

Arvind Kejriwal Gets Bail After 6 Months



KO WEB DESK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case lodged by the CBI in connection with the excise policy 'scam', saying prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted the relief to Kejriwal on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 10 lakh, and two sureties of like amount. Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED in the excise policy case on March 21,

was granted interim bail on May 10 for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi to Address First Election Rally in J&K Today

Speech By PM Modi In Doda Today Will Be Keenly Watched

Agencies

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Jammu on Saturday to address an election rally in Doda district of Chenab valley region where party has fielded eight candidates.

This would be Prime Minister's first campaign event in poll bound Jammu and Kashmir after the assembly polls were announced.

PM Modi is scheduled to address a BJP election rally in Doda Sports Stadium, which is considered as center place for Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts where voting for eight Assembly seats of Chenab Valley is scheduled on September 18.



During the 2014 Assembly elections, PM Modi addressed the BJP poll rally in Kishtwar district and the party won four out of six segments but this time after delimitations the number of seats rose to eight. Party sources said the

people of Doda had since then been demanding that they want to see and hear the PM. "The choice of Doda as the venue for tomorrow's election rally was made by the PM himself," party sources said. BJP sources | [More on P6](#)

890 Central Laws In Effect In J&K Post Art 370: BJP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Asserting that several revolutionary steps have been taken by the Centre for the welfare of people, the J&K BJP on Friday said 890 central laws have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370.

After the BJP forms government in Jammu and Kashmir, five marlas of land will be given to the landless and separate colonies will also be set

up for the poor, it said.

"Two hundred and nine (209) laws of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir have also been repealed after the abrogation of Article 370 by the Modi government," J&K BJP spokesperson Y V Sharma told reporters here.

He highlighted transformative legislative changes in J&K after August 5, 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated, and emphasised the party's dedication to the welfare of the | [More on P6](#)

2 Soldiers Killed In Kishtwar Encounter

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two Army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), were killed and an equal number injured in an encounter with terrorists in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, security officials said on Friday.

The gunfight broke out when a joint security party of the Army and police, acting on a tip-off, launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Naidgham area in the Chhatroo belt, they added.

The officials said there was an exchange of fire between the search team of the security forces and the terrorists hiding in the Pingal Dugadda forest area in the upper reaches of Naidgham village located within the Chhatroo police station limits.

Four Army personnel were injured in the gunbattle and two of them -- JCO Naib Subedar Vipran | [More on P6](#)

Tough Battle Ahead For NC In Habba Kadal

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Habba Kadal Assembly constituency in Old City, traditionally considered a National Conference stronghold, is set to witness a heated battle in the 2024 elections.

With 16 candidates in the fray, the constituency has been represented by National Conference's Shamim Firdous since 2008.

Observers say that this time around things are different and it is no longer a guaranteed win for the party. The primary contest appears to be between

Shamim Firdous of the NC and Arif Irshad Laigroo of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Several other candidates including Muzaffar Shah of the Awami National Conference (ANC) and three Pandit contenders are also vying for the seat.

BJP has fielded Ashok Kumar Bhat and Sanjay Saraf of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party is also in the fray. Saraf had secured 830 votes in the last assembly election held in 2014.

Pertinently, Habbakadal Assembly Constituency has 95,546 electorate among which 47,404 are males and | [More on P6](#)

My Fight Beyond NC, PDP, It's For Bigger Cause: Er Rashid

Srinagar: Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Friday said his struggle is not against the National Conference (NC) or People's Democratic Party (PDP) but is focused on the broader cause of restoring Jammu and Kashmir's special status which was revoked by the Centre in August 2019.

Rashid, the MP from Baramulla and popularly known as Engineer Rashid, targeted NC vice president Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, for their alleged double standards.

"Our fight is not against NC and PDP. Our fight is based on



the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A. Our goal is the resolution of the Kashmir issue, which these leaders (of NC & PDP) have consistently sidelined," Rashid said, addressing

a public rally in the Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

"Our so-called regional leaders, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, were quick to congratulate Arvind Kejriwal on his bail from the Supreme Court, yet they criticized my interim bail," Rashid said.

"They hold sit-ins in Delhi and other places for the release of Kejriwal, but have never organized any sit-in or protest in favour of Kashmiris languishing in jails inside and outside Kashmir. They have never spoken up for my detention in Tihar either," he said. He also | [More on P6](#)

Tihar Jail In Election Spotlight: Omar Dares Er Rashid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday issued a challenge to Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) Supremo Engineer Rashid, promising he will accompany him to Tihar Jail if he withdraws from the election field.

Er Rashid had previously challenged Abdullah to join him in Tihar Jail, with the

condition that he would step away from the polls if Abdullah did so.

Engineer Rashid was behind bars in Delhi's Tihar Jail and was released on interim bail on Wednesday to campaign for the assembly elections.

Talking to reporters, Omar said that he is prepared to accompany Er Rashid to Tihar Jail if he withdraws from the electoral contest | [More on P6](#)

Engineer Retorts: 'You Have Lost By 2 Lakh Votes'

Er Rashid, who was recently released on bail by a Delhi court to campaign for elections, reacted to Abdullah's remarks by | [More on P6](#)

KU Postpones Exams On Sept 17, 18

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir (KU) has postponed all the examinations scheduled to be held on September-17 and 18.

According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Assistant Controller of Examination at KU said that it will notify fresh date of exams separately.

"It is notified for the information of all concerned candidates that all the university examinations scheduled to be held on September-17 and September-18 have been postponed. Fresh | [More on P6](#)

PDP Part Of INDIA Bloc At National Level: Soz

Agencies

Srinagar: Senior Congress leader Salman Soz Friday said the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was still a part of the INDIA bloc at the national level even as the regional party is contesting the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls on its own.

He also said the BJP wants to create divisions in Jammu and Kashmir and turn it into another Manipur. "They are pitting brothers against brothers and that is why Manipur is burning and they want to burn J-K as well," he told a press conference here.

Soz said all parties which are not with the Congress or INDIA



bloc in J-K are with the BJP. "The INDIA alliance contested the election in West Bengal, but Mamata's party (Trinamool Congress) was contesting on its own and we were on our | [More on P6](#)

Rehman Veeri vs Reyaz Khan Anantnag East Set For Election Face-off

Agencies

Srinagar: As the first phase of the Jammu & Kashmir assembly elections approaches, the Anantnag East assembly segment in south Kashmir is set for a highly competitive race. This seat is expected to witness a tight contest between Ab Rehman Veeri of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Riyaz Ahmad Khan of the National Conference (NC).

Veeri, a former minister and four-time MLA from Bijbehara, is contesting from the Anantnag East assembly segment for the first time.

Political analysts highlight Veeri's extensive work on

community-based projects in his previous constituency, which has earned him significant support. Many villages from the Bijbehara segment are now part of Anantnag East, which is seen as an advantage for Veeri. His strong connections across south Kashmir are expected to help him secure a substantial share of votes.

On the other hand, Riyaz Ahmad Khan, a long-time NC associate, has a solid party base in the region and is a formidable contender. According to analysts, Khan has been actively campaigning with strong party backing, which positions him as a key rival to Veeri.

The contest is primarily between Veeri and Khan, with other candidates potentially influencing the vote percentages of the main contenders. The voter base from former Bijbehara and Pahalgam constituencies will be crucial in this segment.

Historical voting data for the Shangus constituency, which overlaps with Anantnag East, shows the following trends:

2014: Gulzar Ahmad Wani (Indian National Congress) won with 21,085 votes, while Peerzada Mansoor Hussain (PDP) received 18,896 votes, losing by 2,189 votes.

2008: Peerzada Mansoor Hussain (PDP) | [More on P6](#)

Mirwaiz Alleges Pre-poll Detentions In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Separatist Hurriyat Conference leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday alleged that the authorities in Kashmir were taking people into preventive custody ahead of the assembly elections.

He also claimed that the authorities placed him under house arrest and did not allow him to attend a "crucial meeting" of an organisation of Islamic clerics on Thursday.

"As assembly elections are nearing, despite the Election Commission of India's guidelines that preventive detention and asking | [More on P6](#)

EPS #2

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Genes Common To Dyslexia, ADHD Discovered In Study

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have identified 174 genes shared between dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), results that shed new light on their genetic origins. The team, led by researchers at the University of Edinburgh, UK, said that of the 174 genes, 121 had not been previously identified. They also located 49 genetic regions shared between the neurodevelopmental disorders.

disease. The researchers also used dyslexia genetic statistics from an analysis of around one million people in collaboration with 23andMe, a US-based genomics and biotechnology company. The team used statistical tools to find clusters of genes underlying similar traits for dyslexia and 10 other neurodevelopmental and psychiatric traits, including ADHD, autism, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. "We further investigated



Dyslexia is marked by an impaired ability in reading and with spelling, while ADHD is a condition in which one faces difficulty concentrating, hyperactivity and impulsivity. The findings, published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry, shed new light on the genetic origins of dyslexia and show how they overlap with those of ADHD, the authors said. The results also help understand the biology behind dyslexia and ADHD, which can often occur together in people, but the genes underlying these conditions distinguish them from other mental diagnoses such as autism, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, they said. For the study, the researchers analysed genetic datasets from the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC). A global research community, the PGC brings together genetic data from people around the world to identify genes underlying psychiatric disorders and find variants that change risk of

genetic variants underlying both dyslexia and ADHD, which implicated 49 loci (40 not previously found in GWAS of the individual traits) mapping to 174 genes (121 not found in GWAS of individual traits) as potential pleiotropic variants," the authors wrote. GWAS refers to genome-wide association study, a research method which analyses genomes of several people to pin-point genes linked to a certain trait or disease. Pleiotropy is where the same variant of a gene is responsible for multiple traits simultaneously. "This is the first time that genetic links to dyslexia have been studied in the context of psychiatric traits. In the future, other learning difficulties such as dyscalculia or dyspraxia should be included to allow for a more nuanced understanding of the relationships between them," said lead researcher Asteja Ciulkinyte, a PhD student of translational neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh.



Moon's Seismic Activity Likely Linked To Past Meteorite Impacts Or Heat Effects: ISRO

Press Trust Of India

Seismic activity in the Moon's soil could be due to impact from meteorites in the past or local heat-related effects, according to ISRO's preliminary analysis of data received from Chandrayaan-3's quake-detecting instrument. However, detailed studies are needed to get more insights from the data, they said. Their research paper, published in the journal Icarus, is a summary of observations made on 190 hours of data recorded by the Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA). ILSA is one of the five major major scientific instruments, all of them carried by Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and Pragyaan rover together. Chandrayaan-3 made a soft-landing on the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023. The quake-detecting ILSA was operated continuously until September 2, 2023, after which it was switched off and was packed back up, before the lander was relocated to a new point roughly 50 centimetres away from the initial one, the researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) explained.



ILSA is one of the five major major scientific instruments, all of them carried by Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and Pragyaan rover together. Chandrayaan-3 made a soft-landing on the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023.

ILSA operated on the lunar surface for about 218 hours, of which 190 hours of data are available, they said. "We have identified more than 250 distinct signals of which about 200 signals are correlated to known activities involving the physical movements of the rover or the operation of science instruments," the study authors wrote. The 50 signals, which could not be linked to movements of either the lander or the rover, were deemed "uncorrelated events" by the authors. "The uncorrelated signals recorded by ILSA might be due to impact of micrometeorites at near ranges of

the instrument, local thermal effects on the soil, or thermal adjustments within the lander subsystems," they wrote. A micrometeorite is a very small meteorite, or a remnant of a meteoroid, with diameter usually less than a millimetre. The researchers also found that during its course of operation, ILSA also recorded a wide-range of changes in temperature—from (minus) 20 degrees Celsius to (plus) 60 degrees Celsius. ILSA was operated during a lunar day where the sun elevation angle had changed steadily. After the initial five hours of operation, the temperature started to decrease, which was noted by shadows cast by the lander's parts on the instrument, the authors said. They said detailed studies are required to understand potential sources of ILSA's data. "Even though the possible causes of signals due to uncorrelated events are presented, detailed analysis has to be conducted to get more insights from the records," the authors wrote. ILSA is the first instrument ever to have recorded seismic data from the Moon's polar region and the second one to record ground movements on the Moon after NASA's Apollo mission about four decades back.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K) , Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.



Subject: Grant of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home stay under the name and style "Peach House "Situated at Gulshan Nagar B Nowgam Near Gousia Masjid Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where, I Ms Mehmooda Bano, D/o: Gh Ahmad Beigh R/o: Gulshan Nagar B Nowgam, Near Gousia Masjid, Srinagar, Kashmir, intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House / Home Stay under the name and style " Peach House" Kashmir under "Situated at the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011. Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, Adhaar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/ organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit. inf

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Sherabad Khore) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Hanifa Bano S/D/W/O Mohd Sultan Lone R/o Hanjiwara Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 01-04-1964 occurred at Home

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity Bill bearing C. ID No: 020210005110 From Molvi Bashir to Parvez Khuro Bashir If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the concerned PDD Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Parvez Khuro Bashir R/O Kursoo RajBagh Srinagar

fk0

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in driving licence bearing dl no: JK0420150026 as Ishfaq Ahmad Parray while my correct name is Ishfaq Majeed which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ishfaq Majeed S/o Ab Majeed Paray R/o Beerwah Budgam

fk0

NOTICE

I need to rectify the name/surname of my daughter and her Mother from Kulsoom to Kulsoom Riyaz D/o Arifa to Arifa Riyaz as per DOB which is inadvertently mentioned in the school record which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if any person/quarter should have any kind of objection he/she may file to the office of the principal RP School Mallabagh within a week at the most, after that no objection will entertained. **Media Line**

NOTICE

I need to rectify the name/surname of my daughter and her Mother from Ruqayah to Ruqayah Riyaz D/o Arifa to Arifa Riyaz as per DOB which is inadvertently mentioned in the school record which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if any person/quarter should have any kind of objection he/she may file to the office of the principal RP School Mallabagh within a week at the most, after that no objection will entertained. **Media Line**

NOTICE

I need to rectify the name/surname of my daughter and her Mother from Zainab to Zainab Riyaz D/o Arifa to Arifa Riyaz as per DOB which is inadvertently mentioned in the school record which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if any person/quarter should have any kind of objection he/she may file to the office of the principal RP School Mallabagh within a week at the most, after that no objection will entertained. **Media Line**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The DOB of my son Farhaan Irshad has been wrongly written in his school records as 12-04-2011 while his correct DOB as per aadhar is 20-02-2010 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Cambridge Foundation School Waripora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained. **Irshad Ahmad Wani F/o Farhaan Irshad** **BMG**

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Amjid Ahmad Khan /o Shamus Ud Din Khan R/o Babagund Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 13-03-1988 occurred at Home. In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan** **bmj**

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Central Stationary Department, Nowgam, Bypass Srinagar 190015 J&K

On-Line Request for Quotes (e-RFQ) for Ball pens

RFQ Notice along with Complete RFQ document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpurchase.com> w.e.f. September 13, 2024, 16.00 Hrs. RFQ Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is September 27, 2024, 17.00 Hrs.

e-RFQ Ref. No.: JKB/CSD/P-182/2024-1202 Dated: 11-09-2024

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T: +91 (0194) 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0194) 248 1928; E: info@jkbank.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1558/24 DATED: 13-09-2024

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Soura Srinagar

Engineering Complex SKIMS, Soura Srinagar -190011

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Plot No. 363 and 364 size 30'x50' each i.e. 1500 Sft situated at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar has been allotted in favour of (1) Kh. Bashir Ahmad S/o Gh. Ahmad Kanu R/o Chattabal and Mst. Mehbooba W/o Kh. Ab. Gani R/o Haft Chinari and (2) Mst. Khatiji W/o Gh. Mohaminad R/o Budger Aali Kadal and Mst. Noora W/o Gh. Mohammad R/o Barbar Shah Srinagar vide allotment letter No. LR/plots/1605-1613 Dated: 01/07/1991 by the Executive Engineer Erstwhile (R&B) LRCR Division Srinagar on conditions as contained in the allotment order and lease deed; and

Whereas Mohammad Ashraf S/o Gh. Mohammad Qazi R/o Govt. Housing colony Ellahi Bagh has filed an application before the Executive Engineer R&B Division Soura, Srinagar with the request to issue NOC for transfer of ownership rights of the Plot No. 363 and 364 size 30'x50' each i.e. 1500 Sft situated at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar and the applicant has produced sale deed / attorney in respect of Plot No. 363 and 364; and

Whereas, as per the terms and conditions of the allotment the Plot has been allotted on Lease for a period of 20 years and thereafter ownership rights will be transferred to tire allottees; and

Whereas, In light of the allotment letter dated 01*07*1991, the 20 years lease period of the plot stands already completed on 01-07-2011.

Now therefore, it is hereby notified that in case any person/ persons has any objection with respect to the transfer of ownership rights of plot No. 363 and 364 situated at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar, they may Submit their objections, with reasons thereof within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice in the local newspaper

(Er. Iram Lorre)
 Executive Engineer (R&B)
 Division Soura

No: EE/R&B/Soura/2919
 DIPK-5454/24
 DATED: 13-09-2024



Hundreds Throng Hazratbal Shrine Ahead Of Eid-e-Milad

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hundreds of devotees from several parts of the valley thronged the Dargah Hazratbal shrine to offer Friday prayers; ahead of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birthday of the holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on Friday.

People were spotted busily making purchases from the packed shops around the shrine.

As hundreds of devotees arrived to offer Friday congregational prayers, there was a devotional vibe all around the Hazratbal temple.

A retailer Shafiq Ahmad said, "I have witnessed

many occasions, but we make good sales around these days only as people from far-off places visit here ahead of Eid-e-Milad. The stores and kiosks around the famed Muslim shrine had a brisk footfall of consumers"

Mohammad Ashraf, a devotee from Khanyar Srinagar said, "I come here for every special occasion like Eid-e-Milad, Urs Mubarak, and sometimes on Fridays"

"For me Hazratbal shrine is more than a place of worship," remarked another devotee from Anantnag, adding, "I confide all of my fears and aspirations there and always feel lighter after visiting this place."

SVEEP Event Ignites Voter Awareness At Pratap Park Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The famous Pratap Park in Lal Chowk area of Srinagar reverberated with the vibrant voices of democracy and voter awareness today as a grand SVEEP event was held here under the aegis of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

The event drew an enthusiastic crowd from all walks of life, featuring a mesmerizing array of cultural and musical performances, as well as thought-provoking skits and dramas.

Artists, performers, and cultural groups from various colleges and higher secondary schools of district Srinagar took to the stage to convey the message of the importance of voter participation in strengthening our democratic fabric.

Nodal Officer Media for ECI, Apurva Kumar who was the chief guest, emphasized the vital role of youth in promoting voter awareness. He urged students and first-time voters to become agents of change by educating others about the importance of exercising their fundamental right to vote.

The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Special Secretary to Govt. Akhtar Qazi; UT Nodal officer SVEEP, Sapna Kotwal; District Nodal

Officer Special SVEEP, Tahir Ahmad Magray; District Nodal Officer SVEEP Srinagar, Shabina Kysar and Anjum Raja

The event featured interactive displays and workshops showcasing innovative voter education initiatives. It also featured Reading Room, Food Tech Stall, Legal Aid Stall and Canvas Painting by University of Kashmir.

The National Institute of Technology enlightened the audience regarding the process of voting through their Mock Polling Station. Various sports events were organized by District Youth Services and Sports to raise awareness among the public regarding voting.

The District Election Office Mascot, Hangul, played an engaging role in connecting with the younger audience and encouraging responsible voting practices.

The grand event culminated in a mass pledge by the attendees to become responsible voters and to spread the message of voter awareness throughout their communities. Organizers expressed their gratitude to all the participants, performers, and volunteers who made the event a resounding success. The event provided an unforgettable platform to ignite voter awareness and inspire citizens to participate actively in the upcoming Assembly election.



LG Meets Specially Abled Kids At Chotay Taray Foundation Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha Friday visited Chotay Taray Foundation Centre at Bemina, Srinagar.

During his visit, the Lt Governor met with the children with special needs. The Lt Governor toured the facility and interacted with office bearers of the foundation. He appreciated the members associated with the Chotay Taray Foundation for their endeavors for the education, speech therapy, development and welfare of the children with special needs.

Arjumand Makhdoomi, Founder President and other members of the Foundation were present on the occasion.

Two-Day Workshop On ICMR-rATA Held At GMC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-day regional workshop for northern sites of multi-centric ICMR task force study on the Assessment of unmet needs and access to assistive technologies among the general population through digital rATA tool- a cross-sectional survey in India was conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Sri-

nagar on 12th and 13th September 2024 at Government Medical College, Srinagar.

The event was attended by the ICMR team led by Dr. Ravinder Singh, senior scientist, Dr. Salaj Rana and Dr. Geeta Rani Scientist-C while the participants include principal investigators, co-principal investigators, project technical staff from northern sites including Institute of Medical Sciences Banaras Hindu University, VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for

Women, Sonapat and Government Medical College, Srinagar.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean, Government Medical College, Srinagar who while appreciating the initiative of assessment of assistive technology to know the actual need emphasized application of assistive technology among all people in need for such services. We know assistive technology is a broader term for products, systems, and services and help the people with functional impairments.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BUBHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 09 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446	PRAYERS
	FAJR 4: 48
	ZUHR 12:30
	ASR 4: 52
	Magrib 6:46
	ISHA 8: 09

This Day In History

- 1901 - Theodore Roosevelt is sworn in as the youngest man to serve as US President, after William McKinley finally dies after an anarchist shoots him in Buffalo
- 1914 - German troops withdraw from Aisne/invent trenches
- 1918 - WW I: Austria-Hungary sends a note to the Allies requesting peace discussions, but the Allies reject the offer
- 1938 - Graf Zeppelin II, world's largest airship, makes maiden flight
- 1939 - World's 1st practical helicopter, the VS-300 designed by Igor Sikorsky takes (tethered) flight in Stratford, Connecticut
- 1940 - German bomb hits shelter in Chelsea; hundreds die
- 1942 - Battle of Edson's Ridge (Japanese assault) at Guadalcanal
- 1949 - India's Constituent Assembly adopts Hindi as an official language. Celebrated today as Hindi Day.
- 1950 - Western allies rearm West Germany
- 1953 - Nikita Khrushchev appointed First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, succeeding Malenkov
- 1957 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga, Australia
- 1957 - UN resolution deplores & condemns USSR invasion of Hungary
- 1958 - Two rockets designed by the German engineer Ernst Mohr, the first German post-war rockets, reach the upper atmosphere.
- 1959 - Soviet Union's Luna-2 is 1st spacecraft to land on the Moon
- 1960 - Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi-Arabia & Venezuela form Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- 1972 - West Germany & Poland establish diplomatic relations

From KO Archives

It Takes Years To Fill Up Posts

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Believe it or not. It takes years for the State Government to fill up vacant posts after advertising them.

The J&K Government had advertised the posts of Range Officers in 1995 and all the formalities were completed during these three years. However, the selection is yet to be done.

Over 17 candidates who have done two years State Forest Service Post Graduation Diploma in Forestry and allied subjects have not been absorbed in the forest department as Assistant Conservator Forests despite most of them about to cross the upper age limit. Some of these candidates have completed their courses way back in 1991. Despite clear vacancies in the department the Government has not referred the posts to the Public Service Commission. Most of these candidates may not be able to apply for such posts in future as they are about to cross the upper age limit. One of the candidates, Imtiaz Ahmad Zargar, 33, said that they should be appointed by the Government on adhoc basis so that they may not lose the chances of the Government job. After the appointments the posts should be referred to the Public Service Commission, he added.

These candidates are trained for the job as they have done State Forest Service courses at SFS college Dehradun and Coimbatore under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. As per the Schedule-II of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Service (Gazetted) Recruitment rules, 1970, 50 per cent quota has been kept for direct recruitment of the forest officers and rest for the in-service candidates. The in-service candidates had prayed for the stay of the recruitment to the posts of Assistant Conservator of Forests last year. The High Court (Single Bench) vacated the interim order of the stay on 11-03-1998 and gave liberty to the state to go ahead with the appointments as per the recruitment norms. The in-service forest officers who were not satisfied with the decision of the single bench took the matter to the double bench. The double bench not only held that the 50:50 share of the recruitment as reasonable but also justified their appointment by saying that they are the young blood with better qualification and deserve to be put into the service for better and quicker understanding of the complex scientific problems necessary for the development of Forestry in the State.

(Kashmir Observer, September 14, 1998)

Srinagar GO Reviews MCMC Working, Functioning

Observer News Service

Srinagar: General Observer for Srinagar, Rajan Vishal today visited Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) and Media Centre Srinagar, operating from DC office Complex, here and oversaw their functioning.

The General Observer stressed that Social media is the new and never ending domain, and the need is to lay equal focus on it and not miss any issue that may have serious consequences. He also emphasized to remain on-board across all social media platforms for wider monitoring.

During the visit, the Observer checked the duty roster, weekly google sheet submitted for suspected and confirmed cases of paid news and daily reports of various forms of media.

The Nodal Officer MCMC briefed the Observer regarding the overall functioning of the Committee. He informed that separate teams are on the job to monitor all forms of media to flag the paid news, advertisements, misinformation and disinformation.

He also apprised about mechanisms put in place for hassle free pre-certification of political advertisements across various media platforms, including print, TV, radio, etc.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firuzpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firuzpur Division:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start date/time	Name of work
EAFZR-OH24-12	26.09.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through static media at Madhopur Punjab, Lohian Khas & Goraya Railway Station and L-Xing Gate No. Spt-83 adjoining to GRY Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.reps.gov.in 2864/2024		
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9070806160

Women's Health in Crisis

Ayesha Trambo

“While there are policies to lessen health inequity in Kashmir, their implementation is the problem. Either the solutions presented are too impracticable or they are poorly implemented. There is a need for localised, workable strategies that shall help bring a change in the healthcare system in the region

Shabnam, a mother from a small village in Kupwara, almost lost her life while giving birth. The nearest hospital was miles away, and she had to take dangerous and unpaved roads for hours before reaching the medical facility. Unfortunately, this is not a one-off incident. For most Kashmiri women, especially living in rural areas, reaching healthcare is very dangerous. These hurdles are not only the result of the three-decade long conflict that made progress impossible but also due to systemic failures on account of lack of attention paid to women's health issues.

The instability of the healthcare infrastructure in Kashmir is due to it being at the epicentre of a political conflict that has been going on for many decades, rooted in the territorial dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947. Lack of peace in the region has ensured that women faced hurdles in seeking good as well as timely maternal and emergency care.

Besides the conflict-related barriers, the prevailing systemic problems in Kashmir's health become an added cause for the disparities the Kashmiris are facing. The resource scarcity persists, with sparsely distributed hospitals and an alarmingly low doctor-to-patient ratio. The WHO recommends 1 doctor per 1,000 people, while Kashmir records only 1 doctor for every 3,000 people.

Crumbling infrastructure, extreme weather conditions, and ongoing conflict in Kashmir contribute much to the hostility of the region's healthcare challenge. According to a few reports by NFHS-5, 50% of the women in Jammu and Kashmir suffer from anaemia — a condition preventable but kept in perpetual neglect. About 30% live below the poverty line,



Pregnant Woman Ferried on Cot to Health Centre 5 Kms Away

often having to forgo medical treatment or rely on underfunded, ill-equipped hospitals.

In districts like Kupwara, sharing borders with LoC, the condition is worse: a woman has to travel 30 kilometres just to see a doctor. The International Crisis Group reports heavy snowfall in harsh winters that makes travelling almost impossible and thus isolates entire communities for months. This leaves the women vulnerable and causes them to miss critical prenatal appointments and other necessary healthcare.

According to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in their 2015 report entitled "Kashmir: Violence and Health," estimated that almost 45% of women in the conflict-affected areas are affected by depression, anxiety, or posttraumatic stress disorder. Strong cultural stigma against mental health also acts as a major obstacle in seeking care. According to Dr. Farah, a psychiatrist in Srinagar, "In many rural parts of Kashmir, there is no place for mental health, and women are expect-

ed to silently bear the emotional pain and suffering."

UNICEF reports further document that in rural Kashmir, both menstruation and pregnancy are culturally considered private issues, not to be shared openly. This leads to lack of emotional care and support provided for the women, along with knowledge concerning their health.

While every stratum of society is held hostage by the current state of healthcare in Kashmir, the intersection of poverty, conflict, extreme weather, poor infrastructure, and gender inequality are increasingly alarming for women. Women have to fight on all fronts, from the top to the bottom, and take all the pressure. Disparity in health-related issues also increases due to a patriarchal system, coupled with economic miseries. UN Women report that 70% of rural Kashmiri women are not gainfully employed, which deprives them of financial independence. Amnesty International has also pointed out that rural

Kashmiri women face "double marginalisation" because of their status and gender.

While there are policies to lessen health inequity in Kashmir, their implementation is the problem. Either the solutions presented are too impracticable or they are poorly implemented. There is a need for localised, workable strategies that shall help bring a change in the healthcare system in the region.

It is of prime importance that the healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level is strengthened. According to the International Journal of Health Research, less than 50% of functional PHCs in Jammu and Kashmir are fully functional. The rest lack staff and equipment. Building and upgradation of PHCs, rather than mere dependence on urban hospitals, would facilitate easy access to essential services in far-flung areas.

Given the topography, frequent roadblocks and political issues, mobile health units are a very promising solu-

tion. Equipped to handle basic health care, regular check-ups, vaccinations, and preventive care could be ensured in these isolated areas by such units through cost-effective and sustainable means.

Issues of mobility persist, but telemedicine might help bridge the gap in health care between rural and urban areas like the national telemedicine service, e-Sanjeevani.

Health Subsidies would also economically empower women. In this regard, schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna have already covered poor families against mental health issues, but it has remained largely underutilised in Kashmir. Greater awareness through local media and local leaders would improve access to such subsidies.

The Kashmir health crisis is multi-dimensional in nature, shaped by prolonged conflict, systemic neglect, and geographical exclusion. Women, especially in rural areas, bear the brunt of these challenges. These may be pretty much complex solutions, but they are achievable: strengthening of local infrastructure, promotion of mobile health units, facilitation through telemedicine, and increasing awareness about available subsidies to bring in a sea change in healthcare outcomes. All it requires is commitment at the level of implementation for the peculiar needs of Kashmiri women and making healthcare not only available but accessible to one and all.

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

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer

Remodel Indian Capitalism

M Muneer & KM Chandrasekhar

When a first-generation businessman beats legacy conglomerates to become the wealthiest individual in the country in a couple of years, questions will be raised about the nation's governance and its leadership's integrity — more so when 60% of the nation's population begs the government for sustenance.

Is capitalism as we know it failing in India, just as it is globally? Once celebrated for its ability to drive economic growth and innovation, capitalism is now increasingly criticised for its role in exacerbating inequality, environmental degradation, and social unrest. Despite impressive GDP growth, India faces significant challenges that highlight the shortcomings of its capitalist model.

One of the most glaring failures is the widening gap between the rich and the poor. According to the World Inequality Report, the top 1% of the Indian population holds over 40% of all wealth, while the bottom 50% owns just 6%. This stark inequality is visible in the juxtaposition of luxury high-rises and sprawling slums in most cities — it's not just a moral issue but also a threat to economic stability.

Capitalism's relentless pursuit of profit has also come at the expense of the environment. India is home to 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities. The over-exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, and poor waste management are all consequences of a growth-at-all-costs mentality deeply rooted in capitalism.

With an ever-growing workforce, India has a huge unemployment issue. Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy reports peg the unemployment rate at 7-8% average over the past few years, with youth unemployment reaching as high as 23.1%. Furthermore, much of the workforce is in informal, low-paying jobs with little job security or benefits.

On top of it, there have been numerous corporate scandals in the last decade alone, driven by politically connected/greedy promoters. From Lalit and Nirav Modi to Byju's and NSE, there are many examples of

how corporate greed and a lack of regulatory oversight can lead to financial instability and loss of public wealth. Corporations are driven by the need to maximise shareholder value, and focus on short-term profits rather than long-term sustainability. This myopia has led to underinvestment in innovation, employee welfare, and environmental, social, and governance norms. Almost 87% of senior executives surveyed agree they are pressured to delivering financial performance within two years or less, mostly sacrificing long-term prospects.

Arguably, capitalistic policies led to thousands of farmer suicides and their revolt against oppression. The agriculture sector employs over half of India's workforce but their prosperity is eaten away by the nexus of

“Capitalism's relentless pursuit of profit has also come at the expense of the environment. India is home to 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities. The over-exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, and poor waste management are all consequences of a growth-at-all-costs mentality deeply rooted in capitalism.

politicians and intermediaries despite numerous efforts by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to eliminate this middle layer.

Capitalism's emphasis on cost-cutting and efficiency is responsible for the exploitation of workers in many states. The International Labour Organization estimates that 25 million people globally are trapped in forced labour, with many more working in precarious conditions for paltry wages — a source of social instability.

While Bibek Debroy has suggested inequality is good in India's case, there is growing outrage against that view, calling to balance profitability with social responsibility. Many countries recognise concepts like stakeholder capitalism, shared value, and circular econo-

my as the next phase of capitalism.

Stakeholder capitalism advocates for a business model that balances the needs of all stakeholders — employees, customers, communities, and the environment — rather than focusing solely on shareholders. The World Economic Forum championed this approach, arguing businesses are responsible for addressing global challenges like climate change and inequality.

The shared value model involves integrating social impact into core business strategies. Many large multinational companies including Mastercard, Nestlé, and Unilever have demonstrated that achieving economic and societal value is possible, offering a more sustainable path forward.

The circular economy model promotes the

efficient use of resources by designing products for durability, reuse, and recycling. This approach contrasts with the traditional linear economy, where products are made, used, and discarded. The circular economy aims to decouple economic growth from resource consumption, addressing the environmental limitations of capitalism.

The "shared value" concept holds the most significant promise for India. By integrating social needs into the core business strategies, companies can create value for society while enhancing competitiveness. This dual focus represents a significant departure from the more traditional approach of corporate social responsibility (CSR). The current CSR activities are forced on most companies, and

they have found ways to get the money to the promoters' pockets via willing NGOs at a cut.

CSR initiatives typically involve spending funds on the few areas that the government has mandated. These efforts are seen as separate from the core operations and are frequently viewed as non-essential. Shared value, on the other hand, goes beyond CSR by embedding social impact directly into the company's business model. It involves rethinking products, markets, and value chains to create economic value in a way that also benefits society. This is why it is key for India.

India Inc. could be persuaded to consider one of the following for embracing shared value concept:

Develop new products or enter new markets that address societal needs. This opens up new revenue streams and helps solve pressing social issues.

Reinvent value chains to be more sustainable and socially responsible. This involves reducing resource use, improving labour conditions, or enhancing product quality.

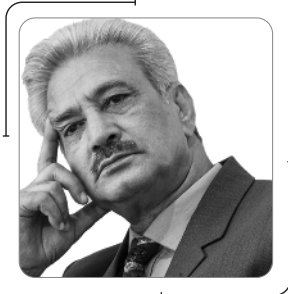
Redesign the ecosystem. This includes investing in infrastructure, education, and healthcare in the communities where the company does business. Amul is a classic example for this.

On their part, policymakers should be willing to reconsider the assessment of growth. India's current policy is premised on achieving the \$5 trillion mark and an undefined concept of Viksit Bharat by 2047, which will have no value if poverty is increasing alarmingly. Alternatively, measure growth by per capita GDP at the lowest quartile of population, which will change the direction of economic policy.

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

NICHE PENMAN

ESCAPE FROM BONFIRE AND RETREATS OF YORE



By S.Sarwar.Malik

Acknowledging his debt to over one dozen people, including Dr.Keith Salmon and Mary Deuchar — who at Hertfordshire University, helped Naveed Qazi, *The Vale Dweller*, a Kashmiri, who wrote a Novel, recently, claimed to be a 'fiction', of that name (- disclaimer, as expected, is there dear reader), seen as 'dirge',... 'within the garb of a political fable, that has, in its very first chapter words like *trekkers ...topography ...* 'immaculate lakes...unsullied forest cover of Pines... meadow valleys... (of) *The Paradise on Earth ...this nestled valley in the Himalayas'*... and in the last chapter, concluded (their) *three-day EXCURSION*..... bespoken of *Guchhi*, a local wild mushroom, too.

This young writer has done his postgraduate degree in International Business from university of Hertfordshire in UK, and was contributing to English Dailies in Kashmir.

I am least interested in politics but myself being a humble contributor, this mention of 'trekking and our Dailies' motivated this oldie to pick this book as I myself owe a lot to these local Dailies, who graciously gave space to my purely non-political write ups during last two and a half decades.

"Hi paaanee/
mae-ts-aay baanee/
ts-e kammay vaanee/
thornnae aaakhh?"//
"Shikkme manze neerith/
vachhass tael roetnass/
JAANAA' voenenam
haell kael paanuss"//
"Adde deyongg khoosah/
daekke tikke zaann/
taeth roeyess jhoornas/ koernass
ma sherremande zanh"//
"Yeth ane-maanass./
hoeth gomaanass /
vaannoen miyoun/
tss-en-maetis paanass heu"//
Gaeen gaean mae-ts-e miyane/
naiee voezzenaevikhh/
qaelib aeethow, kaethe
kernove hoess//
Kaetehou oestaaodov /
achhere gaash ditheoem/

Vaette pakkenovhass/
thaph kaerriith theie //
Soorrie thindoie/
miyoun kyah sanna chhoe?//
....."//

True it is. In this week, on Monday, 9-9-2024, i.e a milestone day, it was of my humble penmanship, (I can name it so), as my collection of English Poems got published, under the title *CRIES OF THE THORN BIRD* (by S.Sarwar. M.(Hillman), al-

a way has at times goaded me to take the first preservative steps, in the post-1986 era, of my life. Otherwise the fate of my scribbles would have tasted.

"the bonfire/
i periodically lit'//
Moreover, how can any student of English literature forget all others, right from the penmen who gave us whole treasure, spread from *Canterbury Tales* to *Wasteland*; post Eliot

I lost my patience, my cool, that night and there followed an ugly moment that surprised both of us; regret whereof I still have, though forty six years have passed.

[C.M.'s priest hadn't died till that time, in Maggie's arms ... remember ? 'YOU, up there, do you hear me, Flora?']

O ya, Kishenganga flowing through Gurez. This remote valley (+125 kms from Srinagar)

Fiery Cascade- ridgetop tree struck: *OBITUARY REQUEST-ED, 2017- Received Late: Postal Delay?*

(The decades old sound of heavy dozers, (in late 80's) and that noise of those diesel generators belonging to the power project people, rang heavily in my ears in 90's and thereafter too, when seated in the Govt run Circuit House, standing on the banks of kishanGanga river. The

you..) 'by deceit' ... (writers have said, so) he belonged to this ethnic strain and possibly the father of zoon might also have been initially a resident of this Dardi area, who along with his family later moved closer to the capital of the kingdom; Pampore-Srinagar-belt...['...Jammalattay..? Leave it.]...imprisoned and kept in Bihar. Cruel fate forced his newly wed wife, zoon [-Habba Khatoon, after the Shahi wedding] wander here and there, like an ascetic, seeking her love [- OK, accepted all tales might not be true, and this statement about her going up the pyramid-peaked mountain of Gurez valley...(-excellent place for photography...this peak presents magnificent views of the whole Gurez)...wishing and waiting madly, for the arrival of Yousuf; gave the name 'Habbe khatoon e heund baal' to it, might not be 100 % true yet probable it seems that she wandered here and there; singing her poetry-her expression of love, her desire, her pain of separation (- see how popular her songs are...)... till she too somehow surfaced later in...Bihar(-yes!) and there in Basuk the couple lies buried. Thanks to Teng sahib- of The J&K Academy Of Art, Culture & Languages.

It is said with the recent tourism boom, affordable home-stays are mushrooming there but the impact-study of this Tourism(overall, for all the popular destination as well as that of the Pester houses etc of J&K, (- 'all incursion of humans..') needs to be done periodically so that rectification wherever, whenever needed is undertaken, earnestly, without *bahaanay bisyaar*....

Hello.. hello my dear reader, you make me go on and on... (I just saw the editor's pupil cautioning me..."Word Count?... space my newspaper can afford for one penman (is.).... "youngsters too, are waiting"), so allow me to leave. Next time more about ..the Trekking routes between neighbouring parts; Baltistaan history related to erstwhile part, Ladakh and also about a popular King of Ladakh whose one wife was a muslim; and interesting features of another village of the neighbouring, **Kargil** and much more... in the coming days, in this column.

Bye, Allah Nigehbaan aap ka be Mayra be!!!

The author is a Srinagar based writer who has been contributing articles and poems to English Dailies, regularly, since two decades



most simultaneously for the readers, in two editions, one for west and the other for India. (The latter priced as low as 399 Rs (out of which this humble author has chosen to have meagre Rs 10-30 as his share of royalty. I think we will order 5 copies.)

Salute to all my teachers who taught me from the fundamental/ basics, the alphabets and whatever little I know. Thus, flowed the closing line of the supra given lispings, in my native kashmiri language.

"unto THEM belongs everything,

what is there in me, that I can call Mine ?!

'Them' includes all those from whom I have benefitted; those whom I have met, physically but also those acclaimed poets whose works got published in the very recent past, post-1950 till 2015, (my formative years) especially winners of the highest literary awards, world around. But I do not intend to undervalue the Elizebthians mentioned rightly in the introduction by the esteemed professor, who in

luminaries too, of all genres?

How can I forget my mother who fed us spoonfuls of English literature, from early days, as she was a professor of this subject-taught by the stalwart, Prof M.S.Wantt, encouraged throughout by M'me Mehmooda Ahmed Ali Shah.

Also my father. Though he himself was a pass out of Aligarh university - 1947 batch, having Economics and Law as his subjects, yet he loved to quote the great writers of English language, besides Persian (including the ones who dwelled on mystic side of religion) and Urdu, while conversing.

Back to the commitment, made in the previous write up of this column, dated 31 Aug, i.e about Gurez, Kargil/ Baltistaan and adjoind areas. Here I go:

Travel- back in time. [Salvaged from the Bonfire.]

Wasn't it 1978? When, under the starry night, seated inside the 'two men tent', pitched on the bank of the roaring KishanGanga river, the flame of candle flickered by my flashing hand when

in the Himalayas of J&K (north Kashmir), having picturesque scenery, breathtaking vistas of snow capped peaks, green forests, fresh mountain air, stunning view of starry Gurez nights; one gets lost in the vast constellations during short night walks, around the picturesque hamlets nestled inside ravine; or those houses, ... away from din, that village- life; those alpine-log-houses; observance of age old traditions; those community celebrations; that enrapturing folk music; visits to old Sufi- shrines; (true even today, na?) but those old watch-towers & forts standing guard here in the Gurez valley, above the 'ancient Silk route' that were witness to the historical truth that this side of Kashmir was at one point in history, part of the ancient *Dardistaan* and this ancient road once connected Kashmir with Gilgit, thence to Kashgar and beyond.

[... "about Central Asia, I remember my commitment, dear Editor".]

[Din of mid 1984. Final Parting 1985. Cacophony 1990's

reminder of their noise spoiled my reveries during my subsequent visits. But wild berries came to my rescue, soon, in this ancient Dardistani area, spread between Minimarg, Drass and beyond. People here speak the *Shina* language. Culturally too they resemble more with Gilgati/ Balti people of Baltistaan; I better say *Dardistaan of yore*. So my dear reader Shina is an *Indo Aryan ethnolinguistic group*. But their attire is similar to Kashmiris.

Baadshah Yousuf Shah e Chak, ruler of the Kashmir of 16th Century, who is popular among kashmiris, partly because of *zoon* - the village belle, 'who had the fire of poetry in her veins, besides being beautiful like moon'; with whom this youthful king fell in love and made her his wife/ queen but (...tootay zamaanay teray haath nigoodaay...) as ill luck would have it, this king was taken captive by the army of Mughal king, Jalal u din Mohammad Akbar... [- over glorified for his so-called justice...(fie..you court-historians; you commissioned-pens, slur on

BOOK RELEASE

Cries of the Thorn Bird by Hillman.S.Sarwar.M

KO WEB DESK

Excerpted from the introduction to the book:

Within these pages lie 57 poems, "that give voice to the poet's deepest yearnings, dark dreams, and anguish, resonating with Kafkaesque and Poesque tones. Sarwar's poetic world is far from ordinary; ... [In] a style reminiscent of Victor Shklovsky's defamiliarization and Jorge Borges' labyrinthine narratives, Sarwar transforms the familiar into the extraordinary, urging readers to see the world anew. Cries of the Thorn Bird is

a profound journey into the human condition...He unconsciously follows Sir Philip Sydney...his language has a throwback to Russian formalism...some poems are pervaded through with palpable surrealism...his poetry is in a way similar to that of Hopkins..."

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PRETTY OF THE YEAR: 2024

CRIES OF THE THORN BIRD

Within these pages lie 57 poems that give voice to the poet's deepest yearnings, dark dreams, and anguish, resonating with Kafkaesque and Poesque tones. Sarwar's poetic world is far from ordinary; ... [In] a style reminiscent of Victor Shklovsky's defamiliarization and Jorge Borges' labyrinthine narratives, Sarwar transforms the familiar into the extraordinary, urging readers to see the world anew. Cries of the Thorn Bird is

a profound journey into the human condition...He unconsciously follows Sir Philip Sydney...his language has a throwback to Russian formalism... some poems are pervaded through with palpable surrealism...his poetry is in a way similar to that of Hopkins...

(From the introduction, to the book)

"The space of his poems is dominated by his inner landscape...Reading him is stepping into an alien world with a new sky and earth."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in 1955, Sarwar has been writing for English dailies such as *Greater Kashmir*, *Kashmir Images*, and *Kashmir Observer* for the last two decades as a columnist under sections like Penman's Corner, Let's Talk and Mindscape. His poems have been published in the journal 'English Studies in India' (- a Journal of the English department of Kashmir University) either as Shabir Sarwar Malik or S. Sarwar.

ENGLISH POETRY BOOK OF 2024

S. SARWAR M. (HILLMAN)

FOR READERS WORLD-WIDE

CRIES OF THE THORN BIRD

A COLLECTION OF POEMS



'Will Jeopardise Reputation'

IAF Officer Gets Pre-Arrest Bail In Rape Case

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has granted pre-arrest bail to a Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force who is facing rape charges. The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday filed a first information report (FIR) after a woman Flying Officer gave a complaint, alleging rape by the Wing Commander.

"As the petitioner who is serving as Wing Commander... and in case of his arrest his reputation as well as the service career shall be jeopardised," the bail order stated.

The high court ordered the police not to file a chargesheet in the case without its permission, NDTV reported. "This court has allowed the investigation to continue. However, we direct that the charge sheet shall not be filed without the permission of this court," said the order by a single-judge bench.

The high court ordered the Union Territory administration's Additional Advocate General to file a status report by the next

date of hearing. It said the Wing Commander should be released on bail if he is arrested. The high court told the accused Wing Commander to meet the investigating officer from September 14 to 16, and whenever needed thereafter.

The accused has to give a surety of Rs 50,000, cannot leave Jammu and Kashmir without the permission of his Commanding officer, and cannot contact any prosecution witness, the high court said.

In her complaint, the 26-year-old Flying Officer said she has been suffering harassment, sexual assault and mental torture for the last two years.

The officer has said that at a New Year party at the officers' mess on December 31, 2023, her senior asked if she had received the gift. When she said she had not, the Wing Commander said the gifts were in his room and took her there. When she asked where his family was, he said they were elsewhere.

The Flying Officer alleged her senior then forced her into oral sex and molested her. "I repeatedly asked him to stop doing it

and tried to resist it in all ways possible. Finally, I pushed him and ran away. He said that we would meet me on Friday again when his family leaves," she had said.

The Flying Officer said it took her a while to register what happened to her. "I was afraid and didn't know what to do as there were instances before also where in I was discouraged to report. He visited my office post this incident... He behaved as if nothing happened and there was no sign of remorse in his eyes," she said.

The woman officer said she reached out to two other women officers and they guided her to file a complaint. "I can't describe (the) mental agony, being an unmarried girl who joined forces and was treated in such (a) heinous manner," she said.

Following her complaint, she said, a Colonel-rank officer was ordered to investigate the incident. The Wing Commander was made to sit down with her twice in January this year to record the statements, she has alleged. She has said she objected to the senior officer's presence

and later the investigation was closed to "hide mistakes of administration".

She then filed a fresh application to the internal committee and it met two months later. "The bias of Stn (Station) authorities to aid the sexual offender was very heart-breaking for me," she has said, alleging that a medical examination was not done till she insisted multiple times.

"IC (internal committee) did not do its job properly as directions had come from higher formation to keep the result as neutral. Everyone was aiding the sexual offender," the Flying Officer has said. "I requested for interim relief and requested for leave multiple times but I was denied leave each time," she said, alleging that her requests for a different posting for herself or the Wing Commander were not heeded either.

"I am forced to socialise with these people and attend events with my abuser... While he is enjoying, I am getting harassed in (the) hands of authorities on a daily basis," she has said.

The internal committee, she has said, said that it is inconclusive whether the incident happened or not because of the lack of an eyewitness and closed its probe in May. "Isn't it common sense that someone would not do sexual assault in front of a witness?"

The Flying Officer has complained of "continuous mental harassment" and "social boycott". "My personal communications have been constantly monitored unofficially. The individuals I speak with are harassed by the authorities."

The ongoing harassment, she said, has had a severe impact on her mental health. "I am living in constant fear, under 24/7 scrutiny and my social life has been completely disrupted. The harassment has driven me to suicidal thoughts, and I feel utterly helpless. I am unable to carry on with my daily life, and my social interactions are closely monitored and discouraged by authorities. I have endured this torture for too long, and I am at my breaking point," she has said.

President Pezeshkian calls for Muslim unity, says discord only benefits enemies

Agenceis

"If we stand together, our capacity for economic, scientific, and cultural progress will increase significantly and this is why our unity is undesirable to our enemies, and their benefit lies in our discord and division," he said on Friday while addressing a host of cultural, religious, and academic elites in Basra, Iraq.

"Therefore, any message or voice that causes division among Muslims is a satanic message," he added.

"We must all join hands to restore the past glory and dignity of Muslims," said Pezeshkian who started his official three-day visit to the neighboring country on Wednesday.

"If we truly act as brothers, can Israel massacre Muslims every day?" he asked, referring to the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza where the regime's attacks have killed at least 41,118 Palestinians and injured more than 95,000 others since October last year. Europeans fought each other

fiercely for over 100 years, but today they have managed to reduce border restrictions, connect their roads, and establish a common currency while maintaining national sovereignty, bringing them closer together, he said. "Why can't we Muslims, in the same way, facilitate interactions and exchanges among the people of our Muslim countries, who are truly brothers, while preserving national sovereignty?"

Iran seeks to engage in brotherly and sincere relations with its neighbors and Islamic countries, he highlighted.

The remarks come as Muslims observe "Islamic Unity Week" this year, amid the ongoing plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

Shia Muslims believe the 17th day of Rabi al-Awwal, which falls on September 21 this year, marks the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Meanwhile, Sunni Muslims celebrate his birthday on the 12th day of the month, which is September 12 this year. The period between these dates is annually celebrated as Unity Week.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PM Modi to Address

said the visit by the Prime Minister will definitely boost the electoral prospects of party candidates in the UT.

A high alert has already been sounded in the entire Chenab Valley region with the security forces and the police maintaining their ubiquitous presence to secure the VIP and the large number of people who turn out to hear him.

The BJP has already said that its star campaigner, the Prime Minister, will visit J&K for electioneering in every phase of the Assembly elections.

The party is contesting all 43 Assembly seats in the Jammu division. In the last J&K assembly, BJP had 25 MLAs.

PM Modi is also expected to visit the Valley on September 19 when he will address another BJP election rally in Srinagar city.

Voting in the three phases of J&K polls is being held on September 18, September 25 and October 01. The counting of votes will take place on October 8.

J&K is seeing an Assembly election after 10 years and its first after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A.

In 2014 the state had a PDP-BJP coalition led by Mehbooba Mufti. The coalition fell in June 2018 when the BJP pulled out of the coalition. J&K was placed under the Governor's rule. The then state governor, Satya Pal Malik later dissolved the Assembly. On August 5, 2019 Article 370 was abrogated and the state bifurcated into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Army Commander Northern reviews security Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander Northern Command, accompanied by GOC White Knight Corps, visited Dharmund and the CIF Delta to assess the prevailing security situation. During the visit, he was briefed on the current modalities and the operational preparedness of the forces stationed there.

According to an official post by the Northern Command on social media, Lt Gen Kumar praised the efforts of the troops, emphasizing the need to uphold high morale and professionalism to tackle future challenges effectively—(KNO)

890 Central Laws

marginalised. "The BJP is committed to the welfare of people, especially the poor, marginalised and deprived, as promised in our 'Sankalp Patra'," Sharma said.

He outlined future initiatives if the BJP comes to power in the Union Territory (UT). "After the BJP forms the government in J&K, five marlas of land will be given to the landless and separate colonies will also be set up for the poor. We will also ensure affordable healthcare for them," he said.

The J&K BJP spokesperson further elaborated on the party's plans, and said, "Ten kilograms of rice and one kilogram of sugar will be provided to the poor after the formation of the BJP government here in J&K."

"A monetary help (pension) of Rs 18,000 per year will be given to the senior-most woman in every family. After the BJP government is formed, the monthly pension for widows, the physically challenged and the elderly will be enhanced to Rs 3,000, up from the current Rs 1,000," he said.

Reaffirming the party's commitment, Sharma said the party is dedicated to the welfare of the last man standing in the row.

2 Soldiers Killed

Kumar and Sepoy Arvind Singh -- later succumbed to the injuries, the officials said.

The Army also confirmed the killing of the two soldiers.

"GOC (General Officer Commanding) White Knight Corps and all ranks salute the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts; offer deepest condolences to the families," the Army said.

Earlier, the Army had said contact was established and the search party exchanged a heavy volume of fire with the terrorists around 3:30 pm.

"In the ensuing firefight four army personnel have been injured. The operation is in progress," the Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The officials said the injured soldiers were airlifted to an Army hospital after preliminary

treatment at a local hospital.

The encounter comes two days after the Army, in a successful operation, neutralised two Pakistani terrorists affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit in the higher reaches of Basingarh in Udhampur district.

Arvind Kejriwal

and has been in jail since June 2 when he surrendered.

The top court directed Kejriwal not to make any public comment on the merits of the case and added that terms and conditions as imposed in the ED case would also be applicable here.

The top court, while granting him bail in the ED case, had said that Kejriwal cannot visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat and not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary to obtain the Lieutenant Governor's sanction.

It said completion of trial was unlikely to occur in the immediate future and rejected the apprehension of tampering by Kejriwal.

Justice Bhuyan, who wrote a separate judgement, concurred with Justice Kant on grant of bail.

However, Justice Bhuyan questioned the timing of Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI and said the agency's aim was to frustrate grant of bail to him in the ED case.

I fail to understand the CBI's urgency to arrest Kejriwal on cusp of release in the ED case when it did not do so for 22 months, Justice Bhuyan said.

He said the CBI can't justify arrest and continued detention citing evasive replies by Kejriwal, and added that non-cooperation cannot mean self-incrimination.

"The CBI must dispel notion of being a caged parrot, must show it is an uncaged parrot," Justice Bhuyan said.

It would be travesty of justice to keep Kejriwal in custody when he has got bail in the ED case on the same grounds, he said.

Justice Bhuyan said he has serious reservations on the conditions imposed in the ED case on Kejriwal which bar him from entering the CM's office and signing files.

"I am not commenting on conditions imposed on Kejriwal due to judicial discipline as it was in separate ED case," he added.

The bench had on September 5 reserved its verdict on the pleas.

Kejriwal has filed two separate petitions challenging the denial of bail and against his arrest by the CBI in the corruption case filed by the central agency.

The AAP chief was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on June 26. He has challenged in the apex court the Delhi High Court's August 5 order which upheld his arrest in the corruption case.

On July 12, the apex court had granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case.

The top court had referred to a larger bench, preferably of five judges, for in-depth consideration of three questions on the aspect of "need and necessity of arrest" under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

During the arguments on September 5 on Kejriwal's plea in the corruption case, the chief minister had vehemently opposed in the apex court the CBI's contentions that he should have approached the trial court first for bail in the corruption case. Questioning the maintainability of Kejriwal's pleas, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the CBI, had submitted that even in the money laundering case in which he had challenged his arrest by the ED, he was sent back by the apex court to the trial court.

Tough Battle Ahead

48,133 are females while 9 are third gender voters. Since 1977, the NC has won the Habba Kadal seat six times, with Shamim Firdous representing the constituency after victories in 2008 and 2014. However, this election is expected to be anything but a cakewalk for the NC, with several factors in play.

In the last elections held in 2014, Shamim Firdous only 4,955 votes followed by Moti Koul with 2,596 votes, Zafar Meraj of the PDP stood at the third place with 992 votes.

The Boycott Factor Historically, Habba Kadal, an epicenter of the anti-government protests has seen low voter

turnout due to calls for election boycotts by separatist groups.

Observers say these boycotts often worked in favor of the National Conference, as fewer votes were cast. This time, however, the situation is different.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Arif Laigroo, who is running on the PDP ticket, also said that the National Conference's previous victories were more a result of the poll boycotts than genuine support.

"People are frustrated with the lack of development, narrow roads, and rampant drug addiction among the youth," Laigroo said, saying that the low turnout in the past made voters complacent, allowing the National Conference to retain power.

Observers also believe that the delimitation exercise has reshaped the constituency, adding new areas like Chattabal, Kani Mazar, Khanqah and portions of Karan Nagar. These new localities may prove decisive in breaking the traditional voting patterns.

The Anti-Incumbency Votes

Political commentators believe that the anti-incumbency factor in the Habba Kadal constituency will play a major role in this election. Speaking to Kashmir Observer, locals say that they have hardly seen MLA in the last so many years.

"There is hardly any development in our constituency, youth are unemployed, roads and lanes are narrow, there is congestion everywhere and we haven't seen our so called MLA anytime" said a local wishing not to be named.

Observers say that due to the lack of development, unemployment, drug problems, and neglect of the constituency, voters are disillusioned with the NC and are now looking for an alternative.

The Pandit Vote Bank

The Pandit community, once played a significant role in the constituency's electoral dynamics, has seen its influence decreased due to migration and low voter participation.

Raman Mattoo, the last Kashmiri Pandit MLA, won the Habba Kadal seat as an independent candidate in 2002. Before him, Piyyal Lal Handoo of the National Conference was elected from the constituency in 1987 and again in 1996.

Despite this, the 2024 election has three Pandit candidates contesting the seat. Among them, Ashok Kumar Bhat of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is seen as the most prominent, though observers doubt his ability to secure significant support due to the division of the Pandit vote.

Observers say that Pandit voters generally stay away from elections and the presence of multiple Pandit candidates will further divide their votes.

While the Pandit community's participation could potentially alter the outcome, it is expected that their vote will be split, reducing the likelihood of any one Pandit candidate making significant gains.

On the other hand, Shamim Firdous is confident of her victory saying that the PDP's reputation has been tarnished by past associations with the BJP and controversial comments made by PDP leaders.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Shamim said that the people of Habba Kadal remember the 'milk and toffee' remarks, and they do not trust the PDP anymore.

"They are the people who brought the BJP into Kashmir, and the people do not trust them anymore. With the grace of Almighty, though winning is not easy, we are confident of our victory."

However, Arif laigroo of the PDP believes that the locals are disheartened with the lack of representation by the NC MLA in the last many years.

"I am running a door to door campaign and telling people to come out and vote. Habba Kadal has witnessed no development and has been neglected by the NC MLA for the last many years. I am hopeful Habba Kadal will elect new leadership and witness a positive change" Laigroo said.

With anti-incumbency sentiments growing, particularly in the newly added areas, the 2024 election could mark a turning point in this historically National Conference-dominated constituency.

As Habba Kadal heads to the polls, the future of this once NC-dominated seat hangs in the balance, with both Firdous and Laigroo confident in their chances of victory.

My Fight Beyond

criticized Mufti's tenure as the chief minister, particularly her treatment of south Kashmir.

"The people of south Kashmir once placed their trust in Mufti and voted for her. But when she came to power, she bruised the people of Kashmir in general, and south Kashmir in particular. She used pellets, bullets, and filled jails with the very people who voted for her," Rashid said.

Rashid walked out of Tihar Jail on Wednesday, after a court granted him interim bail till October 2 in a terror funding case so that he can campaign in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

He had been in jail since 2019 following his arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror

Tihar Jail In Election

in favour of the National Conference.

He also raised concerns about the AIP president's silence regarding his position on a possible post-poll alliance with the BJP, which was brought up during a seminar.

The former chief minister criticised Er Rashid's supporters for believing that their votes could lead to his release from jail.

"The people of Baramulla were befooled that their votes will help Er Rashid to get released, but the fact is that the court is the only way one can come out of jail," he said.

He urged voters to support NC-Congress alliance candidates to prevent the BJP and its allies from gaining power and to ensure justice and employment for the youth.

"NC and Congress are steadfast in not aligning with the BJP, while other parties seem ready to collaborate with it," he said.

Omar reiterated that the National Conference is committed to addressing all critical issues, including Article 370 and employment, and remains resolute in its opposition to BJP policies.

"The party is fighting to exclude BJP from power and to reverse the changes made on August 5, 2019," he said.

Engineer Retorts:

questioning the credibility of the challenge.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag, the AIP chief said that Abdullah lost the Lok Sabha election by over 2 lakh votes. "What challenge will he (Omar) give me as he lost the Lok Sabha election by over 2 lakh votes," he said.

The Member of Parliament (MP) from Baramulla dismissed accusations of separatism, saying, "If speaking truth is separatism then I'm proud to be a separatist. By calling us separatist voters, Delhi must think if voters are separatists then no one is with India in Kashmir," he said.

KU Postpones

dates shall be notified separately," it reads.

PDP Part Of INDIA

own. In Punjab, the AAP and we were contesting separately," he said.

"We are together at the national level and the PDP is also with the INDIA alliance at the national level because our fight and struggle are between INDIA alliance and BJP-RSS and its proxies,"Soz said.

"The PDP is a part of the INDIA alliance, but they are contesting separately because they have their own strategy and we cannot dictate them on their strategy," he added.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami is also a member of the INDIA alliance, Soz said, adding all others are with the BJP in one way or the other.

On Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks that the people of Jammu will form the government in J-K this time, the Congress leader said it is as if the people of the Valley do not matter to them.

"They are saying this because they think they can consolidate the vote in Jammu through division, by pitting the voters against each other, and then fragment the vote in Kashmir by fielding proxies, independents and smaller parties. But, I want to tell them the people of J-K are together," he said.

He said the BJP wants to create division and make J-K like Manipur.

"This is their politics. They are pitting brothers against brothers and that is why Manipur is burning and they want to burn J-K as well. But,

the people here will not allow that as they are united. They are waiting for the elections and I am sure NC-Congress will form the government in J-K," Soz said.

Unemployment In J&K Highest In 45 Yrs

The Congress accused the BJP of misleading people of Jammu and Kashmir on the issue of employment, claiming the Union Territory currently faces its highest unemployment rate in 45 years, ranking second highest in the country.

"Contrary to claims by Union Minister Anurag Thakur and LG Manoj Sinha, Jammu and Kashmir ranks second in the country for unemployment with a rate of 28.2 per cent, as per the data," AICC National Media Coordinator, Dolly Sharma, told reporters here.

Sharma claimed Jammu and Kashmir is going through an unemployment crisis as approximately 25 lakh youngsters are seeking jobs.

"BJP is making false claims on employment, while the reality is that J&K has the highest unemployment in the last 45 years and the second highest unemployment rate in the country under BJP regime," she said.

The Congress leader added that "our young women are particularly affected, facing the highest unemployment rate in the country at 48.6 per cent".

Since 2019, 65 per cent of government posts remain vacant across various departments, amid reports of recruitment scams, Sharma said, adding that "promises made by the UT administration post the state's downgrade have largely remained unfulfilled".

"Over 60,000 daily wage workers continue to earn a mere Rs. 300 per day for over 15 years, despite promises of regularisation," Sharma said. "Many youths hoping for secure government jobs now find themselves in precarious contract-based roles."

AICC Media Coordinator for Jammu, Onika Mehrotra, highlighted instances of corruption and irregularities in government recruitments, pointing to cancelled selections and prolonged delays in regularising contract workers.

"Following the abrogation of Article 370, BJP promised job opportunities and industrial growth, but these claims have not materialised," Mehrotra said. "Instead, the issuance of 12,000 domicile certificates to non-natives has further compounded job challenges for local youths."

Anantnag East Set

won with 13,853 votes, while Gulzar Ahmad Wani (Indian National Congress) secured 12,423 votes, losing by 1,430 votes.

2002: Peer Mohd Hussain (PDP) won with 5,115 votes, while Gulzar Ahmad (Indian National Congress) received 4,774 votes, losing by 341 votes.

Historically, this seat was represented by Gulzar Ahmad Wani in 2014, who later joined DPAP; Peerzada Mansoor Hussain (PDP) in 2008; Peer Mohd Hussain (PDP) in 2002; and Abdul Majeed (NC) in 1996.

For the AC 46-Shangus-Anantnag East constituency, a total of 100,902 voters (50,656 males and 50,246 females) are registered. There are 127 polling stations established, including 19 urban and 108 rural stations. (KNO)

Mirwaiz Alleges

people to report to police stations should be avoided, dozens of people from across towns and villages and Srinagar city are being detained," Farooq, chairman of the moderate Hurriyat faction said in an emailed statement.

"People, especially political workers, and youth are being harassed and asked to report to police stations, seeking surety bonds from them," he added.

The Mirwaiz said long lists of people had been prepared in each police station to be detained in view of the elections.

"There is fear among those being detained and those whose names are in these lists that, once arrested, they will be booked under the draconian PSA (Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act) and the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act)," he said.

The Mirwaiz appealed to the authorities to desist from such actions that create fear and intimidate people.

The three-phase elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The results will be declared on October 8.

Tarun Chugh Slams Er Rashid, Says His Actions Only Fueled Instability

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary Tarun Chugh Friday lashed out at Engineer Rashid over his "divisive politics", which according to him is causing a hurdle in regional development.

Chugh, however, talked about BJP's anti-terror stand and said the party is committed for peace as well as development in the region. "We have zero tolerance on terror and won't compromise as far as development of this region is concerned," Chugh said.

Speaking during the gathering, Chugh told reporters he has declared a political war against established political families in Jammu and Kashmir, blaming

ing the people for their long-time dominance in the region over the political families like Abdullahs and Muftis. "This is in tune with a plan for the BJP to challenge those traditional political leaders and gain muscle over the region," he said.

Chugh said that Engineer Rashid, Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief was only fanning regional fissures and unrest to succeed politically. "Rashid's actions have only fuelled instability and division," Chugh said.

He also referred to Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, saying their policies failed in the region. "We need to improve those mistakes made in the past. We are committed to a new era of peace and development," Chugh said—(KNO)

Ex MLA Karnah Throws Weight Behind PC Candidate

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant political development, three-time MLA Karnah, Kafeel-ul-Rehman on Friday threw his weight behind Peoples Conference candidate Dr. Naseer Ahmad Awan.

Kafeel-ul-Rehman, who has represented Karnah assembly segment thrice in assembly of the erstwhile state of J&K, said that he has decided to support Dr. Naseer Ahmad Wani, a prominent medico of Kashmir Valley.

The former legislator said that he has decided to support Dr. Naseer due to his integrity, honesty and competence.

Kafeel-ul-Rehman's support

to PC candidate is the biggest setback to National Conference in north Kashmir after announcement of schedule for assembly polls. With this development, PC's prospects have bolstered in the segment due to its traditional vote bank and goodwill for Dr. Naseer.

Meanwhile, PC president Sajad Gani Lone has expressed gratitude to the former MLA Karnah for supporting the party candidate.

"Thanks to Kafeel Ul Rehman Sahib for supporting @JKP-Cofficial candidate Dr Naseer Awan. I extend my thanks on behalf of my party," Lone tweeted—(KNO)

Triangular Contest Giving Edge To BJP On Bhaderwah Seat

Agencies

JAMMU: Since the National Conference (NC) and Congress are having a friendly contest, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is slightly gaining an edge on Bhaderwah Assembly constituency in a triangular contest in the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The 2014 winning candidate Daleep Singh Parihar, who has a good reputation among the downtrodden section of society irrespective of their religion, is up against Congress party's Nadeem Sharief Niaz and NC's Sheikh Mebooba Iqbal.

There are 10 candidates in the fray including the candidates from BJP, Congress, NC, Bahujan Samaj Party, J&K Apni Party, Shiv Sena, J&K All Alliance Democratic Party and four independents.

According to the data issued by Election Commission of India, a total of 124568 electorates are eligible to vote which include 63944 male and 60618 female and six transgender voters.

This constituency will go for polls during the first phase of Assembly elections on September 18 alongside 23 other constituencies of Chenab valley

and South Kashmir.

Traditionally, this constituency has remained a stronghold of the Congress party but NC also had control over it for a longer time in the past.

After 2002 elections, Congress party emerged a major player and even former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad also got elected to Legislative Assembly from Bhaderwah constituency after he took over reins of J&K from Mufti Muhammad Sayeed during PDP-Congress coalition government in 2005.

In 2014, things took a turn and the Modi wave swept Chenab valley like other parts of Jammu region and Bhaderwah was no different when Daleep Singh Parihar emerged as the winner.

At that point of time, Parihar's win was being attributed to the division of Muslim votes between Congress, NC and PDP while BJP took the maximum of votes of Hindus which helped the saffron party to win.

This time also, NC and Congress—both have fielded their candidates for a friendly fight, but there are chances that BJP may again take advantage of division of votes.—(KNO)

Mahindra Thar ROXX Unveiled At Encash Automotive



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mahindra Encash Automotive unveiled the Thar ROXX - 'THE' SUV, a category disruptor set to break norms and redefine the SUV landscape in the country. With a starting price of 12.99 Lakh, the Thar ROXX embodies the Mahindra boldness and unconventional spirit. Designed and engineered to turn heads and deliver a refined drive and powerful yet safe performance, the Thar ROXX conquers all terrains while offering an array of luxurious features.

Built on Mahindra's All-New M_GLYDE platform, the Thar ROXX delivers an exceptionally smooth ride with crisp handling and class leading dynamics. It effortlessly blends Thar's outdoor DNA with modern sophistication, offering a premium SUV experience that caters to those who demand the finest in every aspect of their lives.

The Thar ROXX has been rigorously tested in extreme conditions across diverse terrains and altitudes, including the scorching sand dunes of the Thar desert at +50°C, the high altitudes of Umping La, tricky muddy surfaces in Coorg and the freezing cold of -20°C in Kaza. This extensive testing guarantees that the Thar ROXX is a robust and reliable choice for the Global Indian - people who are Indian at heart but have a global mindset.

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TO PROVIDE POLITICAL INSIGHTS vis-à-vis Assembly Elections in Jammu & Kashmir, Doordarshan News organized 'DD Dialogue' at SKICC on Friday.

Sustainable Development Of Tourist Destinations Our Priority: CS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Friday held a wrap-up meeting with the World Bank team to discuss the way forward for development of new Tourist destinations in J&K and for promotion of the Handicrafts sector here.

The World Bank Team while concluding their 4-day visit put forth various suggestions regarding the interventions required for the new projects. The World Bank Team gave an account of their observations after having visited several Tourist places and Handicrafts units during their brief stay in Kashmir.

It was agreed that the World Bank shall primarily provide its support as a Knowledge Partner for development of new Tourist Destinations and promotion of the Handicrafts Sector.

The need for project funding was also discussed and the demand for extension in the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) by one more year was also put forth to the visiting World Bank Team.

The Chief Secretary in his remarks stated that the Government's focus would be to ensure sustainable development of all Tourist Destinations so as to boost the Tourism sector's contribution to the Sustainable



Development Goals.

He said that while Tourism has potential to contribute immensely to the J&K economy, the Government shall also devise a strategy to conserve the ecology of tourist places by ensuring planned development in sync with the natural surroundings. He said that Tourism Development Authorities would need to be strengthened so that these drive development of Tourist locations.

Dulloo thanked the World Bank Team for their visit to provide technical advice for development of new Tourist destinations and promotion of handicrafts for which the World Bank would play a significant role as a Knowledge Partner.

The World Bank team while summing up the visit gave details of their visit reiterating

its strong commitment to sustainability and to support the J&K Government in their new projects aimed at better management of Tourist locations.

The team emphasized to have an overall strategic vision for development of tourism and to develop Tourism Destination Spatial Plans for organized development. Among other issues discussed, the team also stressed on working on sustainable indicators with regard to putting in place facilities for better upkeep of tourist resorts.

The need for involvement of the private sector for making investment in setting up tourism facilities, Government's facilitation of businesses by speeding up paperwork & clearances and the need to develop clean-green brands were also discussed.

51 Independents In Fray For 7 Baramulla Seats

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a highly anticipated political battle, 107 candidates including 51 independents are set to contest across the seven assembly constituencies in north Kashmir, with several prominent figures entering the race.

Details revealed that in Sopore assembly constituency, a total of 22 candidates are in fray including 14 independents.

The contesting candidates include National Conference's Irshad Rasool Kar, Abdul Rashid Dar of Indian National Congress, Irfan Ali Lone of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Apni Party's Ghulam Mohammed War and Mohammad Lateef Dand, an independent.

In Baramulla, 25 candidates are in fray, which include 15 independents and 10 of those, who are associated with different political parties.

The main contenders are Javid Hassan Beigh of National Conference, Mohammad Rafique Rather of Peoples Democratic Party, Mir Iqbal Ahmed of Congress and Asif Akbar Lone of Peoples Conference.

Similarly, in Pattan assembly constituency, a total of 14 candidates have filed their nomination papers while 10 among them are associated with different parties and four others are independents. The main contenders are Peoples Conference's Imran Raza Ansari, Javid Riyaz Bedar of National Conference and Reyaz Ahmed Sheikh of Apni Party.

In Rafiabad constituency, 12 candidates are in the fray, with eight associated with different parties and four independents. The main contenders are Javid Ahmed Dar of National Conference, Yawer Mir of Apni Party and Abdul Gani Vakil of Peoples Conference.

In Wagoora-Kreeri assembly constituency, a total number of candidates in fray are 13, with nine party affiliates and four independents. The main contenders are Irfan Hafiz Lone of Indian National Congress, Peoples Democratic Party's Syed Basharat Bukhari and Naseer Ahmed Rather an independent candidate backed by AIP.

In Gulmarg constituency, 14 candidates are in fray, while eight belong to parties besides six independents.

In Uri, a total number of seven candidates are in fray, with four independents and three from different parties. Sajjad Shafi of National Conference, Dr Bashir Ahmed Chalkoo of Peoples Conference, Sheikh Muneeb of Peoples Democratic Party, besides Taj Mohi ud Din are the main contenders.

A total number of nine nomination papers have been rejected.

CEO Conducts Extensive Tour Of Udhampur, Reviews Election Preparedness

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: Chief Electoral Officer J&K, Pandurang K Pole Friday undertook an extensive tour of Udhampur district to assess the preparations for upcoming Assembly Elections 2024.

During the tour, the CEO also chaired a review meeting at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex in which District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai; Nodal Officers and other key officials involved in the election process participated.

During the meeting, the CEO took detailed constituency wise review with regard to enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, Expenditure Monitoring, Security plan, Transport and Communication plan besides functioning of VST and flying squads, training of poll staff, AMF at polling stations, SVEEP activities and other measures undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming general Assembly elections.

He emphasized on the strict enforcement of Election Commission of India's guidelines and urged nodal officers to ensure a fair, transparent and peaceful election process. The CEO also called for immediate sharing and uploading of any seizure-related information in compliance with ECI norms.

During the meeting, the CEO launched two key SVEEP initiatives; SVEEP Song and Coffee Table Book, both aimed at promoting greater voter awareness and participation. He stressed on the importance of stringent actions against attempts to influence voters through money

or other means, urging Nodal Officers to remain vigilant.

The Chief Electoral Officer commended the district administration's efforts and urged continued vigilance to ensure the integrity of the Assembly Election 2024. He highlighted the need for ongoing commitment and adherence to ECI guidelines throughout the election process.

During the meeting, the DEO presented a detailed, constituency-wise PowerPoint presentation outlining the measures taken to ensure a smooth conduct of upcoming general Assembly elections.

Later, the CEO visited the Media Centre and District Control Room which have been established to monitor paid news and address complaints related to MCC violations, particularly those received through the Vigil app. He directed officials to closely monitor these activities and to ensure that all complaints are redressed promptly.

Meanwhile, the CEO, accompanied by DEO, inspected designated counting centers and strong rooms at Government College for Women where Electronic Voting Machines will be securely stored.

As part of the Green SVEEP initiative, the CEO planted a sapling at GCW, symbolizing the commitment to environmental sustainability alongside electoral awareness.

The visit concluded with a vibrant cultural program at the Government Degree College Boys, Udhampur, organized by the District SVEEP Team. The performances were designed to inspire active citizen participation in the democratic process.

'Payment Of Dues To Private Hospitals To Be Disbursed Soon'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With regards to the recent directions of Hon'ble High Court of Jammu and Kashmir on 11/September which directed the UT of J&K to utilize the amount lying with it for reimbursement of medical claims, a meeting was convened by Secretary Health Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah with the private hospitals and dialysis centres of J&K in which he stressed that in compliance with the Hon'ble High Court directions, all our dues will be disbursed in the shortest possible time.

The Hon'ble high court in its order AA no 01 of 2024, dated 28/08/2024 had directed the insurance company IFFCO Tokio for the larger public interest, to continue with the existing arrangement as per terms & condition of the contract agreement but they however did not comply with the court orders.

It's pertinent to mention that The Insurance Company IFFCO Tokio had itself discontinued the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya (ABPMJAY) scheme with effect from 15.03.2024, due to which the Empanelled Health Care Providers are not receiving any payments for the treatments given to the patients under the scheme.

Faizan Mir, President (Kashmir Region) J&K Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association said, "An official meeting regarding this matter was held by the association with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in April 2024 who assured that the matter will be solved by the 1st week of May 2024. After the

failure of the release of payments an application was submitted to the Chief Secretary through CEO, Ayushman Bharat on 18th may 2024 with a request of release of the funds by 31st of May 2024 otherwise the hospitals will be forced to stop the services due to paucity of the funds".

Mir further added "On 31st May 2024, Secretary of Health conveyed an online meeting with all private hospitals and dialysis centres of Jammu & Kashmir UT whereby, it was assured that the money is safe and the matter will be sorted out soon".

Sandeep, President (Jammu region) said, "a letter addressed to the DC's of various districts were submitted in their offices mentioning the paucity of funds and collapse of the whole system if the emergency funds under their jurisdiction are not released which was however never released".

Recently the association met the Hon'ble LG last week who assured that the issue will be sorted out soon.

Dr Masood ul Hassan, General Secretary said, "based on the assurances by Secretary Health Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today that the payment will be released in the shortest possible time and for the benefit of the public at large, a decision was taken to resume the services under golden card from tomorrow morning".

The association is grateful to Hon'ble LG Shri Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Mr Atal Dulloo, Secretary H&ME Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, CEO Mr Sanjiv M Gadkar who are working on this issue on priority.

VC BGSBU Takes Stock Of New Academic Session

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Vice Chancellor Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Prof. Akbar Masood in a high level meeting of the Associate Deans of the various schools of study took stock of the various academic activities on the commencement of the new academic session in the University.

On the occasion he was informed that the class work has been started in all the teaching departments of the University. The VC expressed satisfaction over the commencement of the new academic session in University and pressed upon

the Associate Dean to ensure regular class work and in time examination of the students enrolled in various disciplines. Speaking on the occasion the Vice Chancellor said that in the past one year the University has achieved significant milestones in academics and research and many path breaking students centric initiatives have been taken for the holistic growth and development of the University. Prof. Akbar said that to strengthen the research aptitude among the undergraduate students the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University has decided to offer in-house internship opportunities to the students enrolled in various departments of the University offering UG programmes. Prof. Akbar said that the intent of the in-house internship program is to help students in developing critical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving skills, essential for academic and professional success. Prof. Akbar said that in Sync with the academic and Administrative reforms undertaken by BGSBU University as per NEP-2020 the University has started a Four Year Undergraduate Program 'Design Your Degree' from the current academic session.

The Vice Chancellor mentioned that DYD will open up new vistas of opportunities for

students to learn a diverse set of skills along with the major specialization in the 4 year degree program.

Prof. Akbar Masood said that the University has established a Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies & Research (CMSR). He said that the Centre is envisioned as a proactive embodiment of excellence, leveraging quality research, innovation & entrepreneurship. The Vice Chancellor said that in order to strengthen the research at BGSBU and as a part of the implementation of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University has adopted NET as

an entrance test for admission to the PhD program offered by the various departments and centres of the University.

This decision has been taken in view of the UGC notification wherein the UGC has requested the HELS to consider NET score for admission to PhD program instead of conducting their entrance tests from forthcoming academic session 2024-25. The Vice Chancellor said that the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University as a part of its social responsibility initiatives has decided to offer a full fee waiver to the students whose parents, both or either of the two, are suffering from Cancer.

Kohli Bats For Long, Bumrah Goes Whole Hog In India's 1st Practice Before Bangladesh Tests

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI: Batting superstar Virat Kohli spent about 45 minutes in the nets and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah bowled full tilt as the Indian cricket team on Friday began its preparations for a two-Test series against Bangladesh.

With the first Test against Bangladesh scheduled here from September 19, the entire squad, including skipper Rohit Sharma and Kohli, assembled at the MA Chidambaram Stadium for a closed-door training session.

This would be the first home assignment for new head coach Gautam Gambhir. New bowling coach, South African great Morne Morkel, and assistant coach Abhishek Nayyar were also in attendance.

The BCCI posted images of the first day of practice and wrote, "The countdown starts



as Team India begin their preps for an exciting home season."

The images showed the entire squad listening attentively to Gambhir, his support staff and skipper Rohit.

"Virat was there for 45 minutes and Bumrah also bowled full throttle," a local source told PTI. Virat has flown in

directly from London for the opening Test.

Wearing a yellow jersey, Rohit was seen emerging from the airport escorted by security personnel, in a PTI Video on Thursday night, while Kohli came from London in an early-morning flight.

The likes of Bumrah, KL Ra-

hul and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant had reached the city on Thursday. Batter Sarfaraz Khan will join the squad after the Duleep Trophy game in Anantapur, where he is playing for India B right now.

The players are returning to the field after a much-needed break of more than a month

and would look to put behind the disappointment of losing the ODI series against Sri Lanka in August, which was Gambhir's first assignment as head coach after taking over Rahul Dravid.

It would be interesting to see how Rohit's side approaches the game against a Bangladesh side, which is on a high following its 2-0 Test series win over Pakistan recently.

Vital World Test Championship (WTC) points are at stake in the two-match series as India get ready for a gruelling 10-match Test season, which also includes a three-Test series at home against New Zealand and the five-match Border-Gavaskar series later this year in Australia.

India are currently heading the table with 68.52 percentage points, while Australia are a close second with 62.50 percentage points.

PCB Head Naqvi Concerned As England Series Itinerary Yet To Get Finalised



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi is adamant on hosting the upcoming Test series against England at home, but the international cricket department's failure to finalise the itinerary has left him frustrated.

Pakistan are scheduled to face England in three Tests from October 7 with Multan, Karachi and Rawalpindi being outlined as the venues.

However, the construction work going on at these venues ahead of next year's ICC Champions Trophy has created some doubts around the availability of the stadiums there.

"With less than a month remaining for the first Test, the international department is yet to even decide where the first match would be held," an insider confided to PTI.

He said although Naqvi had shot down a proposal to move the Test series to UAE or South Africa, the department concerned is yet to formally announce the tour itinerary.

"The Chairman has made it clear that relocating the series would damage the image of the PCB, and Rawalpindi and Multan should be used as the venues for the three-match series," he said.

The board insider said even the English cricket board and the Barmy Army members were anxious to know whether the first Test will be

played at Multan or Rawalpindi.

"The Chairman is not happy because the more the announcement of venues and itinerary is delayed the more it affects the board's revenue generation opportunities from the three matches," the insider said.

In this context, the insider said the broadcasters have been struggling to sell the telecast rights of the series abroad.

"Even the broadcasters who have bought the rights to sell the series internationally are worried as they are yet to find a buyer to show the matches in the UK," he added.

"In this background, the more the announcement is delayed the more it is hitting the PCB's chances of earning good revenues from the England series."

Recently, the PCB had to stop the National under-19 championship after just one day's play in the first round of three-day matches all over the country.

"The reason for the postponement was because of various complaints that due process was not followed while selecting the regional teams and secondly the event was launched without the budget for the championship first being approved/released by the finance department of the board," he added.

The source confided that some gaps were also found in the budget submitted for the event.

I Enjoy My Battles With Kohli: Starc



Press Trust of India

Star Australian pacer Mitchell Starc has opened up on his rivalry with Virat Kohli, saying he thoroughly relishes the "good battles" with the Indian batting maestro.

The two cricketers will renew their rivalry when India

and Australia face off in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy starting in Perth from November 22.

"I enjoy my battles with Virat Kohli, it's because we've played a lot of cricket against one another," Starc told Star Sports.

"I always have some good battles. I've managed to get him out once or twice and

he's no doubt scored a fair few runs against me so it's always a good contest and one we both enjoy."

India won the trophy in the last four series, from 2016-17 to 2022-23. India had defeated Australia in their own backyard in the last two series in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Bhuttia Calls For Complete Overhaul In AIFF

Press Trust of India

The legendary Bhaichung Bhuttia has called for the ouster of the current dispensation in the All India Football Federation (AIFF), holding the sports body responsible for the decline in the national team's performance in recent times.

Bhuttia came down heavily on the AIFF, saying the absence of a roadmap for Indian football has resulted in humiliating defeat at the hands of Syria (0-3) and a tame draw against Mauritius (0-0) in the recently held three-nation Intercontinental Cup at home.



The former India captain demanded an overhaul of the AIFF administration.

"I think it's not a great sign, we have been on the decline for quite some time now. From being ranked in

the top 100 to going down at 125. I think football needs a new governing body and election and a fresh start.

"Otherwise, I think it's only going down," Bhuttia said on Friday.

Next Test For Slot Is Navigating Liverpool's Busy Schedule Amid Salah Contract Questions

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool has yet to allow a goal this season and Mohamed Salah has scored in each of the three games — all victories.

If this is what contract distractions look like at Anfield, new manager Arne Slot is fine with it.

Salah, captain Virgil van Dijk and right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold are all in the final year of their deals, and though it's still early in the Premier League season Liverpool is the only team keeping pace with defending champion Manchester City.

Slot reiterated Friday at a press conference that "we don't talk about contract situations over here" — unless there's a new deal — and said the focus is on making it four wins in a row when Nottingham Forest visits Merseyside on Saturday.

"I'm fully focused on the individuals and the team," he said about the trio in question, "and they are part of the team and trying to work with them in the best possible way to get the best out of them. So it's not a distraction for me at all."

The transition from Jurgen Klopp has been seamless.



Slot is the first manager to win his first three Premier League games without conceding a goal since Sven-Göran Eriksson at Man City in 2007.

"It's not the defense who keeps

a clean sheet — it's 11 players who keep a clean sheet," Slot said. "We try to convince them constantly about this because in an ideal world we don't need (goalkeeper) Allison. It's a team performance

that we don't concede and that has a lot to do with us putting in a lot of work without the ball."

The schedule gets busy now, though, with seven games in the next three weeks. Liverpool plays at Inter Milan on Tuesday in the Champions League.

The international break saw lots of Liverpool players logging heavy minutes for their national teams.

"Maybe in the future I sometimes would love it to be a bit different," Slot said. "It's a positive thing that we are in such a good place that we have 10 players that can play every minute for the national team. It says a lot about the quality we have."

Salah marked his 100th cap for Egypt with a goal in a 4-0 victory over Botswana on Tuesday in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier. In the Premier League this season, Salah is the only player to have scored three goals and provided three assists.

Harvey Elliott will be sidelined for several weeks because of a foot fracture, which Slot said is "a blow" for both the team and the midfielder.

"He would have had a lot of playing time in the upcoming fixtures," the manager said.

Guardiola 'Happy' Hearing Into Man City's Financial Breaches Is Starting

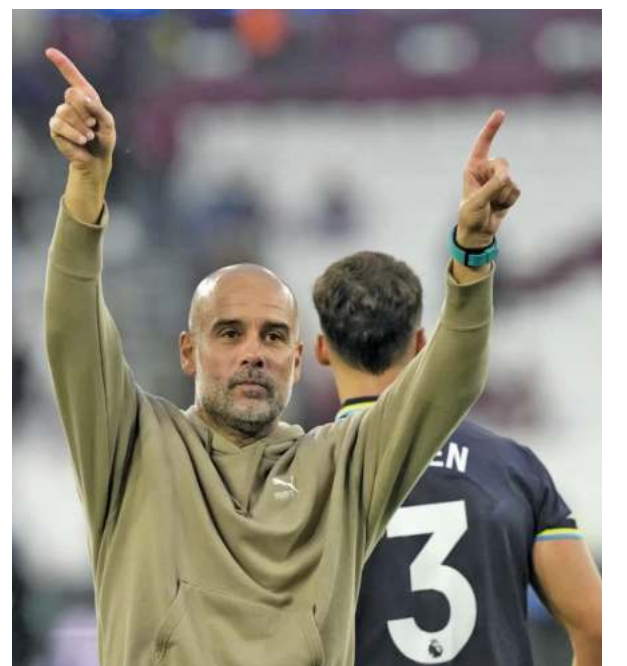
Agencies

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola has confirmed that the long-awaited hearing into Manchester City's alleged financial breaches begins on Monday.

The Premier League champion faces more than 100 charges ranging over a nine-year period when it was trying to establish itself as the biggest force in English soccer. The hearing into the charges will be held by an independent commission, which will be made up of three judges appointed by a lawyer who chairs the league's judicial panel.

City denies the charges and Guardiola said Friday that he welcomed the chance to clear the club's name. The hearing will be held behind closed doors, and a verdict is not expected until next year.

"I'm happy it's starting on Monday. I know there will be more rumors," he told a news conference. "We're going to see. I know what people are looking for. I know what they are expect-



ing, I know what I read for many, many years. ... Everybody is innocent until guilt is proven. So we'll see."

The charges, which were made in February last year, came after a four-year investigation. The alleged breaches have hung over

City at a time when it has cemented its place as one of the leading clubs in world soccer — winning the Champions League for the first time in 2023 and securing an unprecedented fourth straight league title last season.

Short TAKES

Throwball Coaching Camp Concludes In Bandipora



A Throwball coaching camp, organised by the District Bandipora Throwball Association under the aegis of the J&K Throwball Association, an affiliated body of the Throwball Federation of India, concluded in Bandipora. The camp saw participation from around 100 athletes, including students from Govt. Middle School Najan-A & Najan-B, Hajibal, and Abadpora.

The event was graced by headmasters of various government schools. They distributed certificates to all participants alongside Sadiya Fayaz, Joint Secretary of the J&K Throwball Association, and Mohammad Rafiq, Physical Educator at MS Hajan-B.

First Time In India! Test Match Called Off Without A Ball Being Bowled

The one-off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand was called off on Friday without a ball being bowled owing to incessant rain in Greater Noida, making it only the eighth instance of a match being abandoned in such a manner in the history of five-day games.

It was the first time that a Test was abandoned without any play at an Indian venue.

The first two days of the game were cancelled because of a wet outfield. The remaining three days were then washed out due to persistent rain.

Tottenham's Solanke Set to Return for Arsenal Clash

Tottenham Hotspur's new striker Dominic Solanke is back in training and should be available for Sunday's north London Premier League derby against Arsenal, manager Ange Postecoglou announced on Friday. Solanke had signed from Bournemouth in a deal worth up to 65 million pounds (\$85.47 million) but missed two games due to an ankle injury.

In addition to Solanke's return, defender Micky van de Ven will also be available for selection after missing the previous match against Newcastle United.

Cristiano Ronaldo Hits 1 Billion Followers On Social Media

Cristiano Ronaldo added another milestone to his illustrious career as he became the first celebrity to reach 1 billion followers across social media including Facebook, Instagram, X and various Chinese social media channels.

Ronaldo, who plays for Saudi club Al-Nassr, has over 630 million followers on Instagram, 113 million followers on X (formerly Twitter) and 170 million followers on Facebook.

He had recently launched his own YouTube channel, where he has already raced past 60 million subscribers.

