

Israel Attacks Lebanon, 274 Killed

Agencies

Beirut: The Israeli warplanes conducted extensive airstrikes against towns and villages across Lebanon on Monday leaving 274 people, including 21 children dead and more than a thousand wounded. It is by far the deadliest cross-border escalation since war erupted in Gaza on October 8.

Israel said it hit about 800 Hezbollah sites in south and east Lebanon during the day and carried out a "targeted strike" later in Beirut. A source close to Hezbollah said the strike on the capital targeted a senior commander.

Families from south Lebanon clogged the highways north on Monday, fleeing an expanding Israeli aerial onslaught for an uncertain future with children crammed onto parents' laps, suitcases tied to car roofs and dark smoke rising behind them.

Countless cars, vans and pickup trucks were loaded with belongings and filled with people, sometimes several generations to a vehicle, while other families had fled fast, taking only the bare essentials as bombs rained down from above, Reuters reported.

"The strength and intensity of the bombing are something we haven't witnessed before in all the previous wars," said Abu Hassan Kahoul, on his way to Beirut with his family after two buildings were levelled near the apartment block where he lives.

"Small children don't know what is happening but there's fear in their eyes," he added.

Even in Beirut there was growing alarm, and parents rushed to pull their children from schools as Israel warned of

Phase II: All Set For Polls In 26 Assembly Segments

• 25.78 Lakh Voters to Decide Fate of 239 Candidates • 3,502 Polling Stations Established Across 6 Districts



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over 25.78 lakh voters will decide the fate of 239 candidates in the second phase of General Elections to the Legislative Assembly, scheduled on 25th September, 2024.

The second phase of the Legislative Assembly Elections 2024 will cover 26 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) across six districts of Jammu & Kashmir, including Ganderbal, Srinagar and Budgam in Kashmir Division, Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu Division.

In Kashmir Division 15 ACs are up for election: 17-Kangan (ST); 18-Ganderbal; 19-Hazratbal; 20-Khanayar; 21-Habbakadal; 22-Lal

Chowk; 23-Channapora; 24-Zadibal; 25-Eidgah; 26-Central Shalteng; 27-Budgam; 28-Beerwah; 29-Khansahib; 30-Char-I-Sharief and 31-Chadoora, while as in Jammu Division 11 Assembly Constituencies, 56-Gulabgarh (ST); 57-Reasi; 58-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi; 83-Kalakote-Sunderbani; 84-Nowshera; 85-Rajouri (ST); 86-Budhal (ST); 87- Thannamandi (ST); 88-Surankote (ST); 89-Poonch Haveli and 90-Mehdhar (ST) will go for polls in this phase.

According to latest electoral rolls, 25,78,099 lakh voters are eligible to cast their ballot in this phase, comprising 13,12,730 lakh male voters, | More on P6

KASHMIR DIVISION (15 ACS)
Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam districts

JAMMU DIVISION (11 ACS):
Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch districts

- Male Voters: **13,12,730**
- Female Voters: **12,65,316**
- Third-Gender Voters: **53**
- First-Time Voters: **1,20,612**
- Persons with Disabilities (PwDs): **19,201**
- Voters Above Age 85: **20,880**

Candidates:

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

High Octane Campaigning Ends

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Ruling and opposition bigwigs led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi locked horns on the political stage as campaigning for the second phase of the Jammu and Kashmir polls ended on Monday evening.

The blazing campaign saw emotional appeals to people and uncouth remarks about rivals, as the leaders tried to woo voters of 26 assembly constituencies spread across six districts of the union territory, including the summer capital Srinagar.

There are 25.78 lakh

eligible voters in the penultimate phase of the three-phase assembly elections.

An estimated 61.38 per cent of the electorate cast their ballots in the first phase of polling on September 18, while the third phase of elections covering the remaining 40 assembly segments will go to polls in the final phase on October 1. The votes will be counted on October 8.

This is the first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370 which granted special status to the region and its bifurcation into two union territories in August 2019. The last assembly | More on P6

15,500 KPs Eligible To Vote

More than 15,500 displaced Kashmiri Pandit voters from across the country are eligible to vote at 24 polling stations in the second phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly election on Wednesday. The polling, scheduled to be held in 26 assembly segments of six districts in the Union | More on P6

Hajj 2024 Application Deadline Extended

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The online application submission dates for Hajj 2024 have been extended on Monday.

The date extended to January 15, 2024, is intended to allow more time for pilgrims to submit their applications, provided they possessed machine-readable valid Indian International Passports issued on or before January 15, 2024, and valid at least until January 31, 2025.

A circular issued by the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) reads, "For those interested in applying for Hajj 2025, the registration started on August 13, 2024, and the original deadline was September 9, 2024. However, due to popular demand, the last date for submission of Haj Application Forms has been extended to September 23, 2024, at 11:59 PM."

"Considering popular demand, the Competent Authority in the Ministry of Minority Affairs is pleased to extend the last date of submission of Haj Application Forms (HAF) to 30.09.24 11:59 Hrs," the circular added.

The circular said that eligible applicants, in possession of machine readable Indian International Passport issued on or before 30.09.2024 and valid up to 15.01.2026 may submit their applications online on the website of Haj Committee of India https://haj-committee.gov.in or through the iPhone/Android Mobile App "Haj Suvidha."

"Applicants are advised to read the Haj | More on P6

J&K Should Be Run By Locals, Not Delhi: Rahul



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the Congress wants Jammu and Kashmir to be run by locals rather than from Delhi, and promised the party would pressure the Centre to restore

J&K's statehood after the ongoing assembly polls.

Addressing back-to-back rallies at Surankote and Srinagar on the last date of campaigning for the second phase of polling on September 25, Gandhi launched a broadside against the BJP and RSS, and also attacked | More on P6

First Major Congress Show In 37 Years

The Congress' rally in Srinagar on Monday addressed by Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was the first major gathering in the Valley for the party in 37 years which marks a "new dawn" for the Congress, a party leader said. The rally was organised at | More on P6

21 Employees Suspended For Election Campaigning

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: As many as 21 government employees were suspended and five ad-hoc and casual labourers were disengaged from service for taking part in election campaigning in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Monday.

The action against the erring employees and workers was taken to ensure transparency in the ongoing assembly elections in the Union Territory, a spokesperson of the office of the Chief Electoral Officer said.

"Acting swiftly on detailed ground inquiry reports, 21 employees found involved in political campaigning have been placed under suspension while five ad-hoc employees including casual labourers and others against whom the charges of involvement in political campaigning were proved have been disengaged", the spokesperson said.

The official said 20 employees have been shifted out of the offices where they were posted and attached to other offices to ensure that they do not indulge in such behaviour which raises suspicion of their involvement in campaigning or favouring any particular party or candidate.

The CEO's office said notices have been issued to 15 employees against whom the complaints of involvement in campaigning have been received | More on P6

Heat Wave Returns To Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Severe heat wave was witnessed yet again in Kashmir parts on Monday with the gateway of Kashmir—Qazigund, recording the highest-ever day temperature in the month of September at 33.2 degree Celsius.

Jammu and Kashmir parts recorded a rise in the maximum as well as the minimum temperatures with Kashmir recording the heat wave and some parts including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recording severe heat wave today.

Data reveals that Srinagar recorded the maximum temperature of 33.7 degree Celsius, which was 6.7 degrees above normal.

In Qazigund, the mercury settled 7.6 degrees above normal temperature today, the data reveals, adding that Kokernag recorded a maximum temperature of 31.6 degree Celsius, which was 7.0 degrees above normal.

Kupwara in north Kashmir, Pahalgam a famous tourist destination and Gulmarg a ski-resort recorded maximum temperatures of 33.2 degree Celsius, 29.4 degree Celsius and 23.6 degree Celsius respectively.

However, as per the forecast, the prevalent weather conditions are expected to continue for the next three days. | More on P6

HC Quashes 2 PSA Detention Orders

Says Preventive Detention Must Be Authorized By Due Process Of Law

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Preventive detention must be authorized by the due process of law, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has observed while quashing detention orders under Public Safety Act against two detainees.

While quashing PSA detention 8 April 2024 order against a 25-year-old youth, Anjum Khan of Surankote Poonch, a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal took a serious note of the "casual approach" of the detaining authority in issuing the detention order "without

supplying the dossier to the detenu and arriving at a subjective satisfaction in absence of any cogent reasons or material."

Instead, the court said, the detaining authority merely placed reliance on two FIRs "which have no nexus with the security of the State or public order or any proximity/live link with the allegation leveled in grounds of detention."

"The inability on part of the State's police machinery to take recourse to ordinary criminal law should not be an excuse to invoke the jurisdiction of preventive detention," the court said, adding, "In the instant case, the relevant provisions in the Indian Penal Code were clearly sufficient to deal with the situation, however the respondents (authorities) have invoked provisions | More on P6

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Astronomers Can't Agree On How Fast Universe Is Expanding; New Approaches Aiming To Break Impasse

The Conversation

It is almost 100 years since scientists discovered the universe is expanding. In the decades that followed, the accuracy of the measurements, and interpretations and implications of this discovery, were a source of fierce debate. We now know the universe emerged dramatically from a highly compressed state in an event known as the Big Bang. Measurements of the present-day expansion rate, known as the Hubble constant or H_0 (pronounced H-naught), have improved considerably since those early days. However, a new debate now grips the astronomy community: two independent measurements of H_0 , which should agree, give different results. This situation has become known as the "H tension", or Hubble tension. Numerous conferences, review articles and journal papers have been dedicated to this issue. Some refer to it as a "crisis" for cosmology, requiring a paradigm shift in our understanding of the universe. The expansion of the universe is a key aspect of its history since the Big Bang, so it underpins many other elements of our understanding. Others view the H tension simply as a sign that the measurement teams do not fully understand their data and that, with better data, the "crisis" will be resolved. But its solution remains elusive. The two measurement methods at the centre of



this debate are the "distance ladder" and the "cosmic microwave background". The distance ladder is the older of the two, and has been used in various forms since the earliest detection of the universe's expansion. The first evidence came from pioneering measurements of faint cloud-like objects that we now know to be galaxies outside the Milky Way. American astronomer V.M. Slipher measured the chemical signatures in the light from these objects. Using the technique of spectroscopy to match these signatures with those of known molecules, he found their wavelengths were stretched compared with standard laboratory results. This stretching of the wavelengths of light from other galaxies, known as "redshift", is caused by the Doppler effect. This phenomenon is also responsible for the pitch of a wailing siren increasing as an emergency vehicle approaches, then decreasing as it passes. In a seminal 1917 article, Slipher announced that almost all the galaxies he'd observed were receding from the Milky Way. Slipher's data would go on to be used by Edwin Hubble in his famous 1929 study showing that the more distant a galaxy is, the faster it recedes and hence the greater its redshift. The ratio between redshift and distance is the Hubble constant. Expansion of the universe had already been anticipated by theorists. In the early 1920s, Alexander Friedmann and Georges Lemaitre independently realised that Albert Einstein's recently published theory of general relativity could predict an expanding universe, and that the implications of this would be galaxy redshifts that increase with distance.

Distance ladder

Distant galaxies are being dragged away from us because of the universe's expansion. Measurements of the Hubble constant rely on determining the connection between the distance of these objects and

the speed at which they are receding. For this reason, the units of H_0 are conventionally "kilometres per second per megaparsec", referring to the speed of an object one megaparsec away (a unit of distance used by astronomers, equivalent to about 3 million light years). Just as Slipher did a century ago, recession speeds can be readily measured using spectroscopy. However, accurate distance measurements to galaxies are notoriously difficult, so this is where the distance ladder comes in. The lowest "rung" of the ladder represents objects in the sky that are close enough that we can use direct methods to measure distance – such as the parallax method, where the motion of the Earth around the Sun creates periodic shifts in the angular position of the objects. The subsequent rungs represent measurements of progressively more distant sets of objects. These are chosen to be objects for which it is easy to

measure relative distances but, like a ruler with no numbers on it, their absolute distance must be calibrated. This function is provided by objects on the lowest rung. Cepheids – bright and massive stars that pulsate – are particularly useful as rungs due to the tight correlation between their pulsation period and brightness, discovered by Henrietta Swan Leavitt in 1908. The most distant rung is usually formed by Type Ia supernovae (explosions that occur when certain stars reach the ends of their lives), which have also provided definitive evidence that the universe's rate of expansion is increasing.

Cosmic microwaves

The other measurement method at the centre of the debate is the cosmic microwave background (CMB). This is light emitted when the universe was just a few hundred thousand years old – long before stars or planets had formed. Instead, a hot plasma filled all of space, almost perfectly uniform except for sound waves thought to have their origin at the Big Bang. The physics of the universe at this time is surprisingly simple, so we can make robust predictions about the properties of these waves. When combined with precision measurements, our mathematical models tell us what the expansion rate of the universe was at this early time. With a model for the subsequent expansion history, we can make an extremely precise prediction of H_0 .

Magic Mushrooms Found To Offer More Long-Term Benefits Than Anti-Depressants

Press Trust Of India

Psilocybin, the psychedelic drug commonly known as 'magic mushrooms', offers longer-term benefits, compared to standard antidepressants, including overall better well-being, meaning in life and social functioning, a study has found. Comparing two separate anti-depression treatments – one involving the psychedelic drug and the other involving a standard SSRI antidepressant escitalopram – researchers had previously found that after six weeks, depressive symptoms such as sadness and negative emotions had improved to similar levels. SSRI refers to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, a class of drugs commonly used to treat depression and other psychiatric illnesses. These drugs work by increasing serotonin levels in the brain, a chemical that is known to play a positive role in mood, emotion and sleep. "However, this work shows that psilocybin outperformed escitalopram (SSRI antidepressant) in several measures of well-being, meaning in life, work and social functioning. These results appeared to be maintained over a 6-month follow-up period," lead researcher Tommaso Barba, a PhD candidate from Imperial College London, UK, said. "In addition, in previous work, we had found that psilocybin also improves sexual drive, in contrast to SSRIs, which tend to lower libido in many patients. So, overall it seems psilocybin might give additional positive mental health benefits," Barba said. The findings are published in the journal eClinicalMedicine. The researchers said that psilocybin may offer an alternative to the fraction of patients who do not respond to SSRI treatment, even though they said this aspect was not tested in this study. Psilocybin, extracted from psychedelic plants, has been used for centuries across indigenous cultures in the world for inducing ecstasy and spiritual experiences. However, in medicine, the drug is still experimental and not yet approved for gen-



eral use, first author David Erritzoe, Clinical Director and Deputy Head of the Centre for Psychedelic Research, Imperial College London, said. "It is administered in highly controlled and protected environments: these precautions are not found in recreational psychedelic use, which is known for having unpredictable and potentially harmful effects, especially for vulnerable people struggling with mental health issues," Erritzoe said. For the study, the researchers included 59 patients – 30 were treated with a single dose of psilocybin, while 29 were given a six-week course of escitalopram. The participants were followed for a period of six months and received similar psychological support of around 20 hours in total. After six months, the authors found that both groups showed significant improvement in depressive symptoms. However, those given psilocybin were found to report greater improvements in social functioning and psychological connectedness. "The greater degree of improvement in the psilocybin therapy arm at follow-up on psychosocial functioning, meaning in life, and psychological connectedness warrant future research," the authors wrote. The findings are important because improving connectedness and having a greater meaning in life can significantly enhance a person's quality of life and long-term mental health, Erritzoe said. "The study suggests that psilocybin therapy might be a more holistic treatment option for depression, addressing both the symptoms of depression and overall well-being," Erritzoe added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my wards has been wrongly written in their school records which needs to be corrected as per below give details

S. No	Wrong Name	Correct Name
1	Hakeem Harram.	Harram Hakeem
2	Hakeem Arham	Arham Hakeem

If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Kashmir Valley School Humhama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Tajamul Hakeem
 F/o: Harram Hakeem, Arham Hakeem
 R/o: Al Noor Railway colony Rawalpura

rw

REMEMBRANCE ON 24TH OF SEPTEMBER



We miss your love affection, wisdom & guidance besides your memories
 We are only living up to your good moral that you left behind
 We make sure that your legacy lives forever
 You will always remain in our thoughts & Prayers.
 May Allah bless you with a place in Jannat Ul Firdous (Aameen)

Remembered by

Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Shah
 Er. Nisar Ahmad Shah

Er. Riyaz Ahmad
 Er. Ishtiaq Ahmad Shah

and Grand Sons & Grand Daughters

inf

SAD DEMISE

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Mrs Aishya Beigh W/o Late Ali Mohammad Beigh** R/o Nalbandpora, Chattabal, Srinagar, Kashmir who left for heavenly abode on September 22, 2024 morning after a prolonged illness.

May Almighty Allah grant highest Place in Jannatul Firdous to the departed soul. Ameen

The taziyat will be for 3 days only and Congregational **Fateha Khawani** will be held on September 24, 2024 at 10: 00 am at the ancestral graveyard near residence at Nalband Pora, Chattabal, Srinagar near Masjid Sharief.

Breaved Family

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'Jashn-E-Jamhoor' Event Ignites Participation Spirit Among Citizens At Polo-View

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A grand mega event titled 'Sham-e-Jamhoor' under Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative of the government was today organized at historic Polo View Market Srinagar.

The event, organized by District Election Officer Srinagar was aimed to raise awareness about the significance of voting and encourage citizens, especially the youth, to actively participate in the Assembly Election scheduled for 25th September in Srinagar District.

The event was graced by the presence of M Tharun Patnaik, Assistant Commissioner with Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, and Qazi Akhtar, UT Nodal Officer SVEEP, Ahsan-Ul-Haq Chishti, Nodal

Officer MCMC/ Media and District Nodal Officer SVEEP besides other concerned officers/ officials and large number of public were also present on the occasion.

'Jashn-e-Jamhoor', witnessed a diverse range of cultural and musical performances by the students of GHS Nawakadal, Amar Singh College and University of Kashmir, which enthralled the audience and garnered a huge round of applause from them.

The performances, which focused on the importance of voting and the power of each citizen's voice, were well-received by the audience, igniting a spirit of participation and responsibility.

The program underscored the importance of every vote and its role in shaping the democratic future of Jammu and Kashmir.



DEO Reviews Preparations For Smooth Polls In Srinagar

Dispatches Poll Parties, Election Material To Polling Stations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the arrangements for smooth and peaceful conduct of General Elections to the Legislative Assembly-2024 Assembly Elections for all Eight Assembly Constituencies of the District, the District Election Officer (DEO), Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting with Returning Officers and Zonal SPs here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was held in presence of the General Election Observer for Srinagar District.

Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Imtiyaz Hussain Mir was also present on the occasion.

At the outset, the District Election Officer took a detailed review of the arrangements and preparations made for smooth, seamless and peaceful conduct of the upcoming Assembly Elections in all Eight Assembly Constituencies of the District.

The DEO also discussed threadbare the action plan related to Dispatch of Poll parties and Election Materials to the Polling Stations on Poll Day (September 25, 2024) from Dispatch/Collection Centre's established

in Srinagar.

On the occasion, the DEO stressed the officers to ensure utmost coordination for efficient and hassle free dispatch of Poll staff and Election material to the designated Polling Stations. He further emphasized on making all required arrangements well in advance to facilitate a smooth and efficient election process.

The DEO asked them to ensure meticulous advance planning for dispatch of polling staff and Election material, adequate parking and separate entry/exit of the vehicles carrying election material from collection/distribution centre's to respective Polling stations. He also laid emphasis on placing adequate spaces for counters to be placed at Collection/Distribution Centre's in order to avoid any cluttering during distribution/ collection of election materials.

The DEO also stressed on a proactive approach by the Officers under close supervision of concerned ROs to preserve the sanctity of democratic Institutions and ensuring free, fair and polling at all polling stations.

Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz and other concerned also attended the meeting.

Readies Female, PwD Staff For Special Pink, Red Polling Booths

Srinagar: The District Election Office Srinagar conducted the final phase of election training for female and specially-abled poll personnel whose services will be utilized at special Pink and Red Polling Stations in district Srinagar.

Under the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, all eight women-managed special Pink Polling Stations and eight all PwD-manned Special Red Polling Stations have been established in the District, as directed by the Election Commission of India, to add a unique feature of inclusiveness in the on-going Legislative Assembly Elections-2024.

The participating Poll Personnel were readied to stand side by side with general poll staff and contribute in strengthening the institutions of democracy by entirely managing polling stations in the district.

The Master Trainers deputed by the DEO Srinagar delivered exhaustive training and hands-on experience sessions to equip the participating female and PwD employees with skills and knowledge to operate poll machinery on the day of elections.

At the outset, the District Election Officer took a detailed review of the arrangements and preparations made for smooth, seamless and peaceful conduct of the upcoming Assembly Elections in all Eight Assembly Constituencies of the District.

Heat Wave Leads To Water Shortage In Srinagar, Elsewhere

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Several parts of Srinagar city as well as South Srinagar, its outskirts, and neighboring areas in Budgam, are grappling with a severe water shortage, leaving residents distressed and worried.

According to the officials, the shortage has been attributed to falling water levels in most reservoirs due to the recent heat wave and fluctuating temperatures. The residents, however, are frustrated with the situation.

Many of them informed the news agency—KNO that several locations of Srinagar, along with parts of Budgam, are affected by the water shortage, leaving them frustrated and worried.

Locals from the affected areas have voiced complaints about the erratic water supply and the unavailability of water tankers.

Sahil, a local from Qamarwari, Srinagar said, "We have been facing this issue for the past few days and the tanker service is almost non-existent."

A resident from South Srinagar added, "We have been facing an acute water

shortage for the past two to three days, and it's affecting our daily lives."

Meanwhile, officials from the Jal Shakti Department, when contacted by KNO, said many reservoirs have experienced a significant drop in water levels, making it difficult to ensure an uninterrupted water supply.

"The change in temperature and a fresh heat wave have impacted the water levels in most of our reservoirs," an official said.

He added, "We have now implemented a scheduled water supply system. Under the implemented schedule, water will be provided to households between 6 AM and 11 AM, with an additional supply from 4 PM to 7 PM, while the remaining time is reserved for the reservoirs to recharge."

Asked about the shortage of tankers, the Jal Shakti Department official continued, "Many of our tankers are currently engaged in preparations for the upcoming assembly elections. The few tankers we have left are being deployed to assist the public, but we understand the concerns.

3-Day Chinar Intl Small Business Support Program Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: CHINAR International, a leading social impact organization dedicated to empowering children and youth, has successfully concluded its 3-day Small Business Support Program. The event was held at Grand Comforts Hotel in Hyderpora, Srinagar in collaboration with TISS Incube foundation, Mumbai.

The program attracted 560 applicants from across the Kashmir division from district Baramulla, Bandipora, Srinagar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Budgam, Shopian, Pulwama, and Anantnag. After a rigorous selection process, 46 candidates were shortlisted to present their business ideas, and 26 were ultimately selected for support.

The program featured intensive presentations from candidates, evaluated by a panel of experts. Local entrepreneurs, including Mr. Khalid (Lady Hut) and Ab Hamid Bhat (Rahim Motors), delivered motivational speeches, sharing their success stories. Additionally, alumni from previous cohorts, such as Rifaaz and Ahtisham from Anantnag and Srinagar respectively, inspired the new cohort by sharing their entrepreneurial journeys.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

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It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN, distress, myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMIR Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust), is initiating a free 8 weeks Group therapy for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

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Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
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- CAPD: 18001807011
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 - BUBHERA: 01932-228243
 - PAMPORE: 01933-294132
 - PATTAN: 01954-293507
 - QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

<p>HIJRI CALENDAR 19 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446</p>	<p>PRAYERS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>FAJR</td><td style="text-align: right;">4: 57</td></tr> <tr><td>ZUHR</td><td style="text-align: right;">12: 24</td></tr> <tr><td>ASR</td><td style="text-align: right;">4: 44</td></tr> <tr><td>Magrib</td><td style="text-align: right;">6: 31</td></tr> <tr><td>ISHA</td><td style="text-align: right;">7: 51</td></tr> </table>	FAJR	4: 57	ZUHR	12: 24	ASR	4: 44	Magrib	6: 31	ISHA	7: 51
FAJR	4: 57										
ZUHR	12: 24										
ASR	4: 44										
Magrib	6: 31										
ISHA	7: 51										

This Day In History

- 1493 - Christopher Columbus embarks on his 2nd expedition to the New World, setting sail with a fleet of 17 ships
- 1529 - Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and his Ottoman troops arrive in Vienna, beginning of the siege
- 1688 - France declares war on Germany
- 1706 - Treaty of Altranst dt: Charles XII of Sweden & August II of Saksen
- 1789 - President George Washington nominates John Jay for 1st Chief Justice
- 1789 - US Attorney General Office is created
- 1829 - Russia & Ottoman Empire sign Peace Treaty of Adrianople
- 1838 - Anti-Corn-Law League forms to repeal English Corn Law
- 1841 - British adventurer James Brooke obtains lands around the Sarawak river from the Sultan of Brunei
- 1850 - Papal Bull issued, establishes Roman Catholic hierarchy in England
- 1853 - France annexes New Caledonia
- 1877 - Battle of Shiroyama, decisive victory of the Imperial Japanese Army over the Satsuma Rebellion
- 1943 - Soviet forces reconquer Smolensk
- 1965 - Saudi Arabian & Egyptian accord over Yemen
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 lands on earth after 1st unmanned round trip to moon
- 1971 - 90 Russian diplomats expelled from Britain for spying
- 1975 - OPEC announces a 15% increase in government per barrel revenues
- 1978 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1979 - CompuServe began operation as 1st computer information service
- 1980 - Iraqi troops cross Iran's border, encircling Abadan
- 1981 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1982 - US, Italian & French peacekeeping troops begin arriving in Lebanon
- 1990 - Iraq invades the French and Dutch missions

From KO Archives

Traders Refusing Kashmiri Apple

400 Trucks Lying Unloaded At Azadpur Mandi

Observer News Service

Srinagar-Nearly 400 trucks laden with Kashmiri apple are stranded at the Azadpur mandi in Delhi, as traders refuse to unload them because of their preference for fruit from Himachal Pradesh.

The situation has sent a wave of concern through fruit traders in Kashmir, and the matter has been taken up with the Delhi government.

A delegation of the Fruit Growers Association said that different varieties of apple are being exported in this season and 400 trucks laden with the fruit arrived in the Azadpur mandi in Delhi four days ago.

"Traders in the capital are declining to unload the trucks because preference is being given to fruit from Himachal over that from Kashmir," it said.

The trucks are stranded at the mandi, causing deep concern among the growers community, it said. The stranding of 400 trucks has caused a shortage of vehicles to ferry fruit to outside the state, and as a result freight charges have jumped through the roof, it said.

"Only a few days ago, the freight per carton from Shopyan to Delhi was Rs 40. This had now been hiked to Rs 50," it said. Sources said that the union minister for water resources, Prof Saifuddin Soz, has conveyed his concern by raising the issue with the horticulture department in Delhi after the matter was brought to his notice by fruit traders.

(Kashmir Observer, September 24, 2000)

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Notice Inviting Applications for shortlisting of PAD items for use/sale/service at Static Catering Establishments over Firozpur Division was published in various leading National Newspapers on dated 01.09.2024 as well as on the official website of Northern Railways. Further, following changes have been made in the said notice:

Sl. No.	Name of the Items & Quality Standard	Category	Turnover per annum from sale of F & B items	Turnover per annum from sale of specific brand
1	PACKAGED DRINKING WATER (1000ml, 500ml, 300ml and 250ml) Must confirm to IS 14543:2004 standards.	B	Rs. 2.5 Crore	Rs. 2.5 Crore

Accordingly, last date for submission of applications only for shortlisting of Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) is extended upto 15.10.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. instead of 03.10.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. Further, other terms & conditions and instructions regarding the same will remain unchanged.

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Pakistan Factor In Assembly Polls

Pakistan has become a major election issue in the ongoing Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir with Kashmir-origin parties seeking engagement with it for a resolution of the Kashmir issue and the BJP rebuffing any prospect for it. The home minister Amit Shah has time and again made it clear that India won't talk to Pakistan but to the youth of Kashmir. And this has more or less been a policy of New Delhi towards Islamabad since 2014 when the BJP government took power. Although there have been efforts to kickstart an engagement between the two nations, they have been swiftly aborted after a violent incident either in Kashmir or in other parts of the country which the central government blamed on India. Last such attack which put a complete break on dialogue was on the Pathankot air force base which killed seven soldiers. After that, New Delhi never pursued a dialogue with Pakistan with any seriousness, giving up hope that it could be sustained as the major attacks in India traced to Pakistan keep happening.

The differences between the two countries are now too entrenched and irreconcilable to immediately lead to any engagement. More so, since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which have sunk the relations between the two neighbours to their lowest. Ever since, Pakistan has sought reversal of the move which India has rejected. India, on the other hand, has asked Pakistan to end support to terrorism in Kashmir, which the latter has denied it has any role in.

The mutual stance ensures that nothing changes on the ground. This position comes across invariably in the statements of the senior BJP leaders, including that of the prime minister Narendra Modi. During his campaign in the Valley, the PM has said that Pakistan is happy about the NC-Congress alliance, as, according to him, the alliance sought restoration of Article 370. The NC and the PDP, on the other hand, have sought dialogue with Pakistan. But the BJP would have none of it. In one of his interviews during the parliamentary election campaign, the PM Modi made it clear that India "shouldn't bother much about Pakistan and whether it changes its approach or not." He added that for the past 10 years he had put a lock on Pakistan being a factor in running India. "Let Pakistan manage two square meals. We don't need to waste our time," he remarked, hinting at Pakistan's dismal state of affairs.

But the defence minister Rajnath Singh, in his election speeches, seems to have kept a door open for engagement with Pakistan. Addressing poll rallies at Kotranka and Sunderbani in support of BJP candidate Choudhary Zulfikar Ali on Sunday, Singh said India was ready to embrace Pakistan and start a process of dialogue with it, provided the neighbouring country gives a guarantee that it will stop promoting terrorism on Indian soil. It may not amount to much as the defence minister has only repeated New Delhi's line on engagement with Pakistan but its framing is more conciliatory. In diplomacy and in geopolitics, the framing isn't accidental but deliberate.



Did you know?

Understanding the Importance of Financial Education and Investments: A Case for Kashmir

Irshad Mushtaq

Despite the critical importance of financial literacy, many people, especially in regions like Kashmir, remain unaware of the benefits that disciplined investments can bring. This stems from a schooling system that traditionally neglects the subject of financial education, leaving many to struggle without an understanding of how to make money work for them.

Cultural Practices and their Impact in Kashmir, the cultural practices and daily struggles often keep people continuously occupied with immediate work, leaving little room to explore concepts like passive income. The lack of financial education perpetuates a cycle where few understand the value of investments. They might make financial decisions based more on emotions than informed strategies.

The Need for Financial Literacy

A significant issue is that schools do not teach about investments or the importance of setting up passive income streams. Because of this, many find it very difficult to grasp financial concepts. It's crucial to shift this narrative. Understanding how investments can grow money over time — for instance, turning 10 today into 50 in the future — can provide much-needed financial stability.

Cultivating the Mind

Developing financial acumen involves cultivating the mind, which can be challenging but ultimately very rewarding. While ancient practices and past generations may not have focused on this, now is the time to adapt. Investing in education about financial management is the best way to ensure a secure future. This equips individuals to not only work for money but to make money work for them.

Passive Income: The Easiest Way Forward

Passive income is the simplest method to ensure additional sources of income. Unfortunately, without the needed financial education, few understand this. Bad financial decisions and the fear of the unknown result in missed opportunities. If people in Kashmir, or any other region with similar challenges, can set their minds to understanding and embracing investment opportunities, they can significantly enhance their financial stability.

Conclusion

It's vital to incorporate financial education into school curricula to break the cycle of ignorance around investments. By cultivating the brain and investing in education, individuals can create additional income sources, securing their futures and easing their daily struggles. Financial literacy isn't just about managing money; it's about empowering individuals to create lasting financial security.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M1 Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com

Assembly Elections 2024

The Rashid Factor

The 'Rashid Factor' will play a crucial role; if he does not ascend the throne himself, Rashid will undoubtedly be a potential Kingmaker

Maleeha Shafi

The granting of interim bail to Engineer Rashid from Tihar Jail has generated considerable interest within the political sphere of Jammu and Kashmir. As assembly elections approach, Rashid's re-emergence is likely to influence the competitive landscape. The electoral engagement in Kashmir has transformed, with separatists and those previously imprisoned now entering the electoral fray after a decade-long absence. Following the abrogation of Article 370, a political void had been constraining the populace of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the need for a new direction in electoral politics.

Rashid's political trajectory showcases his deep-rooted connection with the community and his ability to engage with the electorate. Transitioning from a civil engineer to a two-time MLA representing Langate, he has earned a reputation as a passionate advocate for the rights of the people. His unexpected victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, where he triumphed over former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has solidified his status as a formidable player in the region.

In 1990, Rashid, a typical site supervisor at JKPC, encountered a harrowing incident involving militants who demanded cement bags from him in an act of extortion. He steadfastly refused their demands, resulting in the militants brutally assaulting him, breaking his bones, and ultimately leaving him for dead by a river. Local residents alerted the managing director of JKPC about the severely injured site supervisor, who was promptly taken to the hospital. The managing director was deeply moved by Rashid's courageous stand, which led to his promotion to a permanent engineering position at JKPC. This marked the beginning of the legacy of "Engineer Rashid."

Beginning his political career in 2008, Rashid founded the Awami Ittehad Party in 2013, championing human rights and the restoration of the Power Project managed by Delhi. Throughout his journey, he has made headlines with his controversial remarks, particularly his assertive stance on the Kashmir conflict, which has garnered him substantial public support. Rashid emerged as a beacon of hope for the populace at a time when other leaders lacked the fortitude to hold governments accountable for disruptions to peace. He articulated a vision of peace for the general public, emphasising that it can only be achieved through dialogue, famously stating,

"Peace cannot come from the barrel of a gun."

Rashid's message strikes a powerful chord with the public, infusing his appeal with a significant "sympathy factor." In 2019, during the detention of approximately 6,000 political prisoners, Rashid found himself entangled in a UAPA Terror Funding Case, leading to his imprisonment in Tihar. His subsequent release has ignited speculation, with supporters dismissing any dissenting opinions as "bigotry," especially those hinting at BJP involvement. Critics argue that Rashid serves as a proxy for the BJP in Kashmir, raising questions about whether his release is part of a broader political manoeuvre.

In contrast, individuals like Waheed Para and Farooq Abdullah continue to navigate their political paths despite facing UAPA charges in recent years. Does this suggest they too are involved in a proxy game? Omar Abdullah aligned with the NDA in 2001 taking on the role of Minister of State for external affairs in Vajpayee's government. Mehbooba Mufti was the first to collaborate with the BJP, establishing a coalition government in 2014. Such historical alliances are crucial to consider.

Despite being incarcerated in Tihar jail, his son successfully rallied public trust and support, securing him a seat in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024 beating Omar Abdullah and



It is particularly noteworthy that among all the manifestos for assembly elections 2024, Rashid's stands out for its strong emphasis on human rights and land rights issues

Sajad Gani Lone, two political giants in Kashmir politics. The sentiments and confidence of the public play a pivotal role in Rashid's widespread appeal. His words resonate deeply with the people, inspiring them to raise their hands in solidarity and cheer for their leader. The slogan "Jail ka badla vote se" played a vital role in cultivating public sentiment for incarcerated Rashid.

The victory in Lok Sabha elections invigorated spirits, as it indicates that the populace has embraced the notion of a new political framework spearheaded by the youth. Furthermore, Rashid's humility and his opposition to elite culture have significantly contributed to his public support, ultimately enhancing his political achievements.

It is particularly noteworthy that among all the manifestos for assembly elections 2024, Rashid's stands out for its strong emphasis on human rights and land rights issues. The historical context of 1987, when Sheikh Abdullah earned the title of "Sheikh" by granting land rights to tenants, underscores the significance of land in shaping leadership stature. Rashid's AIP manifesto is built around the principles of Dialogue, Diplomacy, and Self-Determination, offering promising prospects for both landlords and small horticulture entrepreneurs. A key focus of the AIP manifesto is the demilitarisation of Jammu and Kashmir and the cessation of human rights violations.

"Kashmir is not merely a law and order issue; it is a political matter that demands a political resolution."

Rashid's influence transcends mere electoral success. His capacity to bring attention to critical issues, such as alleged human rights abuses, resonates with the populace. His campaign, centred on themes of empowerment and justice, instils a renewed sense of hope among the youth and marginalised groups. AIP's slogan, "Kashmir ki Majboori hai AIP zaroori hai," resonates the same.

Historically, Rashid has attracted the attention of both regional and national political parties during coalition discussions. His capacity to influence the balance in a hung assembly or a divided electoral result renders him either a significant ally or a formidable adversary, contingent upon the situation. The established parties have remained reticent

regarding Rashid's detention, neglecting to express any dissent or concern about his imprisonment. Nevertheless, Rashid will have a decisive influence making him a 'Kingmaker' of this election.

The AIP's capacity to garner votes in crucial regions has established it as a pivotal entity in the fragmented political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, where no single party typically secures a definitive majority. The party's position frequently attracts the attention of larger political entities, given AIP's influence in rural especially North Kashmir and often underrepresented regions of Kashmir, making its backing essential in coalition-building efforts.

In this election, Rashid is running in alliance with candidates from Jamaat-e-Islami, thereby securing substantial support. Through this strategy, Rashid aims to enhance his electoral prospects within the already crowded and competitive political environment of Kashmir. Political analysts view this development as a significant achievement for democracy, as separatists, previously distanced from the electoral process, are now participating by contesting elections. The longevity of this collaboration would depend upon the shared goals of AIP and JeI. Rashid has strongly advocated for the JeI agenda being resonating with AIP's agenda both vouching for peaceful Kashmir.

Nonetheless, the timing of Rashid's release has sparked skepticism, with some questioning the underlying motives. Critics suggest that his return could disrupt the political landscape in the Valley, potentially favouring certain parties. There are concerns that his presence might negatively impact the electoral chances of established political factions in north Kashmir. Therefore, the 'Rashid Factor' will play a crucial role; if he does not ascend to the throne himself, Rashid will undoubtedly be a potential Kingmaker.

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



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Onions are making us cry

The price of onions has seen a steep rise in the country once again in the last few weeks. Onion is the staple food of the common man and it is required by us daily, not only for

cooking but even for making salads, raita and snacks items like poha. Without onions, we are unable to cook our food.

The government must control inflation and must do something to

bring down the price as a relief to the families of the lower and middle-class income groups. The steep price rise of onions is bringing tears to our eyes and making us cry bitterly. Potatoes, tomatoes, and onions are

vital ingredients in Indian cooking, and any significant price increase in these items can disrupt the monthly budget of households.

Jubel D'Cruz

The Facebook Prescription

Kashmiri Women's Digital Quest for Health Answers Amid Limited Resources

Arbeena

Fatima, a 28-year-old woman from a rural area in Kashmir, sits nervously in front of her smartphone, her fingers hovering over the screen. She's been experiencing unusual abdominal pain for weeks but hasn't visited a doctor. The nearest hospital is miles away, and the thought of discussing her symptoms with the male doctor makes her uncomfortable. With a deep breath, she types her concerns into a popular Facebook group for Kashmiri women, hoping for advice and support from others who might understand her situation.

This scene depicts a complex intersection of healthcare deficiencies, cultural norms, and technological adaptation. Our recent research into the health-related social support sought by Kashmiri women in an online group has unveiled a critical phenomenon in healthcare access and support, shedding light on both the resilience of these communities and the inadequacies in the region's formal healthcare infrastructure. The healthcare scenario for women in Kashmir is challenging, to say the least. Years of instability have led to an underdeveloped healthcare system, with a severe shortage of facilities, equipment, and trained medical professionals. This scarcity is particularly acute in women's healthcare. Many areas lack dedicated women's health clinics, and the number of female healthcare providers is low. As a result, women often find themselves without access to essential services, from routine check-ups to specialized care.

Compounding these infrastructural deficiencies are deeply rooted cultural and societal norms that often limit women's autonomy in health-related decisions. In many parts of Kashmir, discussing women's health issues, particularly those related to reproductive health, remains taboo. Women are often expected to prioritize family responsibilities over their own health needs, and the idea of a woman traveling alone to seek medical care can be met with social disapproval. These norms create significant barriers to healthcare access, leaving many women to suffer in silence or seek alterna-



tive sources of support and information.

It is within this context that online communities have emerged as a crucial lifeline for Kashmiri women. Our study focused on a Facebook group with over 30,000 members, analyzing the health-related social support that take place in this virtual space. The research findings paint a stark picture of the healthcare gaps these women are navigating:

- **Prevalence of Informational Support:** A striking 86% of messages in the group were seeking informational support, emphasizing the critical need for accessible health information.
- **Women-Specific Health Concerns:** The most common health-related topics for which social support was requested were specifically related to women's health issues—pregnancy, infertility, postpartum care, menstrual issues.

These findings reveal a community that has turned to digital platforms out of necessity, creating a space where women can discuss health concerns openly,



These findings reveal a community that has turned to digital platforms out of necessity, creating a space where women can discuss health concerns openly, seek advice, and offer support to one another. The high prevalence of informational support messages is worth noting. It suggests that there's a significant knowledge gap when it comes to women's health issues

seek advice, and offer support to one another. The high prevalence of informational support messages is worth noting. It suggests that there's a significant knowledge gap when it comes to women's health issues. This could be due to a lack of comprehensive health education, limited access to healthcare providers, or cultural barriers that prevent open discussions about women's health. The prevalence of queries about pregnancy, infertility, postpartum care and other issues indicates the significant gaps in maternal healthcare services in the region. Women appear to be seeking information and support online for issues that ideally should be addressed by healthcare professionals. This raises concerns about the accessibility and quality of prenatal, postnatal, and reproductive healthcare services in Kashmir. Moreover, the discussions about menstrual issues and general reproductive health highlight the persistent taboos surrounding women's health in the region. The online group seems to provide a safe space for women to discuss topics that may be considered too sensitive or embarrassing to broach in their immediate social circles or even with healthcare providers.

Further, these online communities highlight the need for broader societal changes. The fact that women feel more comfortable discussing health issues anonymously online than seeking care in person points to the persistence of taboos and restrictive norms. Addressing these cultural barriers is crucial for improving women's health outcomes in Kashmir.

As we move forward, it's essential that stakeholders at all levels—policymakers, healthcare providers, NGOs and others—take action to address the issues highlighted by this research. The women of Kashmir, like Fatima, have demonstrated incredible resilience and ingenuity in the face of significant challenges. Their use of digital platforms to create supportive health communities is interesting, but it should not be seen as a long-term solution to the region's healthcare deficiencies. Instead, it should serve as a catalyst for meaningful change, inspiring efforts to build a healthcare system that truly meets the needs of all women in Kashmir. As researchers and society at large, we have a responsibility to listen to these women's stories, understand their challenges, and work towards solutions that respect their experiences and needs. Only by addressing both the infrastructural gaps in healthcare and the societal norms that restrict women's access to care, can we hope to create a future where no woman has to rely solely on an online forum for her essential health needs.

- **Improved access to women's healthcare services, particularly in the areas of reproductive and maternal health; need for more female healthcare providers and better-equipped medical facilities.**
- **Comprehensive health education programs that address the specific needs and concerns of women in the region.**
- **Initiatives to break down cultural taboos surrounding women's health, encouraging more open discussions and timely care-seeking behaviors.**
- **Development of reliable,**

easily accessible sources of health information tailored to the needs of Kashmiri women.

Note: The full research article is available in the Health Marketing Quarterly journal, published by Taylor & Francis Group. Readers can access it at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07359683.2024.2346685>

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Our (Mis)Perceptions of Time

Iskra Fileva

Our perception of time is peculiar. We do not have an organ that measures time as we have organs for sounds, smells, or images. There are no time hallucinations or time illusions in the way there are visual or auditory ones. (Some have suggested that the whole experience of the passage of time is a grand illusion, but we need not worry about that here.)

The reason we don't talk about time hallucinations and illusions is not that our perception of time is always veridical; rather, it's because when time seems to us to pass faster or more slowly than it really does, we do not call that an illusion. While time passes at a constant rate of one hour per hour, we take it for granted that it doesn't always need to feel that way.

In other words, there is time, and there is our experience of time, and the two need not align. But why?

OVER THE COURSE OF A DAY

Our perception depends, perhaps most obviously, on the activity we are engaged in and on our state of mind. Time seems to pass very quickly when people are fully absorbed in the task at hand and are in a state that some psychologists have called "flow." It appears to pass more slowly when we are bored, and more quickly when we are worried. Consider a passage from

Thomas Mann's novel *The Magic Mountain*:

"There is a case of a passage of miners buried and shut off from every possibility of knowing the passage of day and night, who told their rescuers that they had estimated the time they had spent in darkness, flickering between hope and fear, to be some three days. It had actually been ten. Their high state of suspense might, one would think, have made time seem longer than it actually was, whereas it shrank to less than a third of its objective length."

Research offers empirical confirmation that anxiety makes it seem as though time is passing by faster. It seems to slow down when we wait with impatience. (Meditation practitioners may be able to produce in themselves a state of absorption and counteract the impatience.)

There is also the curious phenomenon of time "dilation" or time's "running in slow motion" during a frightening and life-threatening event. The case is a very interesting one and deserves a separate discussion.

I know someone who experienced this in the course of a bad accident, and he reported that the type of "slowing down" involved is unique and nothing like the slowing down of time due to boredom, as when you wait in line with nothing to do. Rather, it was, he said, a feeling that everything was happening in every mo-



tion—like viewing a tape of an event at half speed. (Interestingly, this type of experience is sometimes conveyed in movies also—say a character would see a threatening object approaching, and the object would be shown moving at slower than the expected speed.)

WHY DOES OUR PERCEPTION OF TIME CHANGE?

How and why that happens are good questions, and different answers to them have been proposed. One hypothesis is that we are thinking faster in those situations and that this makes it seem as though time is slowing down. According to another hypoth-

esis, people take in a lot of new memories, and this makes them misremember their own experience.

My own hunch is that our tendency to experience time as slowing down in force majeure circumstances is a protective mechanism which allows us to calm down and act with clarity and without panic. But I leave a fuller treatment of the issue for another occasion.

TIME PERCEPTION THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES

There is one type of pattern in our perception of time that we see systematically, a pattern that may well be universal: Time seems to pass more

slowly when we are children. It does not matter what activities we are and were engaged in or how interesting or not our childhood was compared to our adulthood: Time seems to pass faster as we age, for everybody. Why?

I wish to suggest that there are three main reasons. The first is that adults do a lot of "mental time travel"—we are always thinking about the past or the future, and the present slips away unnoticed. In his *Pensées*, Pascal says, similarly: "Let each of us examine his thoughts; he will find them wholly concerned with the past or the future. We almost never think of the present, and

if we do think of it, it is only to see what light it throws on our plans for the future."

There is a good deal to say here about the effect of this tendency on our chance of happiness, but I have discussed this issue elsewhere. The important point for present purposes is that children do not, as a rule, spend time reminiscing or anticipating future events, because they don't have memories that go back a long far, and they have little control over their future or clear idea of what it may hold for them.

The second point is that a year is a much bigger proportion of the life of a child than it is of that of adults. This may matter in the way in which our physical size matters to our perception of the size of other things. A small swimming pool might look like an Olympic-sized one to a preschooler, because it's big compared to her. Similarly, a year in the life of a 6-year-old is 1/6th of the child's life, but in the life of a 60-year-old, it is 1/60th. That matters. We are the measure of all things and from here, of the size of things.

There is a final reason adults and children perceive time differently. A child typically does not have life plans that she thinks she ought to realize before she dies, so there is no rush. She feels little pressure to check items off her bucket list, or realize her potential, or make something of herself. While an overly ambitious parent may think

his kindergartner is behind somehow, no kindergartner feels that way.

A young child is typically waiting with impatience the arrival of adolescence and adulthood, vaguely feeling that she would then be able to make her decisions and carry out plans. An adult, by contrast, is not waiting with impatience for old age and not simply because old age does not sound nearly as fun as young adulthood: An adult often feels behind. Hardly any of us, even the least ambitious, have done everything we wanted to in the time we've already lived. We feel behind on life.

An elderly tailor I used to go to said once that life was like a roll of toilet paper—each rotation is slow at first but gets faster and faster as there is less and less paper left. I knew just what he meant. You probably do too.

What is worse is that thinking about how quickly time is passing takes time. This thought itself—one that children do not have—distracts us from the present and both robs us of the opportunity to make the best of the present and makes it so that the present will fly by unnoticed. Time always passes quickly when there isn't much of it. And there is never a lot of time if we spend much of the time we have fretting about how little is left.

The article was originally published by *Psychology Today*

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Israel Attacks

more strikes. "The situation is not reassuring," said a man called Issa, coming to pick up a young student.

Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said the Israeli strikes that began in the morning killed 274 people, including 21 children and 39 women. He said about 5,000 people had been wounded since Tuesday.

World powers have implored Israel and Hezbollah to pull back from the brink of all-out war, with the focus of violence shifting sharply in recent days from Israel's southern front with Gaza to its northern border with Lebanon.

Abiad said "thousands of families from the targeted areas have been displaced".

The Israeli military also warned people living in the Bekaa valley, in eastern Lebanon, to flee their homes, as it announced it was "broadening" the scope of its strikes.

Explosions around the ancient city of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon triggered flashes of fire and sent smoke billowing into the sky.

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) later reported new "enemy raids targeted the mountain" areas in the Baalbek region and several towns and villages, adding that "the Israeli enemy" launched a strike on the town of Hermel.

Hezbollah fired rockets at military sites near Haifa.

It later said it launched "dozens of rockets" at two Israeli bases "in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks on the south and the Bekaa".

The NNA said Lebanese had received phone messages from Israel telling them to "quickly evacuate".

Hezbollah, a powerful political and military force in Lebanon, has exchanged near-daily fire with Israel in support of besieged people in Gaza.

- Israel changing 'security balance' - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel was preempting threats and was acting to change the "security balance" in the north.

Hezbollah's deputy chief, Naim Qassem, said Sunday the group was in a "new phase, namely an open reckoning" with Israel, and ready for "all military possibilities".

They spoke after Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel caused damage in the area of Haifa, a major city on Israel's north coast.

On Sunday morning, hundreds of thousands of people in northern Israel fled to their bomb shelters as Hezbollah fired a barrage of rockets across the border.

The attack came after an Israeli air strike in Hezbollah's southern Beirut stronghold on Friday killed its elite Radwan Force commander, Ibrahim Aqil, along with other commanders and civilians.

Last week on Tuesday and Wednesday, co-ordinated communications device blasts that Hezbollah blamed on Israel killed 39 people and wounded almost 3,000.

Since the cross-border exchanges between Israel and Hezbollah began in October, tens of thousands of people on both sides have fled their homes.

"We sleep and wake up to bombardment... that's what our life has become," said Wafaa Ismail, 60, a housewife from the southern Lebanese village of Zawtar.

An Israeli military official on Monday outlined the goals of the military operation.

It seeks to "degrade threats" from Hezbollah, push them back from the border, and then to destroy infrastructure built near the frontier by Hezbollah's Radwan Force, the official said.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati urged the United Nation and world powers to deter what he called Israel's "plan that aims to destroy Lebanese villages and towns".

- Another Gaza? -

US President Joe Biden, whose country is Israel's main ally and weapons supplier, said his administration was "going to do everything we can to keep a wider war from breaking out".

Ahead of the annual General Assembly in New York, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned of Lebanon becoming "another Gaza" and said it was "clear that both sides are not interested in a ceasefire" there.

Speaking at the General Assembly, Masoud Pezeshkian, the recently elected president of Iran -- which backs Hezbollah and Hamas -- accused Israel of seeking "to create this wider conflict".

The UNIFIL peacekeeping force in south Lebanon meanwhile warned that "any further escalation of this dangerous situation could have far-reaching and devastating consequences".

Phase II: All Set

12,65,316 lakh female voters and 53 third-gender voters.

Underlining the significance of the role played by youth of Jammu and Kashmir in strengthening the democracy, as many as 1,20,612 lakh voters aged 18 to 19 are eligible to vote in phase-II of the Assembly Elections. Among these, 11,294 are male and 10,065 are female first-time voters.

This phase will also see participation from 19,201 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) voters and 20,880 voters above the age of 85.

During this phase, 93 candidates are in fray in Srinagar district, followed by 46 in Budgam district, 34 in Rajouri district, 25 in Poonch district, 21 in Ganderbal district, while 20 candidates are contesting in Reasi district.

In Reasi district, 6 candidates are in fray in Gulabgarh (ST) AC; 7 candidates in Reasi AC; while 7 candidates are contesting in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi AC.

In Rajouri district, 11 are in fray Kalakote-Sunderbani AC; 5 candidates in Nowshera AC; 8 candidates in Rajouri (ST) AC; 4 candidates in Budhal (ST) AC, while 6 candidates are contesting in Thannamandi (ST) AC.

In Poonch district, 8 candidates are in fray in Surankote (ST) AC; 8 candidates in Poonch Haveli AC; while 9 candidates are contesting in Mendhar (ST) AC.

Similarly, in Ganderbal district, 6 candidates are in fray in Kangan (ST) AC and 15 candidates

are contesting in Ganderbal AC.

In Srinagar district, 13 candidates are in fray in Hazratbal AC; 10 candidates in Khanyar AC; 16 candidates in Habbakadal AC; 10 candidates in 22-Lal Chowk AC; 8 candidates in 23-Channapora AC; 10 candidates in 24-Zadibal AC; 13 candidates in 25-Eidgah AC; while 13 candidates are contesting in 26-Central Shalteng AC.

Finally, in Budgam district, 8 candidates are in fray in 27-Budgam AC; 12 candidates in 28-Beerwah AC; 10 candidates in 29-Khansahib AC; 10 candidates in 30-Charar-I-Sharief AC; while 6 candidates are contesting in 31-Chadoora AC.

The Srinagar district has a total of 7,76,674 registered voters, including 3,87,722 males, 3,88,922 females, and 30 transgender voters across eight Assembly constituencies. A total of 932 polling stations are spread across these constituencies, ensuring that every registered voter has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

The Rajouri has 4,92,008 electorates which includes 2,56,215 males, 2,35,786 females, and 7 transgender voters. A comprehensive network of 745 polling stations has been established across the district.

The Budgam District has a total of 5,11,864 voters across its five Assembly constituencies; 2,59,688 male voters, 2,52,163 female voters, and 13 transgender voters. A total of 639 polling stations are spread across the two Assembly constituencies, ensuring that every registered voter has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Poonch District is divided into three Assembly constituencies, with a total of 3,52,330 registered voters; 1,80,584 males and 1,71,746 females. To facilitate the voting process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 483 polling stations across both constituencies.

The Reasi district has registered a total of 2,37,205 voters, including 1,24,359 males, 1,12,843 females, and 3 transgender across its three Assembly constituencies. ECI has established 436 polling stations throughout the district.

The Ganderbal district has 2,08,018 registered voters, including 1,04,162 male and 1,03,856 female voters. A comprehensive network of 267 polling stations has been established by the ECI for free, fair and transparent elections. To facilitate the voters for smooth and hassle free electoral participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 3502 polling stations with 100% web-casting across 26 Assembly Constituencies. These include 1056 Urban Polling stations and 2446 Rural Polling stations.

To enhance voter participation, 157 Special polling stations have been established in second phase including 26 polling booths managed by women as Pink Polling Stations, 26 polling stations manned by specially abled persons, 26 polling stations manned by youths, 31 Border polling stations, 26 green polling stations and 22 Unique Polling stations. The voting will take place from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm.

High Octane

elections were held in 2014.

Modi addressed two rallies, one each in Srinagar and Katra in Reasi district, on September 19, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed rallies in Mendhar, Surankote, Thanamandi, Rajouri and Nowshera in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also dashed to the two districts in the Jammu region to canvas for the BJP candidates and addressed rallies in Poonch, Budhal and Sunderbani during his daylong tour on Sunday.

Both Shah and Singh addressed rallies in Akhnoor and Sainik colony in Jammu, while BJP president J P Nadda also visited Jammu to attend election-related events.

The star campaigners of the Congress included its president Mallikarjun Kharge and the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi addressed two rallies -- one in the Surankote constituency in Poonch and another in the Central-Shalteng segment in Srinagar -- to pull the curtains on the high-pitched campaign of the Congress.

The BJP also deployed several of its union ministers and senior party functionaries, including Jitendra Singh and G Kishan Reddy for campaigning, while the Congress campaign featured AICC national secretary Sachin Pilot, Alka Lamba and other leaders.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah extensively campaigned for his party candidates on either side of the Pir Panjal Mountain Range while his son and vice president Omar Abdullah largely focused on the

valley seats as he is contesting from Ganderbal and Budgam segments.

Iltija Mufti seems to have taken over the mantle of lead campaigner for the PDP as party president Mehbooba Mufti was not as active as she used to be in earlier elections.

The campaign had its share of emotional moments particularly the cap-removing gesture by Omar Abdullah while seeking support from the people of Ganderbal. The former chief minister impressed upon people that it was not only his dignity that was at stake but of all people.

There were also incidents of the discourse going downhill with some candidates using foul language against their rivals.

Sugra, the daughter of jailed separatist leader Sarjan Ahmad Barkati, was at the receiving end of verbal abuse as she campaigned for her father, contesting from Ganderbal and Beerwah segments.

The second phase of polling on September 25 will decide the political fate of 239 candidates, including former chief minister Omar Abdullah.

Other prominent candidates in the fray include Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina (Nowshera constituency), Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra (Central-Shalteng), Apni party president Altaf Bukhari (Channapora), former ministers Ali Sagar (Khanyar), Rahim Rather (Charar-i-Sharief), and Choudhary Zulfikar (Budhal) and Syed Mushtaq Bukhari (Surankote), both of whom are fighting on a BJP ticket.

Officials said the political blitzkrieg witnessed over the past few weeks ended peacefully at 6 pm on Monday for the mandatory 48-hour 'silence period' before the conclusion of the daylong polling on Wednesday which is scheduled to start at 7 am.

According to officials, the highest 93 candidates are trying their luck from eight seats of Srinagar district, followed by 46 in five seats of Budgam district, 34 in five seats of Rajouri district, 25 in three seats of Poonch district, 21 in two seats of Ganderbal district and 20 in three seats of Reasi district.

A total of 3,502 polling stations have been set up in the poll-bound constituencies with adequate security arrangements to ensure peaceful polling, the officials said.

15,500 KPs Eligible

Territory on September 25, will decide the fate of 239 candidates.

The displaced Kashmiri Pandits will be exercising their right to franchise in the 15 segments of central Kashmir's Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts.

"Over 15,500 Kashmiri migrant voters are eligible to cast their votes at 24 special polling stations set up in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi tomorrow for the second phase of elections," Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Arvind Karwani said.

Karwani, who is supervising the election process, said over 14,700 such voters are registered in Jammu to exercise their right to franchise at 19 polling stations here.

Similarly, over 600 Kashmiri migrant voters are registered in Delhi to cast their votes at four polling stations in Delhi and over 350 at one such polling station in Udhampur, he said.

Although the majority of Kashmiri Pandit population lives in Delhi and NCR areas, a minuscule number of over 600 have registered for the polling in current assembly elections.

Karwani, who is supervising to facilitate better arrangements and facilities for the displaced community voters, said all arrangements have been made for free and fair polling on Wednesday.

Over 25.69 lakh voters will decide the fate of leaders such as former chief minister Omar Abdullah, Congress Pradesh chief and former minister Tariq Hamid Qarra, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina, Apni Party chief Syed Altaf Bukhari, ministers Ali Mohammad Sagar and Abdul Rahim Rather, including four Kashmiri Pandits in the fray.

Hajj 2024 Application

guidelines 2025 carefully before submitting their Haj applications forms," the circular added.

J&K Should Be

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the INDIA bloc has 'broken his psychology' after the Lok Sabha elections.

"Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's psychology and confidence stands 'broken', the INDIA Alliance will 'exert a pull' on the centre in case Jammu and Kashmir did not have its constitutional rights restored post assembly elections," Rahul Gandhi said.

"I guarantee you that we will have it restored. In fact, we had hoped for this to happen before

the assembly elections," Rahul said, addressing a mammoth gathering in support of INDIA Alliance candidate and PCC chief Tariq Hameed Karra at central Shalteng constituency.

"Modi used to boast about a 56-inch chest but he is not the same person anymore. His expression has completely changed, as has his attitude. People of India, the Congress and the INDIA Alliance have completely changed his appearance and temperament," added Rahul.

Rahul said that earlier governments in J&K were run by locals and their decisions were meant for "your better future and in your interest".

"Today, outsiders are making decisions for you and your voice is not there in your government. Your government is run from Delhi, orders are coming from Delhi. We want your government to be run from J&K," he told the gathering.

He asked people to feel free to reach out to him to raise any issue in Parliament. "I am always available for you, just give me an order and I am there to help you."

"Farooq sahib talked about hatred in the country. The BJP and RSS are spreading hatred in J&K and other states 24-hours a day. Wherever they go, they spit one brother against another. They have spread hatred in J&K, UP, Bihar, Manipur and across the nation. They only know this thing and nothing else. Their politics is based on hatred," Rahul said.

Hatred cannot be conquered by hatred but love, Rahul said.

The J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, was also met with harsh criticism by the Congress leader, who did not hold back in calling Sinha an 'outsider', saying he runs J&K without understanding the true meaning of 'progress and development'.

"Not only did he (Modi) steal the democratic rights of the people of J&K, but decisions that they used to make through their elected MLAs on development, education, universities, colleges or health related matters are now made by outsiders. Since he is not a resident of J&K, the (Raja) monarch known as LG is an outsider who is unable to bring about the growth and advancement that the people of J&K desire," the Congress leader said.

"We want J&K's people to elect their leaders, MLAs, form their own government, and begin carrying out development projects on their own and that's why we want statehood in J & K to be restored at the earliest," he added.

In the last 10 years, Modi and the BJP leaders, according to Rahul, have instilled fear throughout the nation by dividing people along linguistic lines, inciting hatred wherever they go, and setting up rivalries amongst siblings and dividing people on regional lines.

"The people of J&K understand that hatred can only be vanquished by love, and not by hatred per se. Hatred is met with love instead of hatred. This is what your history; ideology and culture have taught you. We travelled 4000 km, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, and wherever the BJP had created a market of hatred, we opened a shop of love there," the Congress leader said.

Since the UTs were generally elevated to the status of states in the past, he claimed, J&K is the only state in India's constitutional history to be demoted to a union territory. "For the first time, a full-fledged state was turned into a UT and your democratic rights were snatched."

Referring to the now defunct HMT watch factory, located at the stone's throw from the venue of the rally, Rahul said the BJP has closed many such factories across the country.

"Modi administration waived 16 lakh core rupee loans of three billionaires and that the poor, farmers, laborers, women, and students in India are not granted the same privileges," he said.

"They only work for a few billionaires; they shuttered all small and medium-sized firms, monetized the economy, and pushed the GST bill into parliament. As a consequence, youth in India and J&K are unemployed, regardless of their level of education--This is what Modi has given the country, and this is what their politics is based on," he added.

Rahul also mocked PM Modi's lengthy speeches at his Man Ki Baat program, saying that no one is paying attention to him because he doesn't talk enough about (Kam ki Bat) the 'matter of work' which entails tackling inflation, managing unemployment, and providing hope for the future of India and J&K.

First Major Congress

Zainakote on the outskirts of the city by Pradesh Congress Committee president and former minister Tariq Hamid Karra who is contesting from the Central-Shalteng assembly segment.

"The historic rally is the first major gathering for the party in Srinagar in the past three

decades -- a new dawn for the Congress in Kashmir," the party leader said.

Thousands of enthusiastic Congress workers and supporters including a sizable number of women greeted Gandhi with high-pitch sloganeering as he reached the venue.

"This event marks a historic moment, the first-of-its-kind in Srinagar since 1987. Let us make our voices heard and our presence felt," Karra, a former member of parliament, said.

He emphasised Gandhi's commitment to Kashmir, highlighting his "fearless advocacy" for the region.

"Rahul Gandhi has shown that he is a true leader, focused on uplifting the backward and marginalised communities. We want him to lead our country, to bring about the change we so desperately need," the Congress leader said.

He accused the BJP of dividing the country on the basis of religion and urged people to stand against them.

"Today, we stand united against forces dividing our country on the basis of religion. The BJP's agenda is clear, but we will not be swayed. We will respond with our votes, and I urge you to vote for the Congress," he said.

HC Quashes 2

of the Public Safety Act to indirectly achieve something which could not be achieved directly by them. i.e. the detention of the petitioner (Anjum)."

Referring to law laid down by the Supreme Court, the Court said that it is of the view that the cases of preventive detention must be authorized by the due process of law.

"Since the detenu (Anjum) was denied of his right of making effective representation as the dossier was not given to the detenu, which is the basic right enshrined under the Constitution, such a violation of fundamental rights amounts to gross violation of personal liberty and right to life," the court said, adding, "Thus, the order impugned which is violative of basic fundamental rights cannot sustain the test of law and is liable to be set aside. Moreover, no compelling reason has been recorded by the detaining authority which could be the basis of detaining the detenu and on this ground also, the impugned order cannot sustain in the eyes of law."

Subsequently, the court quashed the detention order of Anjum and ordered him "to be set at liberty forthwith, if not required in any other case(s)."

Meanwhile, a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti quashed PSA detention order, dated 9 March this year, against a 45-year-old Talib Hussain alias Javed, of Mendhar Poonch.

"The manner in which ...District Magistrate, Poonch responded to the dossier of ...Sr. Superintendent of Police (SSP), Poonch against the petitioner (Talib) is as if the ...District Magistrate, Poonch was made to act blind folded in signing the detention order of the petitioner without his own application of mind at work," the court said, adding, "Even otherwise, FIRs reckoning from 2001 to 2013, with or without any acquittal in favour of the petitioner are, so distant in point of time of reference that a preventive detention order against the petitioner on the reference of the said FIRs could not have been conceived at the very first instance lest that of granting it."

The Court said that it would like to "refresh the mindset of the sponsoring as well as detention order making authority acting in exercise of preventive detention jurisdiction who have the tendency to fall in misconception of their authority and office in subjecting a person/citizen to the preventive detention custody on a pretext which do not fall within the scope of preventive detention jurisdiction but still lead themselves by habit of their casualness and callousness without bearing and exhibiting any sense of constitutionality in seeking and granting preventive detention order/s against person/s at the cost of mocking the Constitution of India which in its Part-III guarantees fundamental right to life and personal liberty in terms of its articles 21 & 22."

Subsequently, the court quashed the detention order and ordered Talib's release.

21 Employees

and their cases are under investigation. Besides, about 51 complaints have been closed as the detailed inquiry proved that they were not involved in political campaigning, the spokesperson said.

Heat Wave

Faizan Arif Keng, an Independent Weather Forecaster, said that the heat wave will continue for the next three days, however, a Western Disturbance is affecting Jammu and Kashmir on September 27 and 28 while under its influence, the rains in some parts of J&K is also expected during the period.

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OR SCAN

Mehbooba Should Apologise For Milk & Toffee Remark: Omar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference vice president and party's candidate for Ganderbal and Budgam constituencies, Omar Abdullah on Monday asked Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti to apologise before people aligning with the Bharatiya Janata Party twice in 2015 and 16 and also about her "milk and toffee" remark.

Omar Abdullah Mehbooba Mufti should talk more about herself and less about them, He said that she should come clear why she brought BJP here in 2015 and later in 2016 and made an irresponsible "milk and toffee" remark. "She should apologise before people and then make any statement," he said. He also said that the government should review cases against those lodged in false cases in different jails across the country.



Reacting to Defense Minister Rajnath Singh's statement regarding no talks with Pakistan, Omar questioned the stand, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh have given clean chit to Pakistan by blaming three families for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. "If Pak has been given clean chit, why talks can't be held with them," he said, adding that in J&K, BJP has been blaming three families for terrorism while in rest of the country they blame Pakistan for it, therefore, they should come clear about the role of Pakistan—(KNO)

Multiple SVEEP Events Encourage Jammu Voters



Observer News Service

JAMMU: An electoral awareness event aimed at encouraging voter participation was organised at the Jammu University Under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

The event witnessed the presence of District Election Officer Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, ADCD Sher Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusya Jamwal, Nodal Officer SVEEP and ACD Jammu Dr Vikas Sharma, along with other district officers.

A blimp was launched into the sky with a voter awareness message, marking the commencement of activities aimed at encouraging maximum voter turnout for the upcoming elections scheduled for October 1, 2024. The event also featured a cultural program presented by artists from the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, which included motivational songs to inspire voters to participate on election day.

In his address, DEO Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya emphasised the importance of democratic participation, urging all citizens to exercise their right to vote. "This is a crucial opportunity for every eligible voter to contribute to the democratic

process by casting their vote. Let us ensure a record turnout this time," he said.

SSP Jammu echoed this sentiment, appealing to families to come out and vote together, making election day a collective responsibility. ADCD Sher Singh also encouraged all to dedicate themselves to strengthening the democracy by casting their vote and motivating others to do the same.

Meanwhile, ADC Anusya Jamwal urged participants to actively spread the message within their communities and inspire others to participate in the electoral process.

Later in the evening, a similar SVEEP event was held at Amar Mahal, where DEO Jammu, along with other district officers including ADCD Jammu, ADC Jammu, and ACD, launched another blimp to mark the occasion. The DEO also assured that similar activities would be organised across the district to generate voting awareness.

This event also featured a kite-flying activity, with special SVEEP-themed kites symbolising the campaign's goal of reaching every voter. Additionally, a cultural presentation by DIPR artists was organised, where they performed cultural songs and encouraged voter participation for the upcoming elections.

J&K Polls: Jel Denies Any Broader Electoral Alliance

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant political development, Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) on Monday said that there will be no electoral alliance anywhere, saying that alliance in South Kashmir remains separate and has nothing to do with further strategies.

Jamaat announced their move, when polls are all set to take place in the second as well as third phase - 25 September and 01 October respectively.

Former President Jel Ghulam Qadir Wani, announced support to Haji Manzoor Ahmed Kaloo, an independent candidate and former Hurriyat leader, who is contesting the upcoming assembly election from Sopore.

Wani said that the organisation has historically distanced itself from elections due to instances of rigging in the past.

"The rigging that took place in the past drove many towards extremism. Now, Jamaat is determined to participate in and support democratic institutions to uphold trust in democracy," Wani said, citing the examples of Mohammed Yousef Shah, who later became Syed Sala-



huddin, a key figure in Kashmir's insurgency.

Wani clarified that Jamaat is determined to fight its battle democratically, pushing against the challenges it faces, including long-standing ban on the organisation.

However, he denied any broader electoral alliance beyond, stating that the alliance in South Kashmir remains separate.

Meanwhile, contesting candidate Manzoor Ahmed expressed gratitude to Jamaat for its support and reiterated his commitment to challenge the ban on the organisation. "I have been with the Jamaat earlier. I am contesting elections to fight against the ban

and work towards the release of those languishing in jails," he said.

It's noteworthy that earlier Jel and AIP joined hands, in what they call a strategic alliance to advocate for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "AIP will back Jel candidates in Kulgam and Pulwama, while AIP candidates across Kashmir," AIP's Chief spokesperson Inam had said.

Similarly, Jel's panel member and Spokesperson Shamim Ahmed then said that they will be contesting the friendly contest on a few seats including Devsar, Zainapora and Langate in specific, adding that Jamaat won't withdraw any of their candidates—(KNO)

Sugra Barkati's Emotional Campaign Reshapes Political Dynamics In Beerwah

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The aggressive and emotional campaign led by Sugra Barkati in support of her father, incarcerated religious scholar Sarjan Barkati, has surprised many in the Beerwah constituency as she has been drawing large crowds and reshaping the political dynamics.

There are 12 candidates contesting the election in Beerwah, including National Conference's Shafi Ahmad Wani, Ali Mohammad Dar of Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim), Gulam Ahmad Khan of the People's Democratic Party, Showkat Wani of People's Conference, Showkat Hussain Mir of Awami National Conference, and Nisar Dar of the Samajwadi Party. Independent candidates include Nazir Ahmad Khan of the National Congress Party, Sarjan Ahmad Wagay, Sanjay Parva, Farooq Ganaie, Mir Fanoon Farooq, and Nazir Ahmad Khan.

The Beerwah constituency has a total of 97,604 voters, including 49,709 male voters, 47,891 female voters, and four third-gender voters. Political analysts have identified the main contest as being between the PDP's Gulam Ahmad Khan, the NC's Shafi Wani, and DDC Chairperson Nazir Ahmad Khan, who is backed by Engineer Rasheed's Awami Ittehad Party. However, they also note that Sugra Barkati's campaign has gained significant traction. Her emotional speeches and grassroots



engagement have positioned her as a strong contender, and potentially disrupting the expected electoral dynamics.

Past Election Results

In the 2014 elections, the Beerwah constituency had 93,046 registered voters, with 69,397 casting their ballots. In the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference's Omar Abdullah won the seat, securing 23,717 votes, while the Indian National Congress's Nazir Ahmad Khan came in second with 22,807 votes, losing by a margin of 910 votes.

In the 2008 elections, the constituency had 83,941 electors, with 47,995 valid votes cast. Shafi Ahmad Wani of the PDP emerged victorious with 11,720 votes, narrowly defeating the NC's Ab Majid Matoo, who secured 11,556 votes, by just 164 votes.

In 2002, the Beerwah constituency had 72,976 electors, with 25,583 valid votes. The PDP's Mohd Sarfraz Khan won with 16,886 votes, defeating NC candidate Mohd Amin Bandy, who received 4,966 votes, by a margin of 11,920 votes.

In 1996, the constituency had 62,988 electors, and 43,550 valid votes were cast. Aga Syed Mehmood Almosvi of the NC won the seat with 19,456 votes, defeating Janata Dal candidate Sarfaraz Khan, who received 17,798 votes, by a margin of 1,658 votes.

In 1987, the constituency had 45,062 electors, with 32,446 valid votes. Syed Ahmad Syed of the NC won with 15,341 votes, while independent candidate Gulam Mohamad Mir stood second with 10,016 votes, losing by 5,325 votes.

In 1983, the constituency had 40,739 electors, and 22,747 valid votes were cast. Syed Ahmad Saeed of the NC won with 13,879 votes, while Abdul Ahad Magray of the PC came second with 2,903 votes, losing by 10,976 votes.

In 1977, the constituency had 35,225 electors, with 24,563 valid votes. Ahmad Saeed of the NC won the seat with 14,918 votes, defeating Janata Party candidate Syed Ali Shah, who received 7,737 votes, by a margin of 7,181 votes—(KNO)

Shoaib Lone, Javid Baig To Lock Horns In Baramulla Assembly Battle

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With two seasoned politicians—Shoaib Nabi Lone, backed by the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) and Javid Hassan Baig of the National Conference (NC) expected to rekindle their rivalry from the 2005 elections, the stage is set for a high-stakes political showdown in the Baramulla Assembly constituency on October 01, as both candidates are seeking to secure the crucial seat.

Baramulla assembly segment, which acts as a key political battleground in north Kashmir, has 1,26,321 registered electorate, comprising 63,338 males and 62,978 females and 05 transgender voters, the highest number among all the seven Assembly Constituencies of the district.

The Assembly Constituency (10- Baramulla) also houses 158 polling stations, established across 127 locations to accommodate voters, the highest number in the district.

In total, 25 candidates—15

independents and 10 affiliated with various political parties are vying for the seat.

A Political Rematch: Shoaib Lone vs Javid Baig

Political analysts expect a highly anticipated rematch between AIP-backed candidate Shoaib Nabi Lone and NC's Javid Hassan Baig, as both leaders previously clashed in the 2005 assembly elections. Shoaib Lone, then an independent candidate, defeated Baig by a margin of 6,400 votes, securing 18,700 votes to the latter's 12,300.

Shoaib Nabi Lone (AIP)

Shoaib Lone, whose father Gulam Nabi Lone was an education minister affiliated with the People's Democratic Party (PDP), has a strong political presence in Kashmir. He entered the political arena by winning the Sangrama constituency in 2005 as an independent.

Lone, who was earlier affiliated with the Azad-led Demo-

cratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), was the first prominent figure to join hands with Jailed Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid. He is contesting the assembly elections with Road Roller assigned as a symbol.

Javid Hassan Baig (NC)

Baig has also had a prominent political career. He won the Baramulla Assembly seat in 2014 on a PDP ticket, securing 14,418 votes, while his closest competitor from the NC garnered 7,401 votes.

In 2018, he briefly rebelled against the PDP but later rejoined. After being expelled for meeting foreign envoys after the August 2019 revocation of Jammu & Kashmir's special status, Baig switched allegiance to the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) in 2020. However, his stint with JKAP was short-lived, as he was expelled in January 2024 over allegations of anti-party activities. Baig found a new political home with the National Conference in March 2024, which secured him the party

ticket for the Baramulla seat.

A Veteran's Influence: Muzafar Hussain Baig

The presence of veteran politician Muzafar Hussain Baig, a two-time MLA and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, adds another layer of intrigue to the Baramulla race. Known for his deep-rooted influence in the constituency, Baig is expected to play a significant role in shaping the outcome of the election, even though he is running as an independent candidate.

His involvement could impact both Shoaib Lone and Javid Baig, as he commands considerable respect among voters in the region.

Aside from Shoaib Nabi Lone and Javid Hassan Baig, the Baramulla constituency has attracted a wide array of contenders. Notable candidates include Mohammad Rafique Rather of the PDP, Mir Iqbal Ahmed of Congress and Muzafar Hussain Baig and Touseef Raina as independents—(KNO)

Can Hakeem Yaseen Retain Khansahib For The Sixth Time?

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Khansahib Assembly Constituency in central Kashmir's Budgam district is set for a keenly contested political battle between the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Front (PDF).

While the constituency is expected to see a direct contest between PDF chairman Hakeem Yaseen and PDP's Saif-Ud-Din Bhat, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Manzoor Ahmad Wani, is also anticipated to secure a good share of votes.

Besides Yaseen, Bhat and Wani, seven other candidates are vying for the seat. These include Dr Ali Mohammad Mir of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Reyaz Ahmad Batana of the Apni Party (AP), Shahnaz Hussain Shah of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Firdouse Ahmad Shah of the Peoples Conference (PC), along with three independent candidates - Jahangir Sheikh, Syed Basharat and Mudaris Shah.

Hakeem Yaseen has represented the Khansahib constituency multiple times over the past five decades and is considered one of the main contenders for the seat. Political analysts believe the primary competition will be between Hakeem Yaseen and Saif-Ud-Din, who previously contested the last two elections on a PDP ticket.

Analysts also suggest that PDP's Manzoor Ahmad Wani could secure a good vote share, given the party's significant support base in the area.

They further note that first-time voters and those from newly added areas in the constituency could play a crucial role in determining the outcome of the election.

The Khansahib constituency has 94,612 registered voters, including 48,140 male voters, 46,467 female voters, and five third-gender voters.

In the 2014 elections, the Khansahib constituency had a total of 86,041 electors, with 69,828 valid votes cast. Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen Shah, representing the People's Democratic Front (Secular), won the seat, securing 26,649 votes. PDP candidate Saif-Ud-Din came second with 25,540



votes, losing by 1,109 votes.

In the 2008 elections, the constituency had 72,169 electors, with 53,930 valid votes cast. Hakeem Yaseen won with 22,616 votes, while PDP's Saif-Ud-Din Bhat secured 14,221 votes, losing by 8,395 votes.

In the 2002 elections, there were 60,645 electors, with 30,028 valid votes cast. Hakeem Yaseen, then Independent candidate, won with 20,186 votes, defeating the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference candidate Abdul Gani Naseem, who secured 4,393 votes, by a margin of 15,793 votes.

In the 1996 elections, the constituency had 51,700 electors and 31,448 valid votes cast. The National Conference candidate Abdul Gani Naseem won with 12,785 votes, defeating Janata Dal candidate Nazir Ahmad Khan, who received 6,254 votes, by 6,531 votes.

In 1987, the constituency had 42,869 electors, with 34,526 valid votes cast. Indian National Congress candidate Gulam Mohammad Mir won with 24,180 votes, while Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference candidate Gulam Qadir War secured 4,166 votes, losing by 20,014 votes.

In 1983, the constituency had 36,282 electors and 23,648 valid votes cast. Hakeem Yaseen, then National Conference candidate, won with 13,737 votes, defeating the Indian National Congress candidate Gulam Ahmad Barry, who received 4,557 votes, by 9,180 votes.

In 1977, the constituency had 34,359 electors and 21,163 valid votes cast. Hakeem Yaseen, then National Conference candidate, won with 15,647 votes, defeating Janata Party candidate Gulam Qadir War, who received 3,814 votes, by 11,833 votes.

In 1972, the constituency had 30,831 electors and 18,634 valid votes cast. Indian National Congress candidate Gulam Qadir War won with 15,998 votes, while independent candidate Gulam Ahmad Parry secured 2,094 votes, losing by 13,904 votes—(KNO)

Chief Secretary Reviews Implementation Of JKCIP In J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a meeting of Agriculture Production Department (APD) to review implementation of Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

Besides Principal Secretary APD, the meeting was attended by Mission Director HADP/JKCIP; Director Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu; Director Horticulture, Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary had a holistic assessment of steps taken by the department for successful implementation of the project. He enquired about the status of different verticals constituting this project along with their desired outcomes and scheme of their implementation over the years of the life of this intensive agricultural development across different sectors and areas of J&K.

Dulloo urged the implementing department to take proactive steps in procuring several critical items envisaged under this project for timely delivery further towards its success. He asked for enhancing the capacity of the allied staff along with taking only capable persons whose expertise would be

pivotal in making the progress under it.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to formulate a well-thought plan to develop curriculum for the courses, training of trainers and thereafter the training of the farmers for best results. He enjoined upon them to focus on developing the horticulture sector across the districts not currently known for it on the basis of their strengths in this field.

He suggested involving farmers and other private players in making FPOs promoting niche crops with active credit linkage and support by the financial institutions of the UT.

While speaking in the meeting, Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, apprised the chair of the current status of the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) to be set up for implementation of JKCIP. He informed that the bid had been received for the same and it would be in place till September end.

He also elaborated on the journey of this project till date after its envisaging. He threw light on different challenges faced initially and their resolution by the department. He said that the project is run on reimbursement mode and would therefore start showing results immediately once the funds are released to the implementing agency.

District Admin Ganderbal All Set For Polls

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The District Administration Ganderbal is fully prepared for the upcoming elections scheduled for September 25, 2024. District Election Officer (DEO), Shyambir has called on all eligible voters to participate in this important democratic process and exercise their right to vote.

In his message, the DEO emphasised the importance of voter turnout, urging all citizens to come out of their homes and cast their votes. He highlighted the significance of choosing their franchise, stating that each vote contributes to the future development of the district and the welfare of its people.

To ensure a smooth voting process, the DEO has reminded voters to bring any one of the approved identity documents to the polling booth for verification. The DEO also reassured voters that all necessary arrangements have been made to ensure a safe and secure voting environment across all polling stations in the district.

India Tightens Grip On Top Spot In World Test Championship Table

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: A dominant India tightened their grip on the top spot in the World Test Championship table with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka saw off New Zealand in Galle to help their move towards a potential spot in the final at Lord's next year.

The two results have led to shifts in the race for the two final spots, with Sri Lanka leapfrogging their current opponents into third spot.

India's win in Chennai and the 12 WTC points reasserts their status at the top of the table, moving to a percentage of 71.67%, extending their lead on Australia in second (62.50%).

Bangladesh, who had jumped to the fourth position following an exceptional 2-0 win against Pakistan, drop to sixth place (point percentage of 39.29%) behind Sri Lanka and England after the defeat. Bangladesh started the



fourth day at 158/4 in pursuit of India's 515, with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib Al Hasan at the crease. The duo resisted briefly, though India's spin duo of

Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja wiped claimed the remaining six wickets for just 40 runs.

Ashwin won the Player of the Match award for his bril-

liant hundred in the first innings and six-for in the second innings.

Moving to third on the WTC25 table after victory in Galle, Sri Lanka stand the best

chance of challenging the 2023 World Test Championship finalists for a spot in the 2025 final.

The 63-run victory over the Black Caps in Galle was their fourth in eight matches, moving them an even 50% of possible World Test Championship points, with a best possible percentage of 69.23% for Dhananjaya de Silva's men.

That figure would likely be enough for a chance of lifting the mace in next year's finale at Lord's, though the side would need to beat New Zealand once more, claim a clean sweep of South Africa, and beat Australia 2-0 at home in a series early next year.

The Indians still have nine Tests remaining in this WTC cycle to decide their fate and make it to their third consecutive final of the tournament. They had ended as the runners-up in the previous two editions -- to New Zealand (2021) and Australia (2023).

Short TAKES

2036 Olympics In India? PM Modi's Major Announcement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that India is putting in all possible efforts to host the 2036 edition of the Olympic Games.

India ended its campaign at the recently concluded Paris Olympics with six medals, including five bronze and a silver.

Addressing the Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum in New York, PM Modi said that people will witness the Summer Olympics taking place in India as well.

Maha Govt Allots Plot Reclaimed From Gavaskar To Rahane

The Maharashtra cabinet on Monday approved the transfer of a 2,000 square meter land parcel in the upscale Bandra, in suburban Mumbai, on lease, to ace batsman Ajinkya Rahane on a 30-year lease to develop state-of-the-art sports facilities.

The plot was originally allotted to cricketer Sunil Gavaskar in 1988 for setting up an indoor training academy but the cricketer could not utilise it for more than 30 years.

Jayasuriya's Heroics Propel Sri Lanka To Win Over New Zealand

Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya delivered a stellar performance, claiming nine wickets overall to lead Sri Lanka to a 63-run victory over New Zealand in the first Test on Monday. New Zealand, needing 68 more runs to reach their target of 275, managed to add just four runs before Sri Lanka wrapped up the game in only 3.4 overs.

Overnight batsman Rachin Ravindra, who had kept New Zealand's hopes alive with a valiant 91, could only add one more run.

South Africa Deny Afghanistan Sweep Of ODI Series

South Africa denied Afghanistan a series sweep with a seven-wicket win in the third and final cricket ODI at Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Aiden Markram's unbeaten 69 led South Africa to 170-3 with 17 overs to spare in the one-day international after Afghanistan collapsed for the first time in the series and was bowled out for 169 in 34 overs. Afghanistan won the series 2-1.

An inexperienced South Africa was dismissed for 106 and 134 in the first two games.

Rodri Could Miss Entire Season For Man City: Reports



Manchester City's injury woes persist as latest reports state that midfielder Rodri could possibly be ruled out for the rest of the season after picking up an injury against Arsenal.

Just seconds into the high-intensity fixture that ended 2-2, Rodri was forced off after just 16 minutes in, jarring his right knee inside his own box.

Reports from Spain suggest the injury is worse than initially thought. Early tests indicate that the 28-year-old might have torn his cruciate ligament.

Downtown Heroes I-League 3 Play-Offs Schedule: Teams, Timings & Dates

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC are all set to fight it out for a chance to make it into I-League 2 as it gears up for the Play-Offs round of the 2024 I-League 3 season. The Heroes will play all their Play-Offs matchups at Naihati Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Placed in Group A, Downtown has Diamond Harbour FC, Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC, Keinou Library & Sports Association and SESA Football Academy in its group. The Srinagar club will play each team in its group once, with the top two teams earning a promotion to I-League 2.

Downtown Heroes



open their Play-Offs round against Goa's SESA Football Academy on September 26. The game will kick off at 3:00 PM.

The Heroes' second game will see them lock horns with Manipur-based Keinou Library & Sports Association on September 28. The game begins at 9:00 AM.

The third matchup will pit Downtown against Assam's Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC on October 2. The kick off is scheduled for 9:00 AM.

The final Play-offs game will have Downtown Heroes play West Bengal's Diamond Harbour FC on October 4 at 9:00 PM.

Lancashire CEO Terms BCCI's Domestic Diktat 'Fantastic Prioritising'

Press Trust of India

LONDON: The BCCI directing its established players to participate in domestic cricket has been termed "fantastic prioritising" by Lancashire's CEO Daniel Gidney, who accused the English players' agents of facilitating their foray into the lucrative franchise leagues at the expense of the traditional red-ball competition.

Gidney feels these agents threaten the future of the English County Championship.

The BCCI had mandated all international players, except for seniors like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah, to play in tournaments such as Ranji and Duleep Trophy when they are not busy with national commitments, the move highlighting the board's emphasis on the role of domestic cricket.

This decision by the BCCI found many takers, including Gidney, one of cricket's longest-serving chief executives.

"Imagine a governing body (BCCI) actually saying that out loud ... That was fantastic prioritising," Gidney was quoted as saying by The Guardian.

Calling the agents the main threat to the future of the English County Championship, the Lancashire CEO said they "don't care" about the county game.

"We need to have more of an open conversation. Coaches get blamed, administrators get blamed, but if you want to blame anybody, blame agents," Gidney said on the sidelines of a match be-

tween Lancashire and Somerset at Old Trafford.

He added, "I think the game as a whole needs to come together to find a way to support the championship."

"England players don't have to play in the championship, agents don't care about the championship." According to Gidney, increasing the players' remuneration could be of help.

"More prize money would help and I think we need to find a way of paying four or five players a lot more money. Instead of GBP 80,000-90,000 being the top domestic salary, we need to find a way of paying GBP 200k ... and saying part of that deal is that you don't play franchise cricket."

Gidney called for a cap on franchise participation to protect first-class cricket but made it clear that he is not against players earning good money from playing in the T20 leagues. The cap on a number of T20 leagues that a particular professional player

"They have a career - I'm not begrudging their ability to earn money - but the balance has tipped ... When the bottom rung of the Hundred is what a rookie would earn in the championship - who among us would turn down earning more money for less work?"

Earlier this year, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had asked all centrally-contracted India players to turn up for matches in domestic cricket and warned that non-participation could lead to severe implications.

Grand Warriors' Shahid Hilal Wins Gold At J&K Pencak Silat Championship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 9th J&K UT Pencak Silat Championship 2024 began on Saturday and concluded on Monday at at Indoor Hall, Polo Ground, here. Among the list of winners, Shahid Hilal of the Grand Warriors Academy Srinagar, also won a Gold medal.

The event, organised by the J&K Pencak Silat Association under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council, witnessed intense competition among over 1250



athletes of both genders. Competitors from 18 districts of Jammu and Kashmir participated in the championship.

In his weight category, Shahid Hilal finished first

by defeating Robin from Jammu.

"During the last National Pencak Silat Trials, I broke my left arm during trials," Shahid said. "It took me a long time to get back on the track. Now, I'm getting ready for Nationals and I hope that one day, my hard work will lead me to a world championship."

Shahid Hilal attributed his achievement to his parents, who helped him at every turn. He also showed gratitude to his trainer, Adil Hussain, the coach.

Wright Blasts Man City's Haaland For Throwing Ball At Arsenal's Gabriel

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Former Arsenal great Ian Wright has called Manchester City striker Erling Haaland cowardly for throwing the ball at Gunners' centre back Gabriel Magalhaes during their 2-2 draw in the Premier League at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

Haaland threw the ball against the back of Gabriel's head after City's John Stones scored deep in added time to salvage a 2-2 draw with 10-man Arsenal and keep his side top of the table after a rip-roaring battle against their title rivals.

An FA spokesperson said the incident involving Haaland and Gabriel was checked by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) at the time and no further action was deemed necessary.

Arsenal had forward Leandro Trossard sent off for a second yellow card before halftime for kicking the ball away after being penalised for a challenge on Bernardo Silva.



"I just felt like I needed to put something out there which has been bothering me. Be-

cause obviously the Trossard sending off - of course, in the moment, you're frustrated,"

Wright posted on Instagram. "It's 2-1. And I'm thinking 'Yes, we've got them'. And

then we get (a player) sent off for something that, let's face it, is ... foolishness - what they're getting sent off for now. So, in the moment, yeah. Again, you shouldn't be sent off for that."

"But the one thing that boiled me up properly was Haaland's coward's move, bro. I saw it this morning properly. Throwing the ball in Gabi's head when he's not looking. When Gabi's back's turned to him. Real coward's move. Gabi would look him in the eye, you know."

"I'm looking at this as a really good defender vs striker for the years to come, them two. I love watching them two. And then you're doing a coward's move like that ... I thought you was bigger than that, bro. I thought you was bigger than that."

Bumrah Arguably The Best Fast Bowler Across Formats: Steve Smith



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Seasoned Australian batter Steve Smith has spoken glowingly of Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, calling the Indian arguably the best fast bowler across formats.

The five-Test series between India and Australia begins in Perth on November 22. India have won the past two series Down Under. If India are to do a threepeat, Bumrah's rare skills will be heavily relied upon in Australia.

"He's a wonderful bowler, whether I face him with the new ball, slightly older ball, or even

the old ball. He's got great skills with all of them. He's a great bowler, arguably the best fast bowler across the three formats. It's always going to be a challenge," Smith told Star Sports.

The 35-year-old has been opening for Australia in the past couple of series and is expected to do the same against India. Smith, a veteran of 109 Tests, is likely to cross the 10,000-run milestone in the high-profile series, having so far made 9685 runs.

Bumrah, on the other hand, has done remarkably well since making his Test debut in January 2018, taking 164 wickets in 37 games at an average of 20.51.