth and will be turned jobless if we are forced to close our business," the release said.

Till the militants and the Hurriet Conference decide on the future of over two dozen cable operators in Srinagar, and many more in other towns, the Association has decided to close down their operations upto September 13.

The association has also decided to block the transmission of national and international music and movie channels. "We will not be providing obscene channels," the release said, "but only those channels which will provide moral and developmental programmes."

In early 1990 militants had banned the use of dish antennas and forced the closure of cinema halls and bars in Kashmir.

Cable networks started their operations in Kashmir since early this year. This month most of the cable operators said they have received threatening letters. However, no militant group has openly asked for the closure of these networks.

At various places in Srinagar the cables running through lanes and by lanes of Srinagar were damaged by unknown persons and at-least two grenade attacks were reported on structures housing cable television networks in Srinagar this month.

(Kashmir Observer, September 10, 1998)

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday | 10-09-2024

Dialogue With Pakistan

In an apparent departure from the hardline stance on talks with Pakistan, Defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday that New Delhi was ready to talk to the neighbouring country if it stopped terrorism. This goes against the recent statement of the home minister Amit Shah, who said India would rather talk to youth in Kashmir than Pakistan. In contrast, Singh has sounded slightly more conciliatory, signaling a prospect of dialogue with Islamabad. However, it doesn't mean that the dialogue will happen in the near future. The differences between the two countries are now too entrenched and irreconcilable to immediately lead to any engagement. More so, since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which have sunk the relations between the two neighbours to their lowest. Ever since, Pakistan has sought reversal of the move which India has rejected. India, on the other hand, has asked Pakistan to end support to terrorism in Kashmir, which the latter has denied it has any role in. The mutual stance ensures that nothing changes on the ground.

Does the defence minister's dialogue-favouring statement make any difference? It seems unlikely. This is despite the fact that even the Pakistan Army is reportedly in favour of resuming dialogue with New Delhi. In India, it would mean undoing a policy of the past decade during which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has avoided any engagement with Pakistan. Particularly so, after 2019 when erasure of Article 370 which also drew Pakistan away from seeking dialogue with India. Prime Minister of Pakistan at the time Imran Khan adopted a hawkish approach towards New Delhi. But with Sharifs at the helm since 2022 - and more decisively so following the 2023 Pakistan election - there have been some tentative signs that the two countries might after all return to some engagement. But that hasn't happened, in part, because it has been a deliberate policy of the BJP-led government at the centre not to engage Pakistan. In an interview to a television channel during his election campaign in May, the PM Modi made it clear that India "shouldn't bother much about Pakistan and whether it changes its approach or not." He added that for the past 10 years he had put a lock on Pakistan being a factor in running India. "Let Pakistan manage two square meals. We don't need to waste our time," he remarked, hinting at Pakistan's dismal state of affairs.

But it would be a tragedy if India and Pakistan perpetually fail to live as normal neighbours. Improving bilateral relations between India and Pakistan could have profound regional implications. South Asia's stability hinges on the relationship between its two largest countries. Constructive engagement between the neighbours could lead to enhanced cooperation in trade, water management, and counter-terrorism, benefiting the entire region.

Your FINANCIAL Did You Know?

Most of the people, about 95%, spend a significant portion of their time working? Often, people obtain a professional degree and then find a job, dedicating countless hours to their careers. Many work long hours in normal business , sometimes from 7 AM to 8 PM, putting in 10, 12, or even 15 hours a day. Despite all this hard work, they often struggle to achieve financial stability and satisfaction.

A common issue is a lack of financial literacy, leading many to spend their earnings on depreciable assets and high-consumption products. This behaviour is evident in many places, such as Kashmir, where people often invest their money in building or renovating homes, frequently using up their savings in non-productive ways, and create liability for taking loans.

Understanding how to manage and grow money is essential. For instance, if someone earns 100,000 per month (1,200,000 annually) and aims to generate this income passively, they would need significant capital. Assuming a 15% annual return on investment, one would require around 8,000,000 to generate 100,000 per month without working long hours.

To achieve such financial freedom, it's crucial to avoid wasting money on depreciable products and accumulating liabilities like loans, consumption loans, car loans, and credit cards. Instead, focus on building assets. Here's how you can start:

- 1. Understand Financial Literacy:** Educate yourself on financial principles, including budgeting, saving, and investing.
- 2. Invest Wisely:** Choose investments that provide good returns, such as quality stocks, Etf's and mutual funds, or real estate.
- 3. Create Passive Income Streams:** Look for opportunities that generate income without substantial effort, such as rental properties or dividend-paying stocks, SWP in mutual funds, earn 15-20% per annum withdraw 7% , still income and wealth will be created .
- 4. Limit Liabilities:** Minimize debt and avoid unnecessary expenditures on rapidly depreciating assets.
- 5. Save and Reinvest:** Regularly save a portion of your income and reinvest your returns to compound your wealth over time.

By adopting these practices, you can improve your financial health and work towards a future where your money works for you, reducing the need to trade long hours for income.

Remember, financial independence is achievable if you prioritize creating assets over liabilities and make informed decisions about your money. Educate yourself on budgeting, investing, and creating passive income streams. By avoiding depreciable assets and minimizing liabilities, you can build wealth and achieve financial freedom. Let's break the cycle. Choose trusted service providers for your financial journey!

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

Six Hurdles for Inclusive Education



Azher Ahmad Dar

Inclusion is one of the important pillars of a successful public policy. While the focus of conventional economical methods has been to measure the level of development on income, this is changing by way of including inclusion as one of the parameters. Inclusive education is important to include everyone in the education system so that they are able to enjoy the fruits of development. However, India's inclusive education policy has been lax in terms of the support provided to those with various kinds of disabilities, such as intellectual disability, psychological disorder, physical disability, etc. Various policies have been brought into the country, such as RUSA, RMSA, and SSA, which have not wholesale solved this problem. Now with the new education policy of 2020, we can say that some progress has been made in terms of the policy designed to address the needs of the people. Whether the diagnosis is followed remains to be seen, which will eventually come to the fore after many years of the implementation of the policy at the grassroots level. However, there are still structural problems that have to be addressed with regard to the policy design and implementation at large. Early identification and intervention is one thing that the government has improved upon, which basically is identifying the type of disability in a child and then intervening to remedy the learning failure. While it is a step in the right direction, there is a systemic lack of a mechanism that deals with intervention, which is spontaneous, which should be the other way around, by recognizing the level and type of the disability and, on the basis of that, extending support, which is done in Australia. In Australia, there are four levels of intervention, which range from giving education (no substantial funding) to separate classroom settings (with substantial funding), which are efficient and tailored to the needs of each student.

The second issue is the faulty local governance system, with so much corruption and not so powerful. In various European countries, such as Scandinavian countries, local institutions are extremely important to recruit teachers for people with disabilities and to design the curriculum tailored to the needs of the students. In China, teachers have to pass an examination conducted by the local municipal councils in order for them to get recruited. However, India's local governance is plagued with corruption, red tape, and workers who are uneducated, which is the larger reason why the country has lagged behind in inclusive education. In Kashmir, the situation is such that the midday meal rice is sold by teachers on the black market, which points to the moral crisis of the valley. In Uganda, in order to curb the menace of corruption, which famously is called 'a leak in the bucket,' a new strategy of increasing the efficiency of the flow of funds to the people was rolled out by advertising in newspapers the sanctions provided by the government to a particular program or particular school, with the help of which the local people could act as a check on the evil intentions of the intermediate authorities. Any program of inclusive education must include the empowered role of the local governance in the curriculum design, funding, identification, etc., because the country is so huge that it is impossible to govern policy through a centralized system.

The third issue concerns teacher training suited to the needs of each student, which has been a major problem everywhere. A survey

conducted said that teachers knew that there was a mechanism in place for inclusive education, but they did not know how they could play a role in the implementation. The national centre for education statistics (2005) found that 60% of all public school teachers indicated that they did not feel well-prepared to meet the social and emotional needs of the said students. Teachers have two attitudes whenever they hear about inclusive education policies: their response is that it is the responsibility of the resource centres to look after the challenged students, and the special students are a disturbance to the class.

The fourth issue is the rigid curriculum. This does not allow for adjustments in the curriculum, making it difficult for visually impaired children. Some of the top central universities in India do not have special learning materials for those with various kinds of impairments; the curriculum is available mostly in English; there is no provision for separate classes mandated by the central government. It seems that designing materials for people with disabilities looks like mayhem to the government. In OECD countries, it is made sure to design curriculum and resource centres are established. Added to that, there is a lack of diversity in the educational setting in which students with disabilities are placed.

The convention is that special settings be established based on the kind of disability, which is manifold and sadly missing in the country, the ramification of which is that these students do not get adequate attention from teachers. At the school level, it is next to impossible to design and provide materials suitable for the needs of

those with disabilities, which is ironic considering the mammoth public sector of the country.

The 2006 compulsory education law in China provides for compulsory education for children with disabilities. It is provided in special schools; separate classes in regular schools; the same classes as their peers. Home-based education is provided for those with severe disabilities. Those who do not have stable residency are provided with compulsory education in boarding schools established by the government. In order to accommodate children from ethnic and linguistic minorities, separate schools or classes are set up by the autonomous regions and municipalities under the central government.

We can safely say that the government has failed the people at large. The 5th issue is the inhibiting role of culture in thwarting the extension of education to these students. India has around 70 million disabled people, and only 1-2% of these are educated, mostly by NGOs. Of these, only 1% are employed, which is due to the stigma that has been recurring in society. Gabe (2004) did a study of the South Asian immigrants living in the US, and many of them attributed disability to the law of karma.

This points to the overarching impact of the culture in shaping the attitude of parents toward sending their children to special schools. Karma has a negative effect on the strategy part, which gives way to shame, stigma, and dishonour. As a result of this, they isolate themselves from the whole society. They do not join organisations that support special education, and parents do not provide special children with education. Last but not least is the issue of funding, which does not have a concrete and systematic way of allocation to these students, coupled with inadequacies in the flow of funds, corruption, etc.

This has an important effect on the quality of teachers, the quality of infrastructure, the learning equipment, such as resource support centres, etc. Funding should be made available in sufficient amounts. There is also a problem with mismanagement of the funds, which get off the hook before they reach the beneficiaries. With regard to the mechanism of allocation of funds for inclusive education, the system adopted by the OECD countries is worth emulating. Various components are taken into account, such as learners' socio-economic background, minority, and learners with disabilities, before any funds are allocated. Various components of the inclusive education setup that are there include spending on a specific framework to implement inclusive education policies, spending on special settings, spending on resource centres, spending involving health and welfare services, etc.

The various additional resources available at the school include ICTs, teaching aids, special classes, specific curriculum, extra teaching hours, etc., which are somewhat sadly missing in India. This calls for various steps to be taken, which in turn gives a clarification call for a whole-sale revamp of the setup by way of reforms. Since we are living in the era of Globalisation 3.0 (Thomas Friedman), the role of technology as a flattener should be there by using it in solving the issue at large. However, it is always the case that technology can't solve the problem alone; it has to be supplemented by various other things, especially blended learning.

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

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Importance of Cyber Security In Today's Digital World

Mohammad Hanief

Information Technology has made a significant contribution and impact on socio-economic scenarios. Rapid adoption of digital technology has led to employment generation, ease of living, ease of doing business and access to information.

In today's digital world, one cannot ignore cyber security. One single security breach can lead to exposing the personal information of millions of people. These breaches have a strong financial impact on the companies and also loss of the trust of customers. Hence, cyber security is very essential to protect businesses and individuals from spammers and cyber criminals.

Today's cyber security industry is primarily focused on protecting devices and systems from attackers. While the bits and bytes behind these efforts can be hard to visualize, it's much easier to consider the effects. Without cyber security professionals working tirelessly, many websites would be nearly impossible to enjoy due to ever-present denial-of-service attack attempts.

Cybersecurity is the protection to defend internet-connected devices and services from malicious attacks by hackers, spammers, and cybercriminals. The practice is used by companies to protect against phishing schemes, ransomware attacks, identity theft, data breaches, and financial losses.

Look around today's world, and you'll see that daily life is more dependent on technology than ever before. The benefits of this trend range from near-instant access to information on the Internet to the modern conveniences provided by smart home automation technology and concepts like the Internet of Things.

With so much good coming from technology, it can be hard to believe that potential threats lurk behind every device and platform. Yet, despite society's rosy perception of modern advances, cyber security threats presented by modern tech are a real danger.

A steady rise in cybercrime



highlights the flaws in devices and services we've come to depend on. This concern forces us to ask what cyber security is, why it's essential, and what to learn about it.

Cyber security is a discipline that covers how to defend devices and services from electronic attacks by nefarious actors such as hackers, spammers, and cybercriminals. While some components of cyber security are designed to strike first, most of today's professionals focus more on determining the best way to defend all assets, from computers and smartphones to networks and databases, from attacks.

Cyber security has been used as a catch-all term in the media to describe the process of protection against every form of cybercrime, from identity theft to international digital weapons. These labels are valid, but they fail to capture the true nature of cyber security for those without a computer science degree or experience in the digital industry.

Application security covers the implementation of different defenses in an organization's software and services against a diverse range of threats. This

One should not solely rely on passwords to keep the data safe. While strong passwords are essential, cybercriminals may still find ways to hack them. Hence it is necessary to implement robust cyber security measures, to have a multilayered defense

sub-domain requires cyber security experts to write secure code, design secure application architectures, implement robust data input validation, and more, to minimize the chance of unauthorized access or modification of application resources.

Cloud security relates to creating secure cloud architectures and applications for companies that use cloud service providers like Amazon Web Services, Google, Azure, Rackspace, etc.

This subdomain covers activities, frameworks, and processes that enable authorization and authentication of legitimate individuals to an organization's information systems. These measures involve implementing powerful information storage mechanisms that secure the data, whether in transition or residing on a server or computer. In addition, this sub-domain makes greater use of authentication protocols, whether two-factor or multi-factor.

Mobile security is a big deal today as more people rely on mobile devices. This subdomain protects organizational and personal information stored on mobile devices like tablets, cell phones, and laptops from dif-

ferent threats like unauthorized access, device loss or theft, malware, viruses, etc. In addition, mobile security employs authentication and education to help amplify security.

Network security covers hardware and software mechanisms that protect the network and infrastructure from disruptions, unauthorized access, and other abuses. Effective network security protects organizational assets against a wide range of threats from within or outside the organization.

Not all threats are human-based. The DR BC subdomain covers processes, alerts, monitoring, and plans designed to help organizations prepare for keeping their business-critical systems running during and after any sort of incident (massive power outages, fires, natural disasters), and resuming and recovering lost operations and systems in the incident's aftermath.

Knowledge is power, and staff awareness of cyber threats is valuable in the cyber security puzzle. Giving business staff training on the fundamentals of computer security is critical in raising awareness about industry best practices, organizational procedures and policies, moni-

toring, and reporting suspicious, malicious activities. This sub domain covers cyber security-related classes, programs, and certifications.

We are well aware that cyber attacks are continuing to grow. In today's technology era, organizations and individuals must protect themselves against most types of threats. Unfortunately, there is a handful of cyber security misconceptions that are still holding too many people back from taking the necessary action to safeguard personal sensitive information.

One should not solely rely on passwords to keep the data safe. While strong passwords are essential, cybercriminals may still find ways to hack them. Hence it is necessary to implement robust cyber security measures, to have a multilayered defense.

By deleting the data from the computer, the file moves to the Recycle Bin and then empties it. Even after deleting the data, the data remains in the hard drive for example in the temporary files folder.

Some organizations retain the opinion that encryption software is something they can do without. It is a misconception that encryption will avoid data breaches. Encryption plays a vital role in defending against cybercriminals and ransomware attacks.

It is a myth that only big companies are not secure, only those companies are targeted by cybercriminals. According to the 2021 Data Breach investigations report 61% of all Small and Medium businesses reported at least one cyber attack during the year. As these companies have less robust security measures. Hence it is necessary to protect companies from cybercrimes.

Adoptions of digital technology and internet have also led to increase in cyber crime incidents. It can be controlled or minimized with care, precaution, awareness and with the use of appropriate tools to secure the information.

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The Existential Crisis of Digital Identity

Ian MacRae

For years, we were told that the internet would be our eternal archive: it was imagined that everything we post, upload and share would outlive us all. "The Web Means the End of Forgetting," warned headlines in 2010, and many people built their digital lives according to that advice.

As social media went mainstream, most users didn't realize what early internet adopters knew: digital data isn't forever. Many assumed their online identities would last indefinitely, shaped by articles like "How Facebook Lets You Live Forever (Sort Of)" in 2012. This illusion of permanence has profoundly influenced how we perceive and curate our digital selves.

Yet the perception of permanence in the digital world is proving to be a myth. Sites vanish, links die, and entire digital identities disappear. Some slowly fade, and some archives are wiped out in an instant. How does it affect us when the digital future we imagined is far more fragile than we thought?

LEAVING OLD DIGITAL SELVES BEHIND

As social media shifted from niche platforms to mainstream spaces, it evolved from casual, spontaneous posts for small networks to carefully curated content for a wider world. People realized they were being watched by more than just friends.

Impression management became about shaping an image for family, employers, and algorithms. Social media profiles turned into polished,

public-facing records meant to last, rather than snapshots of day-to-day life.

This means we must adapt to the idea of many small digital deaths of our different digital identities. Just as parts of our real-life identities shift and fade through school, careers, and social circles and

ish—sometimes gradually, sometimes in an instant.

One clear sign of this instability is link rot—the slow death of hyperlinks as websites are taken down, restructured, or lose hosting, leaving content inaccessible. For example, 72 percent of links to content from 1998 are dead

media daily, and the average person spends two hours daily using social media. Yet confronting the impermanence of these online spaces can be difficult.

ATTACHMENT STYLES AND DIGITAL IDENTITIES

Attachment styles, which

we have a pattern of relating to our online identities that may be related to our underlying beliefs about people and the world around us.

Many of us operate with a secure attachment style, where we trust that our relationships and social environment are stable, safe, and re-

our digital selves, the harder it becomes to reconcile their impermanence. That realization can cause real anxiety that speaks to our understanding of the world and the importance, for many people, of digital identities.

SEPARATION ANXIETY FOR DIGITAL ACCOUNTS

Separation anxiety is a common experience in childhood, marked by intense worry and fear when separated from a trusted caregiver. This anxiety is a heightened version of normal attachment behavior, where a child's concern for losing contact with a key figure becomes overwhelming, even leading to panic over anticipated or actual separation. While it's a natural part of development, it can escalate into a more severe form that causes persistent fear of loss and distress.

The concept of separation anxiety has clear parallels with our digital identities. How many people would feel genuinely anxious at the prospect of losing access to their online social media accounts?

The fear of losing access to a piece of one's digital identity can evoke anxiety much like losing contact with a valued relationship.

AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS IN DIGITAL IDENTITY?

How do we come to terms with the fact that our digital identities can be far more fragile and fleeting than our physical selves? With so much time, emotion, and thought invested in building online identities tied to a specific platform, it can be

unsettling to realize that they can disappear overnight.

The internet, much like our social lives, is constantly in flux. But unlike human relationships, which have evolved over millennia, digital networks are shaped by current technology, corporate interests, and the physical limitations of data storage.

When digital identity plays a significant role in shaping your life, anxiety about your digital identity can draw attention to the fact that something is wrong. It's a chance to rethink how to use the technology.

We can't ignore the technology, but we can be deliberate about how we use online platforms and what parts of our identity and social relationships we choose to digitize. Digital spaces and relationships, like physical ones, are less permanent than we might wish.

The key is to recognize that the impermanence of the internet doesn't have to trigger an existential crisis if we treat digital spaces as useful tools for connections, not the core of our identity. Just as healthy social relationships rely on more than a single connection, our well-being should not be tied solely to one platform or profile.

Digital identities should enhance our well-being and relationships, not define them. Use them deliberately, so if one disappears, it's not a crisis—just a small shift in how you interact with the digital and physical world.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today



groups, our online roles and identities will also disappear. It's not physical mortality, but a reminder that digital selves are just as impermanent.

LINK ROT AND THE DECAY OF THE ONLINE WORLD

We've come to see just how unstable the internet really is. Entire websites, companies, archives, and users can van-

and according to Pew Research, about 40 percent of links die after a decade. Digital decay is a feature of the internet; there are no guarantees of permanence online.

Psychologically, it's tough to accept that digital content decays far faster than physical media. We're deeply attached to our digital selves. The majority of people use social

describe how we form emotional bonds and expectations in relationships, shape how we approach trust and reliability. These styles, shaped in part by our early relationships with caregivers and in part by our adult lives, influence how we relate not only to people but can also be used as a lens to understand our relationships with our digital identi-

reciprocal. For those with secure attachment, the assumption may be that these digital representations will also be stable, fair, and reciprocal. However, the terms and conditions typically say otherwise.

The fragility of digital media and records can disrupt our attachment to the online identities we construct and curate. The more invested we are in

Syria Win Maiden Intercontinental Cup Title After Beating India 3-0

Press Trust of India

Indian football team's hopes of winning the Intercontinental Cup title for the third time was dashed as it lost to Syria 0-3 in the last league match of the three-nation tournament here on Monday.

Mahmoud Al Aswad and Daleho Mohsen Irandust scored for Syria in the seventh and 77th minutes to break the hearts of the home crowd at the GMC Balayogi Athletics Stadium. While Pablo Sabbag's strike in the injury time was a mere underlining of Syria's dominance.

The result meant that Manolo Marquez began his stint as India head coach, after succeeding Igor Stimac, on a disappointing note. He was appointed at the helm of affairs in July.

Syria had beaten Mauritius 2-0 in their opening match and they thus ended the round-robin league with six points. India and Mauritius finished the tournament on one point each after playing out a goalless draw on September 3.

The highest-ranked team after the round-robin league wins the tournament as there is no concept of final.

India had won the title in 2018 and 2023, while it was the first trophy for Syria who had finished third in 2019.

In fact, this was the first time Syria won a title on Indian soil. The West Asian country has a long history of playing tournaments in India, but a title has eluded them before Monday.

Syria lost back-to-back Nehru Cup finals to India in 2007 and 2009 before finishing fourth in 2012.

In their last trip to India in the 2019 Intercontinental Cup, Syria ended in third place. In that tournament, the two teams played out a 1-1 draw.

In the last meeting between the two teams, Syria had beaten India 1-0 in the Asian Cup in Qatar in January, this year.

India made a horrendous start in the match as they conceded a goal in the seventh minute. After a brilliant attack down the right flank, Al Aswad's shot went in after a deflection from an Indian defender.

Three minutes later, Alaa

Aldin Yasin Dali's shot from a distance rattled the crossbar and India escaped from conceding their second goal.

The West Asians were in command in the first half as Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was called into action to thwart another goal-bound move from the Syrians in the 35th minute as he kept out an attempt from Dali again off a corner.

But towards the end of the first half, India began to gain a foothold in the contest and made some fine attacking moves but failed to get the desired result.

India were definitely the better side in the second half but still conceded two more goals without opening account for themselves. The Indian forwards had at least a couple of chances in the second 45 minutes but they failed to convert them.

India head coach Manolo replaced Nikhil Poojary and Suresh Singh with Asish Rai and Apua in the second half, and it seemed the move was going to pay dividends.

In the 55th minute, Sahal Abdul Samad made a fine run into the Syrian defence and sent a pass on to Lallianzuala Chhangte, whose shot was, however, parried away by the Syrian keeper.

Five minutes later, it was again the same combination of Samad and Chhangte to rattle the Syrian defence but the latter's shot was blocked by a defender.

But against the run of play, Syria doubled their lead in the 77th minute as Daleho Mohsen foxed Anwar Ali at the right edge of the box before slipping the ball past Gurpreet Singh who could have done better under the bar.

Three minutes from the regulation time, substitute Edmund Lalrindika sent a thunderous shot from inside the Syrian box but the keeper made a fine save, palming the ball away at the last minute for a corner.

Five minutes were added as stoppage time and Liston Colaco's fine long range effort beat the Syrian goalkeeper but the ball came back into play after thudding the horizontal.

A few seconds after that, Pablo David Sabbag tapped in the third goal for Syria to put the match to bed.

“ HE WAS NOT DROPPED BUT GOT INJURED. So, he is fit and available, scored a fifty in Duleep, got match time and he will start.”



Rahul Likely To Start Ahead Of Sarfaraz In Bangladesh Tests

Press Trust of India

Sarfaraz Khan's fearless approach in the home series against England impressed one and all but KL Rahul's experience will give him the advantage when it comes to finalising the playing XI in India's season-opening Test series against Bangladesh starting September 19 in Chennai.

It is believed that the team management and the selection committee's full focus is on the tour of Australia in November-December and Rahul's experience of 50 Tests puts him in an advantageous position.

For the team management, it is a choice between a younger man's (Sarfaraz) flamboyance and fearlessness and a seasoned campaigner who has been a Test captain and is part

of the national set-up for a decade now.

"For people on the outside, they don't understand how a team works and what are the systems in place. In his last three Test matches, KL scored a century in South Africa, one of the best Test knocks in recent times and 86 at Hyderabad in the last Test he played before injury.

"He was not dropped but got injured. So, he is fit and available, scored a fifty in Duleep, got match time and he will start," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Sarfaraz, a domestic giant, had a very impressive debut against England at Rajkot and another half-ton against the same opposition at Dharamsala, showing his precise footwork and

improvisation against both fast and slow bowlers.

"Sarfaraz has done everything right and mind it, if there is an injury anywhere, he will just walk in but Rahul's experience is irreplaceable. And the team management is not just looking at Bangladesh, they are looking at Australia where previous experience matters," the source added.

Rahul had missed two previous Test tours of Australia due to injuries but in 2014, he had scored a century in Sydney.

While Rahul's average of less than 35 after 50 Tests doesn't paint a rosy picture but his uncanny knack of scoring at big overseas venues like Sydney, Lord's, Oval, Centurion along with his range of strokes when on song keeps him slightly ahead of the Mumbaikar.

Downtown Heroes Lose 2-1 To Corbett In I-League 3

Observer News Service

Downtown Heroes FC suffered the first loss of their 2024-25 I-League 3 campaign on Monday, after going down 2-1 to Corbett FC in a Group E match at Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar.

The 3:00 PM kick off promised to be a mouth-watering affair, as the Heroes have been in scintillating form throughout their group matches while their opponents were yet to register a win in the league. As the hosts of the Group E games, the Ajaz Ahmad Bhat-coached Downtown entered Monday's game as the favourites.

The proceedings took a shocking turn in the 21st minute when Corbett went ahead through Jamminlen Haokip.



However, the Heroes levelled the score in minute 27 though Sahil Rashid Dar. Having entered the halftime break locked at 1-1, many observers thought the game was Downtown's to win. But Corbett's Karan Chhetri made it 2-1 in the 50th minute and the Heroes failed to break their opponent's defense to suffer their first loss in three games.

Downtown is second in Group E, having taken six points from three games. Abbas Union Football Club leads the table, securing nine points in their four games.

Downtown Heroes next play Southern Sporting Union on Wednesday, September 11, at TRC. The game will kick off at 3:00 PM.

Budgam Clinches U-19 Boys Kho-Kho Provincial Tournament



Observer News Service

Hosts Budgam on Monday clinched the Inter-District Provincial Level Kho-Kho Tournament for Boys Under-19, held at the Sports Stadium Char-i-Sharief. In the final match, Budgam defeated Baramulla to claim the championship title.

The tournament was hosted by the Department of Youth

Services and Sports (DYSSO) Budgam. The final match was inaugurated by Activity Section, DYSSO Budgam.

"The hard work and dedication of the selectors and officials played a key role in preparing a well-selected and competitive team from Budgam, which ultimately led to their triumph in the tournament," the department said in a press release.

District-Level Thanga-Ta Selection Trials Begin In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal inaugurated its District-Level Inter-School Thanga-Ta selection trials for Boys and Girls (AAG) at Qamaria Higher Secondary School, Saloora, on Monday. This event is being held under the banner of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation 2024 initiative.

The trials for Boys AAG were conducted on Monday, drawing the enthusiastic participation of over 200 students from across Ganderbal.

The student-athletes showcased their Thanga-Ta skills and competed for a chance to represent the district at the upcoming UT-level championship.

The selection committee ensured that the best talent was identified for the forthcoming competition.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Terrorists

ground-based and aerial surveillance assets were employed to monitor the area.

"Area domination patrols were also conducted with greater frequency, deploying troops at key terrain locations to prevent terrorist infiltration," the defence spokesperson said.

On the night of September 8, around 7:30 pm, surveillance teams detected suspicious movement of a few individuals in the area, he said.

"An intense firefight ensued. The exchange of fire continued through the night. UAVs, night cameras and other surveillance equipment were deployed to keep the terrorists under observation," the spokesperson said, adding two terrorists were neutralised in the firefight.

At first light on September 9, a search was carried out to clear the area of any remaining threats. Lt Col Bartwal said. "A significant cache of war-like stores, including two AK-47 rifles, one M-4 rifle with sight and one pistol was recovered," he said.

The spokesperson said the Army's swift and coordinated response to this infiltration attempt highlights the synergy between the Army, police and the intelligence agencies.

"Search operations are continuing to completely secure the area. The Army remains alert and committed to defeat any such attempt in future," he said.

239 In Final

With this, 93 candidates remain in the final electoral fray in Srinagar district, followed by 46 in Budgam district, 34 in Rajouri district, 25 in Poonch district, 21 in Ganderbal district, while 20 candidates remain in the final fray in Reasi district.

In Reasi district, 6 candidates remain in the final electoral fray for election in 56-Gulabgarh (ST) AC; 7 candidates in 57-Reasi AC; while 7 candidates remain in the fray in 58-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi AC....(find full story online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>)

Govt Appoints

Act); Rajni Sharma, Additional District & Sessions Judge Anti Corruption, Jammu; Parvin Pandoh, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kathua (designated Special Court under the Prevention of Corruption Act); Faizan Ul Haq Iqbal, Additional District & Sessions Judge Anti Corruption, Srinagar AND Noor Mohammad

Mir, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Pulwama (designated Special Court under the Prevention of Corruption Act).

BJP State VP Issues

minister Choudhary Sukhmandan.(find full story online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>)

NC Flag Stained

Accusing NC of underhanded tactics, Wani claimed, "Every day, your team comes with a bag of money, but our workers won't sell their faith for money."

He further criticized the party for failing to establish even a single college in the area over the past 70 years. "In the last seven decades they have failed to give Banihal a college, now they are out to buy our workers."

He also accused NC of failing to bring development to the Banihal constituency, specifically targeting the party's top leaders, including Sheikh Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah, and Omar Abdullah. (find full story online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>)

Karra Condemns

derogatory remarks and unparliamentary language used by Congress leader and its candidate from Banihal, Vikar Rasool Wani, against the NC leadership during a programme in Banihal on Sunday, the JKPC said in a statement.

Wani, a former JKPC chief, launched a scathing attack on the NC during his election rally, saying "NC's flag is red because it is stained with the blood of Kashmiris, especially the people of Banihal"....(find full story online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>)

AIP Proxy Of

a press conference in Khanabal area of Anantnag district.

Rashid defeated former chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah from the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency earlier this year.

The PDP chief questioned how the AIP was organising resources and candidates when their chief was behind the bars.

"I want to know that Rashid is in jail. (PDP founder) Mufti (Mohammad Sayeed) took 50 years to form the party, we still do not have resources to field candidates everywhere. Who is behind his (Engineer's) organisation as their

candidates are fielded everywhere, wherefrom is the funding coming? Where are they getting such courage to engage in hooliganism?" she added.

The former chief minister alleged that the government has come up with new proxy parties like the AIP. (find full story online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>)

Apni Party Backs

support to him," Bukhari said. He said the decision was taken keeping in mind the interests of the people of the Uri assembly segment.

"There is no personal interest. Neither does Mohiuddin have any personal interest, nor do I," he added.

Bukhari said Mohiuddin is a tall leader and expressed hope that he would be elected to the assembly.

However, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has withdrawn its support for Taj Mohi-ud-Din in the Uri constituency after the Apni Party extended its backing to him.

The PDP has announced that it will now field its own candidate for the upcoming elections in Uri.

PDP's Mohammad Rafique Rather said that they are ideologically apart from the Apni Party.

"It became natural for us to withdraw support after the Apni Party announced its backing for him," Rather said.

"In view of the Apni Party extending support to Taj Mohi-ud-Din in the Uri constituency, PDP has decided to withdraw its support and field its own candidate," PDP wrote in a post on X.

Reacting to the PDP's decision, Taj Mohi-ud-Din commented, "It was their decision to support me, and it is their decision to withdraw. I had already informed PDP during the press conference that the Apni Party was supporting me."

Stage Set For

political dynamics have completely changed with Aga Hassan's son throwing his hat into the ring on PDP ticket, challenging the NC's stronghold.

In the last Assembly election held in 2014, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi of NC secured a total of 30,090 Votes, taking a lead of 2,787 votes from Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat of the PDP who secured 27,303 Votes.

Omar's Bid to Keep the NC Flag Flying

Omar Abdullah, who at first declined to contest an Assembly election before statehood was restored is contesting simultaneously from Ganderbal and Budgam assembly segments. Omar is gearing up to ensure that the party's dominance in Budgam remains unshaken. However, the battle is going to be harder than ever.

Syed Ghulam Hussain Gilani, a former MLA from Budgam, represented the segment four times in the assembly. In more recent years, Aga Ruhullah, a three-time legislator from Budgam (2002, 2008, and 2014), has played a significant role in cementing the NC's influence in the region. However, observers' say he has not been able to carry out much development in the last nearly two decades.

Omar is eyeing support from NC leaders like Ruhullah and Aga Mehmood, also from the same clan and his party's traditional voter base in Sunni dominated localities. However, observers say this time around it is not going to be a cakewalk for the NC Vice-President.

Muntazir is banking on the influence of the Aga family name among Shia pockets of Budgam, combined with the PDP's cadre in the district, to gain an upper hand over Omar Abdullah.

He is positioning himself as a leader who can bring change and address the needs of the people with a fresh perspective, challenging the status quo that has dominated the area for decades.

"I am someone who has been chosen by the people of Budgam to bring about positive changes in the Budgam district. I don't want women on the streets, as long as I am there, I will fight for my people on the streets" Muntazir told a gathering in the village Kakarmaran.

Muntazir further said that I don't want to see women on the streets either campaigning for him.

"On the day of voting women will come out in proper hijab, vote and return to their homes with dignity" he said as his supporters cheered.

A Family Divided

Further complicating the contest is the candidacy of Muntazir's uncle, Aga Syed Ahmad who is running for office on the Awami National Conference (ANC) ticket. Although not expected to win a significant share of the vote, his presence in the election is likely to add a new layer of complexity.

The ANC is expected to pull a few thousand votes, which could potentially disrupt the PDP's and NC's chances of securing a clear victory. This family split across different parties has made the Budgam election more unpredictable than ever.

The Vote Bank

The Shia votes are set to get divided with a major share of votes going to Muntazir, while Ruhullah and Aga Mehmood's supporters may get divided since Mehmood was dropped at the last minute to give way for Omar.

Shia leader and Peoples Conference General Secretary's Moulvi Imran Raza Ansari's supporters are also expected to vote for Muntazir and give him an edge over his NC rival.

While Shia voters will play a major role, the Sunni vote bank which consists of the majority of voters in Budgam constituency will likely decide the new assembly member from Budgam.

While Omar Abdullah is striving to ensure his entry into the new legislative assembly from at least one of the two constituencies, Aga Muntazir seeks to dent the NC stranglehold over the Aga clan.

NC-Congress

Rafiq retired on June 30, 2024, and entered politics with a PDP mandate. Despite initial dissatisfaction among some PDP leaders, Rafiq has strong political roots, backed by his father's legacy. (find full story online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>)

16 Candidates In

The female voters have outnumbered the men from the constituency while the segment has the highest number of nine transgender voters.

The poll body has set up 128 polling stations for the seat where the beeline of electorates are expected to be witnessed on September 25.

However, considered as the bastion of National Conference (NC), the seat is heading towards a massive electoral battle with the major contest expected between Shameema Firdous, a three-time MLA and BJP's Ashok Bhat, who is banking on migrant votes.

Some other candidates, who are expected to gain a massive vote from the seat include Apni Party's Jeelani Hameed Kumar and Lok Janshakti Party candidate Sanjay Saraf. (find full story online at <https://kashmirobserver.net/>)

Rejected From Pulwama, Srinagar Lady To Contest Elections From Chadoora

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Nilofar Sajad, a 43-year-old woman from Srinagar, has become an independent candidate for the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir. She is contesting from the Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Nilofar said that she was initially willing to contest elections from her hometown of Pulwama, but her form was rejected due to some issues. She then submitted her form from Chadoora, where her family currently resides, and was accepted with the election symbol "Pen".

Nilofar, wife of Sajad Ahmad Gandru, said she decided to enter politics after witnessing the exploitation of youth by officials and politicians. She hopes to bring a change in the lives of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have seen the suffering of Kashmiris for long, and I believe they deserve a dignified

life. I will use my pen symbol to fight for justice and bring a real smile on their faces," she said.

Nilofar criticised the government's claims of peace and development in the region, saying that it is all fictitious. She believes that educated youth are being forced to take wrong steps due to lack of job opportunities.

"When no one listens to the issues of youth like unemployment and other things, they get involved in drugs, depression, and other things. The problem lies in the system when no one is listening to them," she said.

Nilofar urged voters to vote wisely and not fall prey to false promises made by politicians. Her message to voters is to vote for someone who can really bring a change.

"My message to all voters will be to vote wisely and don't come in false promises of those who have already looted you. Vote for someone who can really bring a change," she said—(KNO)

Khanyar Constituency To See Multifaceted Contest

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Khanyar constituency, located in Srinagar's downtown area, is one of the 90 assembly seats in Jammu & Kashmir. The main contesting parties in the constituency are the National Conference (NC) and Congress alliance, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the Apni Party and six independent candidates.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the constituency has a total of 91,226 voters, with 45,407 males and 45,816 females. It also has three transgendered. The polling stations will be set up in urban areas, with a maximum of 126 stations.

Demographic profile of the constituency

Khanyar is located in Srinagar's downtown area, stretching from Khayam to Khwaja Bazar in Srinagar district, about 4 km north of Lal Chowk. The area is famous for the shrine of Abdul Qadir Gilani (RA), also called Dastgeer Sahib by locals, built in 1806 AD.

Major areas within this constituency include Kaw Mohallah Auqilmir, Qadri Kocha Auqilmir, Baba Daemb, Roz Bal, Arm Masjid and Pandan Haka Bazar.

During the 2014 elections, Khanyar had a voter base of 51,011, with 26,554 males and 24,456 females. Now, the constituency has a total of 91,226 voters, including 45,407 males and 45,816 females, along with three transgender voters. The constituency has 126 polling

stations, with most in urban areas.

Election phases, poll date, results

The election dates are as follows: the first phase will be held on September 18, the second phase on September 25, and the final phase on October 1. The results for all 90 constituencies, including Khanyar, will be declared on October 8.

The NC-Congress alliance has fielded Ali Mohammad Sagar, a long-time winner from the constituency, as their candidate. Sagar has been holding the seat tightly for the last four assembly elections, with a margin of victory of only 1,167 votes in the last election.

Other candidates include Tafazul Mushtaq from PDP, Bilal Ahmad Mir from Apni Party and Sheikh Imran, a former Deputy Mayor of Srinagar, who is contesting as an independent candidate. There are also five other independent candidates contesting from the constituency.

In the 2014 elections, Sagar won the seat by defeating PDP's Muhammad Khurshid Alam. The voter turnout in the constituency was 26.16 percent.

Political analysts say the constituency has no prominent or impactful political candidate other than Sagar. However, they say that new faces, including independents, could also turn around the political tables and make it an unpredictable outcome.

The Khanyar Assembly seat will go to polls in the second phase on September 25—(KNO)

PDP Withdraws Support For Taj Mohi u Din In Uri

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has withdrawn its support for senior leader Taj Mohi u Din in Uri constituency after Apni Party extended its support to him. The PDP states that it will now field their own candidate for the upcoming elections from Uri constituency.

Confirming the development, PDP's Mohammad Rafique Rather said that they are ideologically apart from the Apni Party. It has become natural for them to withdraw their

support after the Apni Party announced its support to him.

"In view of the Apni party extending support to Taj Mohiuddin in Uri constituency, PDP has decided to withdraw its support to him and put out the party's own candidate," PDP wrote in a post on X. Reacting to PDP's decision, Taj Mohi u Din said that it was their wish to support him, and it is their wish to withdraw.

"I had already informed PDP during the press conference that the Apni Party was supporting me," he said—(KNO)

Vote A Sacred Trust That Demands Genuine Representation: Tarigami

Observer News Service

KULGAM: CPI(M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami on Monday stressed that it is of paramount importance for representatives to be honest in addressing public issues, and said that a vote is a trust given by the people.

CPI(M) leader addressed a series of rallies in the Kulgam constituency, speaking to gatherings in various villages, including Kokerghund, Kangikullah, Khanpora, Yamrach, Desan, Hanger, Bibhagh, Chech Hajan, Daderkoot, Sofipora, and Akipora.

Tarigami said that the assembly is not a place for reli-

gious rituals but a platform to address the aspirations, issues, and demands of the people. He said that the purpose of becoming an assembly member is to create laws that reflect the interests of the people.

"Today, people need electricity, which is crucial for business livelihoods and for students to study. But where is the electricity? We must speak up in the assembly because the rivers of Jammu and Kashmir—our rivers—are generating electricity for other regions, and we need to demand our fair share so that the darkness ends, and our students get some relief. Yet, electricity tariffs are rising," he said.

NGT Issues Notice To Environment Ministry Over Pollution In Sindh Nullah

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal has sought a response from the environment ministry and others in a matter regarding the alleged rampant pollution in the Sindh nullah in Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The green body was hearing a matter where it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a media report claiming that the authorities were indifferent to the growing pollution problem in the waterbody.

The nullah is a major tributary of the Jhelum River and plays an essential role in the region by contributing to irrigation, hydropower generation, and supplying drinking water to Srinagar via the Rangil Water Treatment Plant, the report said.

In a recent order, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad noted that according to the report, Sindh nullah was once a pristine source of fresh water but it had



been heavily polluted due to unchecked garbage dumping.

"The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with environmental norms," the tribunal said.

It impleaded as parties or respondents authorities, including the Jammu regional office of the Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, member secretaries of the Central Pollution Control Board and Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee, deputy commissioner of Gan-

derbal, and commissioner of the fisheries department in the union territory.

"Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing (on December 11)," the green panel said.

"If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the tribunal," it added.

CEO Launches 'GreenSVEEP' App To Capture Plantation Drive During Election

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant stride towards fostering a culture of civic responsibility and environmental stewardship among the electorate, Jammu and Kashmir Election Department on Monday launched a new application—'GreenSVEEP', to capture the plantation drive 2024 that would take place during the forthcoming Assembly Elections at all the polling stations of all the 90 assembly constituencies across the Union Territory.

The application was launched by Pandurang K Pole, Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir UT, in the presence of Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer- SVEEP; Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer -Media; Siddeshwar Bhagat, NIC Scientist; Namisha Abrol, IT Expert and others.

To promote eco-friendly practices among voters and polling officials, and ensure vibrant and active participation of the electorate in the upcoming elections, the office of the CEO J&K UT has set a target of planting over 1 lakh plants across the Union Territory and 'GreenSVEEP' app will take this initiative further.

"It is a Geographic Information



System (GIS)-based auto-tracking system which would capture pictures and videos of the plantation done by various forest officials during the forthcoming elections," a statement from the office of the CEO, J&K UT said.

In addition, various SVEEP activities at school, colleges and offices would also be uploaded by the respective nodal officers through this application, added the statement.

Additionally, the Block Level Officers will also ensure that video and photographs detailing the plantation drives and ensuring the nine Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) at all polling stations are also uploaded on the 'GreenSVEEP' app.

The CEO also emphasized on transparency measures for home voting for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities

(PwDs) and issued directions for uploading high-definition photographs and video on the 'GreenSVEEP' app.

It may be mentioned that the mega plantation drive is a concerted effort towards environmental sustainability and community engagement through collaborative efforts with locals, youth and volunteers, along with polling officials.

"The plantation drive is a testament to our commitment not only to promote voter awareness and participation but also to address pressing environmental challenges. By integrating tree planting activities into our SVEEP program, we are leveraging the power of collective action to create a positive impact on both the electoral process and the environment," the CEO, J&K UT said.

Training Provided To Prepare Efficient Human Resource For Fair Election

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Following the Election Commission of India's (ECI) notification for the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly, the District Administration Anantnag simultaneously initiated preparation for free, fair and transparent elections.

Under the guidance of District Election Officer (DEO) Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, a series of comprehensive election training programs are currently being held to prepare a pool of efficient human resources for the hassle free election process.

These programs constitute an essential component of the electoral process designed to equip election officials, polling personnel, and other stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct free, fair, and transparent elections.

Covering a broad spectrum of topics, these sessions delve into the technical aspects of voting procedures and the legal and ethical guidelines that must be adhered to during the election process.

More than five thousand polling staff have been trained in various aspects of elections including handling EVMs during three rounds of training.

Detailed instructions on setting up polling stations, managing the voting process, handling Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Pa-



per Audit Trails (VVPATs), voter identification, and vote counting have been issued.

Sectoral and zonal officers also receive specialized training to oversee and coordinate multiple polling stations within designated areas.

This training emphasizes the importance of route planning, distribution of election materials, troubleshooting, and addressing issues on election day, ensuring logistical support and quick resolution of any problems across multiple polling stations.

The Master Trainer Programme is another critical initiative, aiming to develop a cadre of master trainers who can impart election-related knowledge to others. This program involves in-depth training on all aspects of the election process, including legal provisions, the Model Code of

Conduct, and the use of technology in elections.

Training for counting staff is equally crucial, preparing them for the meticulous task of vote counting. This training covers procedures for counting votes, handling postal ballots and ensuring transparency and accuracy in the counting process.

Election training programs are indispensable for upholding the democratic process, ensuring that elections are conducted fairly, and that the results accurately reflect the will of the people. By ensuring that all election personnel operate under the same guidelines and standards, these programs reduce the risk of errors or misconduct. Ultimately, they provide stakeholders with the knowledge to carry out their duties transparently, which is vital for maintaining public confidence in the electoral process.

Congress To Release Manifesto In Next 3 Days: Karra

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Indian National Congress (INC) is all set to release the party's much awaited manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir within the next three days.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief, Tariq Hameed Karra said that the manifesto will be released in the next two three days.

"The manifesto was being prepared keeping in view the Jammu angle as well as the



Kashmir angle," Karra said, adding that it will be released in the next three days.

Pertinently, Congress is the only party that has not released the manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections here.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) released the party manifesto on last Friday in Jammu—(KNO)

AP's Muntazir Mohi-Ud-in Withdraws Papers From Budgam Seat

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Apni Party candidate from Budgam assembly segment, Muntazir Mohi-Ud-Din withdrew his nomination papers on Monday.

Muntazir said that he has withdrawn his nomination papers today to give a chance to the people to opt for the deserving candidate. "There are many big names in the electoral fray from Budgam

constituency, who can play a big role in the assembly for the people," Muntazir said, adding that thus he had decided to withdraw his nomination papers today.

Pertinently, the former chief minister and National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi are among the ten candidates, who are vying for the seat—(KNO)

Bajaj Allianz Holds Meet With Advisor Pawan Kotwal

Observer News Service



LADAKH: The Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company with a significant client base in J&K and Ladakh (UT) had a meeting with advisor Pawan Kotwal of Ladakh (UT).

For Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company, the team was headed by Aijaz Khan, Executive Vice president and Project Head State Insurance Plan. A wide spectrum of insurance products and the spread of general insurance in the vast region of Ladakh UT to cater to the requirements of insurance in the far flung areas of the Ladakh region was discussed.

Aijaz Khan also discussed about the various initiatives already taken by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd in the J&K (UT) and implementation of the same for the betterment of the people of Ladakh. He also laid the emphasis upon the vi-

sion of IRDAI i.e Insurance for all by 2047.

Emphasis was laid on to increase penetration of insurance by identifying insurance gaps, understanding insurance needs and UT's growth plan, designing suitable insurance solutions, creating insurance awareness, engaging with the UT officials and employment generation.

Since Ladakh is highly vulnerable to natural and anthropogenic hazards and prone to catastrophic losses, a plan was suggested by Mr. Aijaz Khan Head of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance company to mitigate the financial worries of the people of Ladakh by way of various insurance products.

The meeting was very fruitful, and the suggestions of the advisor to LG were noted and will be taken care of in the creation of insurance products specific to Ladakh (UT).

5th Annual Conference Of J&K Branch Of IADVL Concludes

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The 5th annual conference of the Jammu & Kashmir branch of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists concluded here at SKICC in Kashmir.

The IADVL, Cuticon J&K 2024 conference was held in association with the department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy GMC Srinagar from September 7-8 at SKICC, Srinagar with participation of over 150 delegates.

The faculty included both from the UT of J&K & premier institutions of India with scientific program under the theme, "Scientific Strategies and Emerging Trends in Dermatology," that was aptly reflected in the engaging sessions and discussions taking place over the two days.

The event was dedicated to the memory of late Prof. Qazi Masood Ahmad, who recently passed away.

The inauguration ceremony held on the first day was graced by dignitaries, including National IADVL President Prof Manjunath Shenoy (virtually), Prof GH Hajni, founding head of Department of Dermatology, GMC Srinagar, Prof Bhumesh Kumar Katakam, Honorary Secretary General of IADVL, Prof Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar & patron, Prof Vijay Zavar, immediate past president IADVL, Dr Kavitha SB, honorary treasurer IADVL, Dr

Yasmeen Jabeen Bhat, President IADVL J&K & organising chairperson, Dr Shazia Jeeelan, scientific chairperson, Dr Shuhaab Ud Din Bukhari, treasurer.

On this occasion, besides address by the dignitaries, the conference souvenir and IADVL J&K constitution was released. The IADVL J&K oration was awarded to Prof Sheikh Manzoor and lifetime achievement awards to late Prof Qazi Masood Ahmad & Prof Bhushan Kumar, Ex HOD PGI Chandigarh.

The conference, in addition, featured three IADVL Academy SIG sessions on NTD, Trichology & Dermoscopy, hands-on workshop on botox, fillers and thread lifts. Award paper session with 8 entries, free paper session with 14 entries, and 48 e posters were displayed along with the post-graduate quiz.

The prizes were distributed to the winners of the PG quiz (GMC Jammu on first rank, followed by GMC Srinagar on second & SKIMS MC on third), award papers (Dr Seerat Fatima, Dr Taiba Tramboos & Dr Mehak Gupta as first, second and third, respectively), e poster presentations (Dr Abrar Pandit, Dr Junaid Fayaz & Dr Saika Riyaz on first, second & third ranks).

The conference was held successfully and concluded with a felicitation ceremony, honouring the esteemed guests, faculty, and participants—(KNO)





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