

KULGAM ENCOUNTER

2 Terrorists Killed, 5 Soldiers Injured

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Two unidentified terrorists were killed and five security personnel, including an officer, sustained injuries in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said on Saturday.

The gunbattle broke out in Adigam village in the Devsar area of the district after security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation there early in the morning.

According to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir range, Vidhi Kumar Birdi a few soldiers, Birdi claimed, suffered injuries during the initial exchange of fire between the two sides. However, a police officer and a soldier, sources said, also suffered injuries later on.

Encounter broke out after a joint team of police and 9-Rashtriya Rifles (RR), following a tip off about the presence of terrorists, cordoned the Arigam area in Devsar Kulgam. The terrorists in hiding, according to sources, opened fire on the | [More on P6](#)

Cop Killed In Kathua Gunfight

A policeman was killed and two officers were injured Saturday in a fierce gunfight with terrorists in a remote village in the Kathua district of poll-bound Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The encounter at Kog-Mandli in | [More on P6](#)

ISRAEL ASSASSINATES HASSAN NASRALLAH

Trans Asia News

Beirut- Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the iconic Arab and Muslim figure to mobilize and lead resistance against the American-Israel hegemony in the Middle East was assassinated by Israel in a ferocious aerial attack on his headquarters in Lebanese capital on Friday. Experts call his killing a 'political earthquake' that is bound to trigger an "all out war".

"His eminence the Sayyed, the leader of the Resistance, the pious servant of God, has passed on to God as a great leader, a brave martyr, joining the martyrs of Karbala... on the path of prophets," the statement issued by Hezbollah said. "Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of



Hezbollah, joined his great, eternal companions, whose journey he led for over 30 years through victory after victory" after succeeding Sayyed Abbas al-Mousawi in 1992, leading them in "the liberation of Lebanon in 2000 and the Divine Victory of 2006," and up to the battle of support for Palestine and the oppressed people of Palestine. Hezbollah extended its condolences to the Islamic nation

and the steadfast people of Lebanon, and all the free and oppressed people of the world, congratulating Sayyed Hassan on achieving the greatest of divine gifts, through which he was granted his greatest wish, that of a martyr on the path of Palestine and al-Quds.

In the statement, Hezbollah's leadership promised Sayyed Nasrallah, "our greatest, holiest, and most beloved leader in our path filled with martyrs and sacrifice, to continue its struggle against the enemy, in support of Gaza and Palestine, and in defense of Lebanon and its honorable, resilient people."

Experts believe the assassination of Sayyed Nasrallah tantamount to an earthquake for the region.

"Nasrallah was the beating heart of Hezbollah." Professor

Fawaz Gerges, Chair of Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies at London School of Economics said, adding his assassination marks the start of an "all out war".

While Nasrallah's killing is unlikely to disrupt the operational continuity of the movement it is "obviously a massive, massive demoralization amongst its ranks and supporters and absolute terror which will temporarily paralyze ordinary people" within the movement, said Amal Saad, Hezbollah expert and lecturer in politics and international relations at Cardiff University in Wales. "That doesn't mean the organization is paralyzed," she added. "Hezbollah is an organization that was built to absorb these types of shocks... it's built to be resilient | [More on P6](#)



Sayyed Khamenei: Fate Of Region Will Be Shaped By Resistance

In his first reaction Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei said "the Zionist criminals should know that they are too small to cause significant damage to the strong construction of Hezbollah in Lebanon".

In a statement on Saturday he said resistance forces are the ones to decide the fate

of the region despite the criminal Israeli massacres.

"The killing of defenseless people in Lebanon once again revealed to everyone the ferocity of the Zionist rabid dog, and proved the short-sightedness and stupid policy of the leaders of the usurping regime," he said. | [More on P6](#)

Will Oppose My Own Party If It Fails People: Ruhullah

Agencies

Srinagar: Senior National Conference (NC) leader and Member of Parliament Agha Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday said he would not hesitate to oppose his own party if it fails to fulfill its promises to the people.

Speaking at a large gathering in Palhallan, Ruhullah said, "I can fight anyone, but I will not let the people down. The trust, love and respect of the people are invaluable, and I will never compromise on that. I will not allow my party to do so either."

He added, "I am campaigning for the party because I believe it will advocate for the rights of the people. However, if anyone from the National Conference falls short of the people's expectations, I will stand against them for their sake."

Ruhullah accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to divide the people of Jammu & Kashmir through proxies. "They want to repeat the events of 2014. The



public must vote wisely to send a strong message against such divisive politics."

"It is crucial that we think critically and respond consciously to those who, knowingly or unknowingly, support the BJP's policies. We must use our minds, not sacrifice and bloodshed, to resist this political agenda," the MP said.

The NC leader urged voters to remain alert and avoid falling prey to the BJP's "manipulative tactics". "Only a united front can safeguard J&K's future," he added. (KNO)

Decision To Transform J&K Into UT 'Temporary': PM

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the decision to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory is "temporary" and the BJP-led government will restore the statehood to the region.

Launching a scathing attack on the opposition Congress, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), he accused them of "inflicting wounds" on the people by depriving them of their rights.

The prime minister said it is the BJP, which has ended discrimination and is providing balm on the wounds of the victims of the three families.

Addressing a massive election rally at M A M Stadium in the heart of Jammu a day before the conclusion of campaigning for the final phase of the assembly polls on



'J&K To Have First-Ever Full Majority BJP Govt'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing historic elections as for the first time there will be a BJP government in the UT with full majority. | [More on P6](#)

October 1, Modi said the decision to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory is temporary.

"BJP is the only party which will restore statehood to the region," he reiterated.

Escalating his attack, the prime minister said the "Congress, NC and PDP are annoyed by the changes in Jammu and Kashmir because they do not like your development".

"They are saying they will form the government to revive the old system - the same discriminatory approach which led Jammu to be the biggest sufferer," he added.

Modi said the Jammu region in particular faced "decades of injustice" at the hands of the three parties which not only defamed the Dogra legacy but also their rulers.

"The most corrupt Congress family is accusing the Dogra rulers to be | [More on P6](#)

SHRC's Recommendations Not Executable: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that the recommendations made by the erstwhile J&K State Human Rights Commission cannot be equated to an executable order "at all".

"It is useful to mention here that the recommendations made by the Commission cannot be equated to an executable order at all. The Commission is neither a judicial authority nor a quasi-judicial authority to adjudicate upon the disputed facts," a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul said, adding, "Therefore, the recommendations made by the Commission cannot be termed as a verdict on resolving the disputed facts and the same are not binding on the parties before the Commission."

The court was hearing a

plea filed by one Mohammad Amin Khan, seeking direction to the authorities to pay compensation and provide employment to one family member under SRO 43 of 1994 based on the recommendation of SHRC which stands wended up following the abrogation of Article 370.

Khan in 2008 had filed a petition before the SHRC, alleging that his son, namely, Irshad Ahmad Khan was called by army to GOC 15 Corps at Army Headquarters Srinagar in 2004 and was kept under custody and that his son was not released nor heard of since then.

On the complaint, the Commission made a recommendation to the then State Government to sanction/pay an ex-gratia relief of Rs.1 lakh in favour of NOKs of Irshad besides employment under SRO 43 of 1994 read with Government Order no.893-GAD of | [More on P6](#)



PODCAST

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

SCAN THIS TO WATCH THE PODCAST

In our latest podcast, we present Irshad Mushtaq, founder of MI Securities. In addition, he is a financial expert who has helped countless individuals and businesses navigate complex financial landscapes. In this episode, we discussed different investment strategies, personal finance tips, and wealth building. The full video will be released soon on our YouTube channel. Subscribe Kashmir Observer channel for the latest updates.



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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Adani Gyan Jyoti Scholarship 2024-25

Description: Adani Group is offering this scholarship to first-year students who are domiciles of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh and are pursuing courses related to JEE, NEET, CLAT, CA Foundation, and Economics, supporting their educational journey.

Eligibility: Open for candidates who are domiciles of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh only.

Only first-year students pursuing BA Economics, BSc Economics, BEC, B.E./B.Tech., Integrated 5-Year Dual-Degree M.Tech., MBBS, and LLB courses are eligible.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 6,00,000 over the duration of the degree

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RFS10

Last Date to Apply: 07-10-2024
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/AGSP5

Scholarship Name 2: Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2024-25

Description: The Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships aim to enable and propel India's future leaders who can think big, think green, and think digital for the benefit of society.

Eligibility: Students who are enrolled in the first-year full-time regular postgraduation programmes pursuing select future-ready courses from Engineering, Technology, Energy and Life-Sciences

Prizes & Rewards: Must have secured 550 to 1,000 in the GATE examination

OR
 Must have scored 7.5 or above in their undergraduate CGPA (or % normalized to CGPA) [If students have not attempted GATE]



Open for resident Indian citizens. Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 6,00,000 over the duration of the degree

Last Date to Apply: 06-10-2024
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RFS10

Scholarship Name 3: SBIF Asha Scholarship Program 2024

Description: The SBIF Asha Scholarship Program 2024, one of India's largest scholarship programs, is an initiative of the SBI Foundation. This scholarship aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from low-income families across India, ensuring the continuity of their education.

Eligibility: Open to school students from Class 6 to 12 and undergraduate & postgraduate students from the top 100 NIRF universities/colleges, undergraduate students from IITs, and students pursuing MBA/PGDM courses from IIMs. Applicants must have scored a minimum of 75% marks in the previous academic year. Their gross annual family income must be up to INR 6 lakh (Up to INR 3 lakh for Class 6-12 students).

Prizes & Rewards: Classes 6 to 12: INR 15,000 each
 UG Students: Up to INR 50,000
 PG Students: Up to INR 70,000
 UG Students from IITs: Up to INR 2,00,000
 MBA Students from IIMs: Up to INR 7,50,000

Last Date to Apply: 01-10-2024
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SBIFS7

Scholarship Name 4: Aditya Birla Capital Scholarship Programme 2024-25

Description: Aditya Birla Capital Scholarship Programme 2024-25 aims to provide financial assistance and mentorship support to school and college students to ensure the continuity of their education. Students in Classes 9 to 12 or undergraduate courses can receive a scholarship of up to INR 60,000 (one-time) to cover their academic expenses.

Eligibility: Open for students studying in Classes 9 to 12, any general undergraduate courses, any 3-year professional undergraduate courses, or any 4-year professional undergraduate courses from recognized colleges/universities in India. Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in their previous class. The annual family income of applicants should not exceed INR 6 lakh from all sources. Students from across India are eligible to apply.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 60,000 (one-time)

Last Date to Apply: 15-10-2024
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ABCC9

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Tanzeela Binti Aamir S/o Aamir Hussain Lone R/o Hathlangoo Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 24-05-2021 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

fko
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that Sheeraza Syed D/o Syed Imdad Shah R/o Hydra Colony Bemina has been married to Mr Syed Irshad Ali S/o Syed Ismail Shah R/o Kripal Pora Payeen Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla due to marriage with Syed Irshad Ali my address has been changed from Hydra Colony to Kripal Pora Payeen Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla. Now I want to update my husband name and new address in my bank Account for which I am using this public notice, if anybody has any objection same may be reported within 07 days no objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Sheeraza Syed
 S/o Syed Imdad Shah
 R/o Hydra Colony Bemina fko

NOTICE

I Raja Bano W/o Gh Rasool Qazi R/o Chanapora, Srinagar want to transfer my Electricity Connection bearing Consumer Id 0202040010512 From Raja Bano To Gulshan Ara W/o GM. Hassan R/o Chanapora, Srinagar. In this regard, if anybody is having any objection may file his/her objection in the Subdivision office Chanapora within a weeks time after that no objection will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my motor cycle bearing regd no: JK05D 3571. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gulam Mohd Lone
 S/O Mohd Rajab Lone
 R/O Bangdara Baramulla fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mujtaba Ibnul Rouf S/o Rouf Ahmad Lone R/o Hathlangoo Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 17-05-2021 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

fko
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
 New Campus Bemina Srinagar
 Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 2522409
 Class 10th
 Year & Session Privt Bi-Annual 2019-20
 Registration: N17442430047
 Name : Aadil Shafi
 Father's Name: Mohammad Shafi Dar
 Mother's Name : Meema Akhter
 Date of Birth:- 10-10-2004
 Resident:- Hanjilaway Pora

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: be treated as "CANCELLED")
 No: F(Cer-is-I-DQC)/B/KD/24
 Dated
 bmg Assistant Secretary
 Certificates, KD.

Researchers Discover Potential New Treatment For Liver Fibrosis

ANI

A new study from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy provides light on the processes that contribute to liver fibrosis and proposes a unique therapy method for this prevalent and serious disorder. The work, led by senior author Wen Xie, M.D., Ph.D., professor and Joseph Koslow endowed chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and co-first authors Hung-Chun Tung, graduate student, and Jong-Won Kim, Ph.D., postdoctoral associate, was published today in Science Translational Medicine.

In this Q&A, Xie expands on the study's findings and discusses why new diagnostic tools and therapy options for liver fibrosis are critically needed. Liver fibrosis is the formation of tissue scars in the liver due to chronic inflammation and injury. Over time, fibrosis can impair liver function and may lead to cirrhosis or even liver cancer. Those at risk include individuals with chronic viral hepatitis, obesity, diabetes and excessive alcohol use. Early detection and intervention are crucial to prevent progression to more severe liver disease. Currently there are no FDA-approved drugs that specifically treat liver fibrosis. The only treatment option is to treat diseases that cause liver fibrosis in the first place, such as hepatitis, obesity, type 2 diabetes and alcoholic liver disease. Preventive measures include avoiding excessive alcohol, maintaining a healthy body

weight and early screening for liver diseases to prevent fibrosis from advancing to cirrhosis or liver failure. HSCs are a unique cell type in the liver. When the liver is injured or inflamed, HSCs become activated and produce excess collagen and other extracellular matrix proteins. The accumulation of collagen and other extracellular matrix proteins leads to scar tissue formation and liver fibrosis. This study identified the enzyme CYP1B1 as a biomarker and predictor of HSC activation and liver fibrosis in both patients and mice. Inhibition of CYP1B1 led to the accumulation of a sugar called trehalose, which we showed for the first time that trehalose has anti-fibrotic activity. Moreover, treatment of mice with trehalose, its analog lactotrehalose or CYP1B1 inhibitor protected mice from getting liver fibrosis. It was surprising to identify a liver function of CYP1B1, an enzyme traditionally known for its functions outside the liver. Although the concentration of CYP1B1 in the whole liver is not high, this enzyme is uniquely and abundantly present in HSCs and thus plays an important role in HSC activation and liver fibrosis. Liver fibrosis is a common, potentially deadly and costly liver disease that lacks FDA-approved drugs. Our findings are clinically important because we identified CYP1B1 as a predictor of HSC and liver fibrosis in patients, which may help with the early diagnosis of this disease. More importantly, we found that trehalose and lactotrehalose are potential novel drugs that could be used to treat liver fibrosis in the future.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The validity of my passport bearing No. E7021059 was expired and I have applied afresh for reissue of the same. As per my qualification certificates and adhar card the spelling in my name is Rashiq Aslam Khan while as it has appeared wrongly in my old passport as Rasiq Aslam Khan which I want to correct in my new passport. If anybody is having any objection, he can approach Regional Passport Officer Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice in local newspapers after that no objection will be entertained on this account.

Rashiq Aslam Khan
 S/o. Mohammad Aslam Khan
 R/O. Ganderpora Iddgah Srinagar inf

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

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

Subject: Inviting of offline applications for admission/upgradation to B.E./B.Tech. Courses-2024 in various Government/Private Institutes/Colleges of UT of J&K.
 Reference: Notification No. 107-BOPEE of 2024 Dated 13-09-2024.

Notification No: 119 -BOPEE of 2024
 Dated: 27-09-2024

Consequent upon the conclusion of four rounds of counseling for admission to B.E./B.Tech. Courses-2024 and after receiving the shortfall from all the Institutes/Colleges vide Notification No. 107-BOPEE of 2024 dated 13-09-2024, number of seats in various colleges remain unfilled. In order to fill up all those seats, it is hereby notified for the information of all the concerned candidates that the Board is inviting the fresh applications from all eligible candidates for admission/upgradation to B.E./B.Tech Courses-2024 in various Govt./Pvt. Institutions/Colleges of UT of J&K w.e.f 27-09-2024 to 02-10-2024, in offline mode as per the prescribed form annexed as Annexure A to this notification.

Eligibility:

- Have passed 10+2 or equivalent examination Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics as compulsory subjects having 45% marks as prescribed by the AICTE taken together for Open Merit Category candidates, including the Children of Defence Personnel, Children of Para-Military Forces, Children of Police Personnel, Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW) of UT of J&K/Ladakh and candidates possessing outstanding proficiency in Sports and 40% marks for the reserved category candidates belonging to SC/ST/RBA/ALC/IB/OBC and those candidates who had already registered and appeared in the CET conducted by BOPEE on 09-06-2024 are also eligible to apply for admission/upgradation;
- Should be a Domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh.

Important Information:

- The candidates applying for the 1st time shall have to deposit the application fees of Rs 1000/- through POS Machine available at BOPEE Offices Jammu/Srinagar using their Debit/Credit Card.
- The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to go through the e-Information Brochure before applying. The Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the application Form by the candidate. It shall be presumed that the candidate has gone through the information contained in the Information Brochure and has agreed to follow the conditions contained therein.
- The procedure for upgradation/allotment of seats to be followed is mentioned as below:
 - Upgradation/allotment of seats for already admitted candidates shall be made on the basis of CET 2024 score first.
 - And subsequently as per merit of 12th Class marks for the fresh candidates.
- The candidates are further advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website www.jkbopee.gov.in.
- The availability of seats in different colleges/institutes shall be reflected in the seat matrix which will be made available on the JKBOPEE website in due course of time.
- The Board reserves the right to notify such changes as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reasons beyond its control.
- The other terms and conditions shall however remain the same as notified by the Board through various Notifications/Notices and e-Information Brochure in this regard.

E & O E

Sd/-
 (Prof. Gurvinder Raj Verma)
 Controller of Examinations
 J&K BOPEE
 Dated: 27-09-2024

DIPK-NB-1608/24
 dated: 28-09-2024
 No. BOPEE/Exam16/2024/7467447

Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal Budgam
 Tele Fax 01951-260-276 Pin Code 193401

Notice For General Public

I tis hereby notified that the applicant namely Abdul Aziz Ganie S/o Abdul Ahad Ganie R/o Cheek-i-Kawoosa tehsil Narbal District Budgam had applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate of his son namely Haris Aziz Ganie S/o Abdul Aziz Ganie . The applicant intends to register the DOB of his Son as per school record 08-07-2010

In this connection, if anybody having any objection regarding the same he/she may contact office of the undersigned within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

bmg
 Dated: 28-09-2024
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Narbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my motor cycle bearing regd no: JK02AF 2518. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Police Station Khag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Wani
 S/o Shabir Ahmad Wani
 R/o Sogan Parinara Tehsil Khag bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence as Javed Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohd Sulama Bhat while my correct name is Javed Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohd Sulaman Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Javed Ahmad Bhat
 S/o Mohd Sulaman Bhat
 R/o Tajpora Cosan Bangil Baramulla bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my daughter has been wrongly written in her School records as Ayat Javid Father's Name: Javid Ahmad Dar , Mother's name: Asifa Javid while her correct name is Ayat Javid Father's name: Javid Ahmad Dar, Mother's Name. Asifa Javid which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Doon School Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Javid Ahmad Dar
 F/O : Ayat Javid BMG

PD&SJ Srinagar Visits Central Jail Srinagar

Interacts With Inmates, Takes Stock Of Facilities

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/ Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub Judge/ Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Saturday conducted a thorough inspection of the Central Jail Srinagar.

The Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar along with Secretary DLSA Srinagar personally visited and inspected Central Jail Srinagar to gain first-hand knowledge of the living conditions of inmates and the overall functioning of the jail. He held interaction with the inmates and took first hand stock of facilities available there.

The inspection covered a wide range of areas, including the Jail Legal Aid Clinic, Welfare Block, Vocational Training Centre, Computer Training Centre, Music and Fine Arts Centre, Calligraphy Centre, Jail Hospital, Kitchen Area, Women Block Prisoners, and the exclusive Women-Centric Tailoring Centre.

The Medical Center within the jail premises was also thoroughly inspected, with special focus on the de-addiction facilities provided to the inmates.

During the visit, Principal District and Session Judge and Secretary DLSA and the team, along with Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, Sr. Superintendent of Central Jail Srinagar, Shahbaz Hussain Bhat, Deputy Superintendent, Central Jail Srinagar, Medical Officers and prison staff inspected all the barracks

Awareness Program Organized At Vitasta Law College

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar Saturday conducted an awareness program on the Legal Aid Defence Counsels Modified Scheme, 2022, NDPS Act, and the Food Security and Standard Act at Vitasta Law College Nowgam, Srinagar.

The program was held under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/ Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the principal, staff members of the college, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, and law students.

Deputy LADC, Tasneem Kausar, and Assistant LADC Sehar Nazir, served as the resource persons.

and interacted with inmates, including female prisoners.

The team listened attentively to the inmates' concerns and grievances, and provided them a platform for feedback on the services provided by DLSA Srinagar.

The inspection served as a vital step in ensuring that the rights and welfare of inmates are upheld within the Central Jail Srinagar.



Assembly Election -2024

Counting Supervisors, Assistants, Micro-Observers Training Conducted

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Election Office Srinagar conducted an exhaustive training for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro-Observers whose services will be utilized for counting of votes in Srinagar scheduled on 8th October.

Under the directions of District Election Officer Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, the

training was conducted in two different sessions at the Auditorium Hall of SP College Srinagar where Master Trainers carried out exhaustive training sessions to prepare skilled manpower for the counting of votes for eight Assembly Constituencies in Srinagar.

During the sessions, the participating employees were taken through sensory training particularly on safety measures to be taken during the process of counting of

votes. In addition to this, they were also trained how to handle emergencies, manage crowds and to address issues of security and privacy.

The employees were also oriented towards holding free and fair counting while strictly following the on-going Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in the district.

The employees were also given instructions on managing and handling polling machinery for transparent counting of votes.

Hindi Pakhwara

JKAAC Organizes Valedictory Ceremony At Tagore Hall

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) concluded its Hindi Pakhwara celebrations with a grand valedictory ceremony held today at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The event highlighted JKAACL's sustained commitment towards promotion of Hindi and its role in celebrating linguistic diversity across the region.

Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta presided over the ceremony.

In his keynote address, Suresh Gupta lauded JKAACL's pivotal role in promoting Hindi as a language of cultural unity and national pride. He stressed the importance of Hindi in uniting India's diverse regions and appreciated the enthusiasm of participants, particularly the youth, who showcased their talents across various

literary and cultural platforms.

As part of the valedictory program, Principal Secretary felicitated outstanding participants from various competitions organized during Hindi Pakhwara. The students from prestigious institutions like Tyndale Biscoe School, Malison School, Burn Hall School, and The Kashmir Valley School were awarded for their remarkable performances in events such as essay writing, poetry recitation and debates held as part of the Hindi Diwas celebrations.

In her welcome address, Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kour emphasized the critical role of Hindi not only as a national language but as a bridge that fosters communal harmony and national integration. She expressed gratitude to the literary community for their dedication and active participation in making the Hindi Pakhwara programs a resounding success. She called upon the

scholars and writers to continue their efforts to give Hindi its rightful place in India's cultural landscape.

The event featured two scholarly papers presented by Dr. Mohammad Yaqoob and Toiba Alam, who highlighted the increasing relevance of Hindi in both academic and cultural arenas. Their presentations offered insightful perspectives on the role of Hindi in India's multicultural framework and encouraged the audience to continue championing the language.

Another highlight of the day was the poetic symposium, which featured notable poets including Dr. Mudassir Bhat, Dr. Shabnam Showkat, Dr. Mukti Sharma, Dr. Sukhbir Kour, and Dr. Mohammad Yaqoob. Their passionate recitations of Hindi poetry captivated the audience, adding a layer of artistic expression to the day's proceedings and exemplifying the beauty and power of the language.

Combating Substance Abuse Training Program On Role Of Teachers Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A one-day training program focusing on the role of teachers in combating substance abuse was organized by District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar in collaboration with the Drug De-addiction Centre, Institute of Mental Health and

Neurosciences (IMHANS) Kashmir, under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

The event saw active participation from teachers deputied by the education department across the district, who were guided through various critical topics by a team of experts.

Want Family Bereaved

This is hereby announced that Mrs. Mohammad Aslam want has left for heavenly abode!!
Three day mourning will be observed along with congregational fate khwani on Monday 10:30 am at graveyard near animal husbandry (mill stop)!

RSPV
9419002784
9419404771
94190 60842

inf

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER
8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand... but... did it clean enough? Wash it again? Is it clean now?

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN 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 consulting 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.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (1st Floor), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar
9070806160

| NORTHERN RAILWAY | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| E-Tender Notice | | | | | |
| Sr.DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 17.10.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in | | | | | |
| Tender Type | Tendering Section | Bidding System | Date of Uploading Tenders | Bid Starting Date | Bid Closing Date/Time |
| Open | Works | Single Bid System | 25.09.2024 | 03.10.2024 | 17.10.2024/15:00 Hrs. |
| S.N. | Tender No. | Details of Tender | | | |
| 1 | 197-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR | Repairs to Toilets, Water supply, Storage Tanks, Safety cages and Duty huts at various LCs in the jurisdiction of SSE/W/JBD under ADEN-I/FZR. | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer |
| | | | 79,99,448.93/- | 1,60,000/- | 60 Days |
| | | | | | 10 Months |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work". | | | | | |
| 2 | 198-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR | Repairs to Toilets, Water supply, Storage Tanks, Safety cages and Duty huts at various LCs in the jurisdiction of ADEN-I/FZR. | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer |
| | | | 29,99,417.02/- | 60,000/- | 60 Days |
| | | | | | 10 Months |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Nil". | | | | | |
| 3 | 200-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR | Repairs to Toilets, Water supply, Storage Tanks, Safety cages and Duty huts at various LCs in the jurisdiction of SSE/W/LNK under ADEN-II/FZR. | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer |
| | | | 39,81,480.61/- | 79,600/- | 60 Days |
| | | | | | 10 Months |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Nil". | | | | | |
| 4 | 201-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR | Repair & maintenance of bridges in the section of ADEN-I/FZR under Sr.DEN-HQ/FZR. | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer |
| | | | 29,28,952.32/- | 58,600/- | 60 Days |
| | | | | | 10 Months |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Nil". | | | | | |
| 5 | 202-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR | Repair and maintenance of Level Crossings including road surface, speed breakers in the section of ADEN-I/FZR under Sr.DEN-HQ/FZR. | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer |
| | | | 44,99,963.26/- | 90,000/- | 60 Days |
| | | | | | 10 Months |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Nil". | | | | | |
| 6 | 208-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR | Repair & maintenance of bridges in the section of ADEN-I/FZR under Sr.DEN-HQ/FZR. | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer |
| | | | 29,28,959.11/- | 58,600/- | 60 Days |
| | | | | | 10 Months |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Nil". | | | | | |
| Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. | | | | | |
| Tender Notice No:- 197, 200, 201-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR & 198, 202, 208-2024-25-ADEN-1-FZR | | | | | |
| Date: 28.09.2024 | | | | | |
| 3008/2024 | | | | | |
| Serving Customers With A Smile | | | | | |

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 02
ZUHR 12:22
ASR 4: 38
Magrib 6:24
ISHA 7: 44

HIJRI CALENDAR
24 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1446

- ### This Day In History
- 522 BC - Darius I of Persia kills Magian usurper Gaumata, securing his hold as king of the Persian Empire
 - 480 BC - Battle of Salamis: The Greek fleet under Themistocles defeats the Persian fleet under Xerxes I
 - 61 BC - Pompey the Great celebrates his third triumph for victories over the pirates and the end of the Mithridatic Wars on his 45th birthday.
 - 219 - Batavian soldiers consecrate altar on Hercules Magusanus Rome
 - 235 - St Pontianus ends his reign as Catholic Pope
 - 440 - Pope Leo I the Great, installed
 - 855- Benedict III begins his reign as Catholic Pope
 - 1227- Pope Gregory IX excommunicate German emperor Frederik II
 - 1364 - Battle of Auray, English forces defeat French in Brittany
 - 1564 - Robert Dudley becomes Earl of Leicester
 - 1567 - War of Religion breaks out in France - Huguenots try to kidnap King Charles IX
 - 1580 - Treaty of Plessis-lez-Tours signed between Duke of Anjou and Dutch Staten-Generaal
 - 1608 - Captain Christopher Newport arrives in Virginia, for the second time, with supplies from England for colonists
 - 1650 - 2nd Fronde, the Fronde of the Princes uprising ends in France
 - 1650 - Henry Robinson opens 1st marriage bureau (England)
 - 1668 - English expedition to Hudson Bay led by Frenchman Médard Chouart Des Groseilliers arrives at Nemiscau (Rupert) River aboard the Nonsuch (beginning of Hudson Bay Company) [1]
 - 1678 - France & Brandenburg signs peace treaty
 - 1848 - Battle of Pákozd: Hungarian forces defeat Croats at Pákozd; the first battle of the War of Independence
 - 1875 - US-Spanish relations decline in wake of Cuban rebellion.
 - 1885 - The first practical public electric tramway in the world is opened in Blackpool, England.
 - 1911 - Italy declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
 - 1913 - The Treaty of Constantinople between Turkey and Bulgaria restores peace; the Turks recover Adrianople and Maritza River line
 - 1915 - British army conquers Chilly at Imara, Mesopotamia.
 - 1918 - WWI: Allied forces scored a decisive breakthrough of Hindenburg Line
 - 1922 - Benito Mussolini ask Vatican for support of fascist party program
 - 1927 - Telephone service begins between US & Mexico
 - 1936 - Radio used for 1st time for a presidential campaign
 - 1944 - Soviet troops invade Yugoslavia
 - 1953 - US government gives France \$385 million for combat in Indo-China.
 - 1959 - Sultan of Brunei promulgates a constitution
 - 1964 - Greece & Bulgaria close boundaries
 - 1971 - Orbiting Solar Observatory VII launched
 - 1973 - Soyuz 12 returns to Earth
 - 1976 - Syria drives Palestinian guerrillas out of Lebanon
 - 1977 - Soviet space station Salyut 6 launched into Earth orbit
 - 1988 - 26th Space Shuttle mission, Discovery 7 launched
 - 1988 - UN peacekeeping forces win Nobel Peace prize
 - 1995 - US space probe Ulysses completes 2nd passage behind Sun
 - 2004 - The asteroid 4179 Toutatis passes within four lunar distances of Earth.
 - 2005 - Amnesty referendum in Algeria.
 - 2009 - MESSENGER spacecraft performs a third and final Mercury flyby
 - 2013 - 42 people are killed by Boko Haram in a college attack in Gujba, Nigeria
 - 2013 - 16 people are killed by a Syrian Army air strike that hit a secondary school in Raqqqa, Syria
 - 2014 - Ashraf Ghani becomes President of Afghanistan

Assembly Elections 2024

On Unexpected Low Voter Turnout

ECI must ensure funds available under SVEEP are utilized efficiently for better voter participation

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

As there was no election boycott call from Hurriyat or any other militant groups, it was expected that voter turnout would go up in the second phase of assembly elections in J&K especially in Srinagar for which elections were held on Wednesday, September 25th.

The first phase one of elections was held on September 18th 2024 in South Kashmir's Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama districts. In addition, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts of Chenab valley of Jammu also went for polls on the same date. The third phase of elections would be held on October 1st and during this last phase of elections, North Kashmir's Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora and Jammu division's Kathua, Samba, Udhampur & Jammu districts will go for polling. The counting of votes in J&K will be done on October 8th.

The Assembly Elections in J&K are being held after a gap of 10 years and for the last 6 years J&K is under central rule. In these 10 years, a lot of political developments have happened. In June 2018, BJP took back support from the PDP led government and J&K was brought under President's Rule. Then, on August 5th 2019, the Article 370 of Indian Constitution was repealed and J&K was bifurcated into two Union Territories (J&K and Ladakh). For more than 5 years, the Lieutenant Governor appointed by the BJP Government at centre has been looking after the administrative affairs in J&K. The LG directly reports to the Union Home Ministry and this had created a governance deficit in J&K even as several initiatives on the administrative and development front had been initiated by the LG administration.

Srinagar residents reluctant to vote?

There has been an anger among people against the abrogation of Article 370 as well as subsequent developments that took place since 2019. J&K is being ruled by bureaucrats and elections for urban and rural local bodies have not been conducted for 10 months.

It was assumed that people would exercise their franchise in large numbers in areas which had boycotted elections in the past; areas such as Srinagar. However, the voting percentage has not risen as was expected.

It seems that people are reluctant to vote in Srinagar and don't want to waste their time standing outside the polling booths.

People in Srinagar see voting in elections and standing in queues outside polling stations as an act of abjectness and dishonour. The reason is a narrative that popped up in the last 35 years against mainstream politics in J&K. Even as there were no boycott calls, no militant threats, protests and stone pelting in Srinagar's downtown, people voluntarily didn't go out to vote. In Habbakadal, the voter turnout has come



It was assumed that people would exercise their franchise in large numbers in areas which had boycotted elections in the past; areas such as Srinagar. However, the voting percentage has not risen as was expected

down and was lower than 2014 elections. In the 2014 assembly elections, the voter turnout was as low as 21.31%. This has come further down to a mere 18.39% this time.

This is a matter of serious concern. **Voter turnout declined in Budgam, Charar and Budhal** The second phase of elections were held in 6 districts of J&K namely Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam in Kashmir division and Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu division. Srinagar recorded the lowest turnout of 29%.

In Budgam, the voter turnout was 58.97%, in Ganderbal it was 58.81%, Poonch recorded 71% voting and Reasi and Rajouri saw 71% and 68% voter turnout respectively.

In rural assembly segments like Charar e Sharief, the voter turnout was 67.44%. However, it saw a 15% decline when compared to 2014, when the voter turnout here was 82.44%.

Similarly, in Budgam, the voter turnout was 66.32% in 2014, which is 15% higher than the ongoing 2024 assembly elections. Even in Budhal constituency in Rajouri district which witnessed 82% voting in 2014 assembly elections, the voter turnout was 66%, hence witnessing a 16% decline.

Past Elections in Srinagar

Srinagar has been a traditional stronghold of the National Conference. But after the arrest of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the National Conference was converted mostly into Mahaz Raishumara (Plebiscite Front) and most of its

leaders would boycott the local assembly elections. Some leaders would contest as independents. It is alleged that the elections held from 1957 to 1972 were rigged in many places and the people didn't get the feel of a real democracy. Researchers and political commentators say that the assembly election held in 1977 soon after the release of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was relatively free and fair. Wajahat Habibullah, an Indian Administrative Service -IAS of 1968 batch who served in J&K told me long back that 1977 elections were conducted in a transparent manner across J&K especially in Srinagar. During that time, Wajahat was posted as District Magistrate Srinagar. After 1977 elections were again said to have been allegedly rigged, especially in 1987 which gave rise to militancy.

Past Assembly Elections in Srinagar

The elections for J&K Legislative Assembly have been held in 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1983, 1987, 1996, 2002, 2008, 2014. In addition, the election for Jammu & Kashmir constituent assembly was also held in 1951. The ongoing 2024 election is the 13th election that is being held in J&K. J&K has witnessed a huge participation of people in elections. The assembly elections held in 1977, 1983 and 1987 saw massive participation of people and Srinagar had witnessed more than 70% turnout in these elections.

Some assembly segments in Srinagar had a polling percentage as high as 80% to 90%. The voter turnout after 1990 came down and this

was the lowest in 2002 Assembly Elections. The voter turnout in Khanyar, Zadibal and Amira Kadal assembly segments of Srinagar was a mere 3% to 4% while in 1983 assembly elections, the polling percentage was as high as 89% in Zadibal assembly segment, which is a record. Sheikh Abdul Rashid of National Conference got 88% of total votes polled that time. This time the polling percentage in Zadibal has been merely 28%. The people have again boycotted these elections.

Khanyar, Amirkadal Assembly segments

Right from 1960, the Khanyar assembly constituency has witnessed brisk polling. This continued till 1987 and then there was a huge decline in voting percentage as people chose to boycott these elections. In 1972, Jamaat-e-Islami candidate Qari Safudin who later on became Jamat Ameer also won election from Khanyar. He secured 9530 votes and his nearest rival Abdul Rahman Gazi managed to get only 2176 votes. Gazi was a staunch NC leader but in 1972 he was contesting as an independent candidate as his party was boycotting elections.

In 1972, more than 62% polling was recorded in Khanyar. The voter turnout in Khanyar was 26.16% in 2014 assembly elections which now stands lower at only 26.08%.

Suggestions for ECI

Under Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), the Election Commission of India (ECI) spends a lot of money on voter awareness. Who monitors these programmes? Are there any proper guidelines that are to be followed during voter awareness? What kind of innovative activities are to be taken up? Is Design Thinking done before the activities taken up under SVEEP? Who designed the voter awareness module under SVEEP?

The Commission claims to be producing several voter awareness materials and disseminates the same through various mediums/platforms of communication i.e Print Media, Electronic Media, Social Media etc. These programmes are mostly held just 15 or 20 days before elections.

The programmes under SVEEP should be conducted at least 6 months in advance before the elections. More focus should be directed towards those assembly segments where there is low voter turnout. ECI must also hire researchers to undertake surveys to look into voter turnout trends. The higher secondary schools and colleges should be the target in these areas to ensure students understand the importance of electoral democracy.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow.
He is Chairman and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement

The periodic labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24 data was released recently. The clear picture emerging over the last decade has only been confirmed. India's employment crisis, already deep, shows no signs of letting up.

The uncalled-for national lockdown Covid began had resulted in India's economy contracting by nearly twice as much as the world economy (5.8% versus 3.1%, compared to the previous year). That short-notice lockdown of national scope (China had no national lockdown) sent millions back from the cities to their rural abodes. That decision and its adverse impact on an already slowing economy resulted in 60 million workers being added to agriculture in the next three years alone. PLFS 2023-24 shows that more workers have been added to farming in the last year again. Shockingly, it shows the share of agriculture has gone up from 45.8% (2022-23) to 46.1% (2023-24).

Agriculture had seen a sharp decline of workers since 2004 for the first time in India's post-independence history. This was because non-farm work grew sharply till 2012, at 7.5 million new non-farm jobs per annum. As a result, real wages in agriculture and all non-farm work rose from 2004 to 2012. This fall in farm workers continued even after 2014 as construction work sustained, although at a slower rate till 2019 (when agriculture accounted for 42% of India's workforce).

However, not only has agriculture's share gone up to 45% or higher over 2020-23, but 2023-24 has seen a further increase in workers in agriculture, to 46.1% of India's workforce. This continuing trend has confirmed and reinforced a reversal of the structural transformation that India's economy was undergoing until 2014. The last four years have reinforced that reversal.

This trend is confirmed by another piece of data in PLFS 2023-24: manufacturing share of employment compared to last year has stagnated at

Employment Crisis Deepens, Says Survey

Santosh Mehrotra

11.4%, which was lower than in 2021-22 (11.6%), and 2012 (12.8%). The continuing stagnation in manufacturing is merely sustaining a trend that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government injected with policy-induced shocks. First, it began with demonetisation, which led to manufacturing contribution to gross value added falling for five years, from 17% (which prevailed from 1992 to 2015-16) down to 13% in 2021 — a phenomenon not seen in post-independence India.

Second, this was followed by another policy shock — a poorly designed and hurriedly implemented national goods and services tax — that caused another decline of micro, small and medium enterprise output and employment, especially in manufacturing. The decline gathered momentum. Third, the national lockdown continued the process, so labour-intensive manufacturing, which accounts for 50% of all manufacturing jobs, suffered the most, resulting in an absolute fall in jobs in the labour-intensive sectors: garments, textiles, leather/footwear, food processing, and wooden furniture.

Government economists have recently gloated over the trend of rising female labour force participation (for decades among the lowest in the world). Why? PLFS 2023-24 shows that the share of regular salaried employment (the best type of employment, even if without social security) has fallen for both urban and rural women in the last few years as well. Animal husbandry has seen some rise, but that is still agriculture.

Worse, there has been an accentuation of the trend of the last three years that the worst form of employment — self-employment — has increased in share, from 53% of India's workforce to 57.3% in 2022-23, and 58.4% in 2023-24. Of that there is an increase, again in 2023-24, like in 2022-23, of unpaid family labour (UFL). The International Labour Organization does not consider this category as employment, but the National Statistical Office (NSO) continues to do so. No wonder the labour force and the worker participation rates in India have risen after Covid, and continue to rise. And the government, and its economists, continue to gloat over the resulting fall in unemployment rate.

Similarly, they keep pointing out that accordingly, youth unemployment rates that had risen to 17.8% in 2017-18 (from barely 6% in 2012) have fallen to 10.2% in 23-24. The point is that a significant share of these youth are also in agriculture, and also in UFL. Education levels of youth are rising constantly, as PLFS itself shows, and the educated young have no desire to work in agriculture, let alone as UFL.

Yet in August, the Reserve Bank of India's KLEMS analysis put out a claim that eight crore (80 million) new jobs were created in the last four years (including 2024). The latest PLFS puts that number also to shame, as we had demonstrated elsewhere. That exaggerated claim, trumpeted by the Prime Minister and government party spokespersons, itself was arrived at on a methodological-

ly flawed basis: by multiplying the ratios emerging from PLFS by projected Indian population growth rates, which bear no relationship to reality. The so-called researchers, hired by the RBI, were oblivious of the fact that India's total fertility rate has been falling sharply since the last Census of 2011, and in 2021 stood at below the replacement rate (2.1 children per woman) for India (actual is 2.0).

Meanwhile, India is supposedly the "fastest-growing" large economy in the world. However, those numbers don't quite find resonance in the employment created. So what could be the reasons? First, we know that since the policy shocks to the economy, the recovery was rapid, as is unsurprising, given the steep fall in FY21 was worse than the global fall. The recovery has been K-shaped, now generally accepted. Unorganised sectors were already struggling for the last eight years, as proven by the data for 2021-22 and 2022-23 of NSO's unorganised enterprises survey (for non-farm units); they are still struggling.

Recent research showed that the organised segment of almost every sector gained at the expense of the unorganised for the 85% of GDP accounted for outside agriculture. Given that organised segment growth is used to project unorganised segment growth, the GDP calculation overestimates it for the unorganised segment. Second, private consumption has grown at only half the rate of this inflated GDP growth, which has historically not been the case but it has for the last few years. There are other reasons (for example, around the GDP deflator) why GDP is likely to be overestimated, which for reasons of space we ignore. Thus, the job crisis is clearly reflecting deeper structural issues in the real economy.

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

A Lesson in Every Tick: Time's Insights

HIMANGSHU RANJAN BHUYAN

Time, in its relentless march, offers us an endless stream of lessons woven into the very fabric of our existence. The ticking clock serves as a powerful reminder of the transient nature of life, urging us to reflect on how we spend each moment. In our fast-paced world, where the boundaries between work and leisure often blur, we must pause to consider the insights that time provides. This article explores the profound lessons embedded in each tick of the clock, urging us to embrace mindfulness, seize opportunities, navigate change, and cultivate meaningful relationships.

At its core, the clock embodies the lesson of mindfulness. Each tick is a reminder that the present moment is fleeting, encouraging us to engage fully with our experiences. In our quest for progress, we often overlook the beauty of the present, consumed by thoughts of the past or anxieties about the future. Yet, the clock teaches us that true fulfillment lies in the here and now. Mindfulness allows us to appreciate the subtleties of life—whether it's the laughter shared with friends, the beauty of nature, or the simple joy of a quiet moment. By grounding ourselves in the present, we can cultivate a deeper sense of gratitude and connection to the world around us. Moreover, the relentless progression of time highlights the importance of seizing opportunities. Each tick of the clock signals a moment that is irrevocably lost, emphasizing the need to act with intention. The realization that time is finite serves as a powerful motivator, pushing us to pursue our passions and aspirations without hesitation. Just as the hands of the clock move forward, we too must be willing to take risks and step outside our comfort zones. Whether it's embarking on a new career, nurturing a creative endeavor, or deepening our relationships, the clock urges us to embrace the opportunities that life presents.

In addition to mindfulness and seizing opportunities, the passage of time teaches us about the inevitability of change. Life is characterized by cycles—of growth, decline, and renewal. Just as the clock's hands move in a continuous loop, our lives are



marked by transitions that shape our identities and experiences. Understanding this cyclical nature can help us embrace change rather than resist it. For instance, personal growth often requires letting go of old habits and embracing new perspectives. This process can be uncomfortable, yet it is essential for our development. The clock encourages us to view change as a natural part of our journey, inviting us to adapt and evolve. Furthermore, the clock serves as a reminder of the importance of persistence and resilience. Its unwavering motion symbolizes the need to keep moving forward, regardless of obstacles or setbacks. Each tick represents a moment of progress, no matter how small. In our pursuits, we must embody the same relentless spirit as the clock. Challenges are inevitable, but they do not define our journey. Instead, it is our response

As we navigate the complexities of our lives, the lessons from the clock serve as guiding principles. Mindfulness, seizing opportunities, embracing change, and cultivating relationships are essential elements of a fulfilling life

to those challenges that shapes our character. By embracing persistence, we can navigate the highs and lows of life with grace, knowing that every moment counts.

The lesson of balance is another crucial insight offered by the clock. With a limited number of hours in a day, we must allocate our time wisely across various aspects of our lives—work, relationships, self-care, and leisure. Striking this balance is essential for maintaining our well-being. The clock reminds us that neglecting one area can lead to imbalances in others. For example, overcommitting to work can strain relationships and diminish our physical and mental health. By being mindful of how we distribute our time, we can cultivate a sense of harmony and fulfillment, ensuring that each aspect of our lives receives the attention it deserves.

In the context of relationships, the clock emphasizes the value of quality time. It is not merely about the quantity of hours spent together, but rather the depth of connection forged during those moments. The clock teaches us to be intentional in our interactions, to prioritize meaningful conversations, and to create lasting memories with loved ones. Time spent with family and friends can be one of the most rewarding investments we make, enriching our lives in ways that material possessions cannot. The lessons of the clock encourage us to cherish these relationships and to express our appreciation for those who matter most. Additionally, the clock invites us to consider our legacy. Each tick of the clock contributes to the narrative of our lives, shaping how we will be remembered. This realization prompts us to reflect on our actions

and choices, recognizing that we have the power to impact the lives of others positively. Whether through acts of kindness, mentorship, or creative expression, we can leave a lasting imprint on the world, one tick at a time. The clock encourages us to live with intention and purpose, ensuring that our legacy is one that resonates long after we are gone.

Time teaches us about the beauty of impermanence. Each moment is unique and unrepeatable, reminding us to appreciate the here and now. The clock's steady rhythm encourages us to savor life's fleeting pleasures—sunsets, laughter, and shared experiences. By acknowledging the transient nature of existence, we can cultivate a deeper sense of appreciation for the present. This awareness invites us to embrace the joy of living fully, understanding that each tick is a gift that should not be taken for granted.

As we navigate the complexities of our lives, the lessons from the clock serve as guiding principles. Mindfulness, seizing opportunities, embracing change, and cultivating relationships are essential elements of a fulfilling life. The clock urges us to reflect on how we spend our time, to prioritize what truly matters, and to approach each moment with intention and purpose. By embracing these insights, we can lead lives rich in meaning, connection, and fulfillment.

The clock stands as a powerful symbol of the lessons time imparts. Its rhythmic ticking serves as a reminder to be present, seize opportunities, navigate change, and cultivate meaningful relationships. Each tick represents a moment of potential, urging us to embrace life's journey with open hearts and minds. As we learn from the clock, we can transform our relationship with time, using its insights to shape our experiences and create a life that resonates with purpose and fulfillment. In a world that often moves too fast, let us pause, reflect, and honor the lessons embedded in every tick, ensuring that we make the most of the precious time we have.

The Writer is Editor in Chief of the Assamese E-Magazine Samprotik

Prescription for a Happy Life

Sherrie Bourg Carter

If you could change one thing about your life in order to become a happier person, what change would make the biggest difference? Harvard psychiatrist Robert Waldinger, director of the longest-running scientific study of happiness, believes his research provides the answer.

The research, which started in 1938, before Dr. Waldinger became director, began as a study investigating what made young men thrive. It has since evolved, tracking multiple generations of both males and females, to look at what makes people feel like they're living a happy, meaningful life.

The results? Surprisingly simple. If you want to change one thing to make your life happier, it should be investing in your relationships. As Waldinger explained in an interview with NPR's Ari Shapiro, "We found that the strongest predictors of who not just stayed happy, but who was healthy as they went through life—the strongest predictors were the warmth and the quality of their relationships with other people." Waldinger added that it doesn't matter what type of relationship we invest in, be it with partners, friends, coworkers, or acquaintances, when we make the effort to connect with others, we receive "little hits of well-being" from them all (NPR, 2023).

The Healing Power of Connecting

According to Waldinger, the best hypothesis to explain these results is the healing power of relationships. Describing good relationships as "stress regulators," he explains that when we experi-



ence challenges in life, which is a fairly common universal human experience, the ability to reach out to others for comfort, advice, and assistance serves as a powerful form of stress management. While complications in our lives "rev up" our bodies, causing stress hormones and other negative biochemical influences to wear down our body systems, human connections help calm our bodies and bring us back down to equilibrium. That's why one of the strongest predictors of health, both physical and emotional, is the quality of our connections with others (Williamson, 2023).

Nurturing Connections With Small Gestures

Good relationships aren't self-sustaining. They need to be tended to or they will atrophy. Taking care of our relationships has to be an ongoing process, something Waldinger refers to as "social fitness." Much as we can't expect to remain physically fit by exercising once or twice a year, we shouldn't expect our relationships to survive on "once in a while" reinforcement. Although the reinforcement doesn't have to be extensive to keep the connection strong, it does have to be ongoing.

Unfortunately, in today's hectic world, few people feel

like they have time to add anything more to their plates. Yet it doesn't actually take much time to keep our connections strong. Even the smallest of gestures can result in big rewards (Waldinger & Schulz, 2023).

Be generous, and this doesn't mean with money or material gifts. It means being generous with your time, attention, or skills. It means giving people your undivided attention. It means making eye contact when someone is speaking to you rather than allowing yourself to be drawn away by distractions, such as the constant alerts coming from your

electronic device. If you're super organized, it means helping someone who isn't plan something. It means sharing your knowledge to help someone who needs it. Even calling someone at a store you frequent by the name on their name tag can make them feel "seen" and appreciated, and make you feel good for doing it.

Be curious. Ask questions that show you're interested in others and their well-being. Notice things about people and tell them or ask them about what you noticed. It can be as simple as saying that you noticed and like something someone is wearing, or notic-

ing that they seem unusually quiet or especially happy.

Be thoughtful. When you think of someone you miss, take a second to send them a text or an email simply to say "hi" and tell them that you're thinking of them; or if you have a bit of time in that moment, call them. No one will ever know of your thoughtful yet forgotten intentions, so when you think of it, take a minute to do it. Some people make this a part of their normal routine, such as making calls to connect during their morning drive or texting their "hellos," "miss you's," or "love you's" while on public transit. As Waldinger explains, when you pair your social fitness routine with your other daily routines, it will eventually become a good habit (Williamson, 2023).

It's Never Too Late

One of the best and most interesting results from Waldinger's research is that it's never too late to reap the powerful benefits of good relationships. In a study that has tracked participants for eight decades, Waldinger points out, "...the wonderful thing about following these life stories is we learn it's never too late. There were people who thought they were never going to have good relationships and then found a whole collection of good close friends in their 60s or 70s. There were people who found romance for the first time in their 80s. And so the message that we get from studying these thousands of lives is that it is never too late" (NPR, 2023).

So even if you're feeling isolated or alone, there are several options to help get you

to a path that can lead to a happier and healthier life. One thing you can do is find people or join groups that share your interests and passions. For example, if you enjoy animals, volunteer at a shelter. If you enjoy being outdoors, volunteer at a park. If you enjoy theater, volunteer at a performing arts center. If you enjoy reading, spend time at a library. If you like art, take an art class. This will make it easier to make casual conversation with like-minded people and hopefully start relationship-building opportunities. If you're uncomfortable with in-person interactions, there are online opportunities to engage with those who share your interests.

Another thing you can do is re-engage with those you care about or once cared about. Social media makes it much easier to find friends from the past, people you once enjoyed spending time with and who may be happy to hear from and catch up with you. Not everyone may be receptive to re-engaging, but you never know who will be unless you try. Be aware, though, that there's a very important distinction between active social media engagement and passive social media engagement. As Waldinger emphasizes, active consumption of social media can be beneficial in helping you reconnect with former connections and make new ones; however, passive consumption of social media has been found to make people feel worse about their lives and lower their mood (Williamson, 2023).

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Hashem Safieddine: Possible Successor to Nasrallah

Agenceis

BEIRUT: Hashem Safieddine, a potential successor to his slain cousin Hassan Nasrallah, is one of Hezbollah's most prominent figures and has deep religious and family ties to the Shiite Muslim movement's patron Iran. Safieddine bears a striking resemblance to his charismatic maternal cousin Nasrallah but is several years his junior, aged in his late 50s or early 60s.

A source close to Hezbollah, requesting anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to the media, said the grey-bearded, bespectacled Safieddine was the "most likely" candidate for party's top job.

The United States and Saudi Arabia put Safieddine, who is a member of Hezbollah's powerful decision-making Shoura Council, on their respective lists of designated "terrorists" in 2017.

The US Treasury described him as "a senior leader" in Hezbollah and "a key member" of its executive.

While Hezbollah deputy chief Naim Qassem automatically



takes over the Hezbollah leadership after Nasrallah's death, the Shoura Council must meet to elect a new secretary-general. Safieddine has strong ties with Iran after undertaking religious studies in the holy city of Qom.

His son is married to the daughter of General Qasem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' foreign operations arm who was killed in a 2020 US strike in Iraq. Safieddine has the title of Sayyed, his black turban

marking him, like Nasrallah, as a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.

Unlike Nasrallah, who lived in hiding for years, Safieddine has appeared openly at recent political and religious events.

Usually presenting a calm demeanour, he has upped the fiery rhetoric during the funerals of Hezbollah fighters killed in nearly a year of cross-border clashes with Israel.

Nasrallah said his forces were acting in support of Palestinian Hamas militants fighting Israel

in Gaza.

Amal Saad, a Lebanese researcher on Hezbollah based at Cardiff University, said that for years people have been saying that Safieddine was "the most likely successor" to Nasrallah.

"The next leader has to be on the Shoura Council, which has a handful of members, and he has to be a religious figure," she said. Safieddine "has a lot of authority... he's the strongest contender" she added.

Hezbollah was created at the initiative of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and gained its moniker as "the Resistance" by fighting Israeli troops who occupied southern Lebanon until 2000.

The movement was founded during the Lebanese civil war after Israel besieged the capital Beirut in 1982.

In July in a speech in Beirut's southern suburbs, Safieddine alluded to how Hezbollah views its leadership succession.

"In our resistance... when any leader is martyred, another takes up the flag and goes on with new, certain, strong determination," he said.

Ayatollah Sistani Calls Nasrallah 'Unparalleled Leader'

Agenceis

Najaf-al Ashraf: Iraq's top cleric, Grand Ayatollah Sayyed Ali al-Sistani has condoled the martyrdom of Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah Resistance Movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and said that martyr Nasrallah was a unique and unparalleled leader.

The office of Grand Ayatollah published a statement on Saturday regarding the terrorist act of the criminal Zionist regime in the martyring of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

With great sorrow, "We were informed of the martyrdom of Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah Resistance Movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and a number of combatants of the Resistance Movement in Lebanon and dozens of the innocent citizens in the disastrous crime of the Zionist enemy army in the suburbs of Beirut."

Ayatollah Sistani considered Martyr Nasrallah as a role-model for leadership in recent decades and emphasized that he played a prominent role in the victory over the Zionist occupiers.

Also, he [Martyr Nasrallah] threw his weight behind Iraqis for liberation of their country from ISIS terrorist groups, Ayatollah Sistani said, adding that martyr Nasrallah played a leading role in helping the oppressed people of Palestine.

In this statement, Ayatollah Sistani expressed his condolences to the people of Lebanon and other oppressed nations over this great calamity and great loss, and prayed to the Almighty God to bestow forbearance to the noble nation of Lebanon and his family for this irreparable loss.

HAMAS Condoles Palestinians

Palestinian group Hamas said in a statement it mourned the death of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah but added that his death would only strengthen the militant group's resistance.

Hamas expressed its condolences to the Palestinians, the Arab and Islamic Ummah, and the "free people of the world on the

martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and a group of his brotherly commanders".

"Crimes and assassination by the occupation will only increase the determination and the insistence of the resistance in Palestine and Lebanon to go forward with all their might, bravery and pride on the footsteps of the martyrs ...," Hamas said in a statement.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Terrorists Killed

security forces, as soon as they zeroed in on the suspected spot.

The injured personnel have been evacuated to army hospital Badamai-Bagh cantonment here, and are stated to be stable.

The injured security personnel have been identified as Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Mumtaz Ali Bhatti, a 09 battalion army soldier Mohammad Isran, Sepoy Mohan Sharma, Sepoy Sohan Kumar and Sepoy Yoginder. ASP Bhatti, sources, claimed, was hit in his right arm and left leg.

Confirming the death of two terrorists, the Jammu and Kashmir police on its official X handle said "Two bodies recovered from the encounter site. Identification and affiliation being ascertained, incriminating material, arms & ammunition recovered. Search in progress. Further details shall follow.

A top police official said the dead bodies recovered from the encounter site were identified as Aqib Ahmad Shergojri, son of Nazir Ahmad a resident of Khanpora Sarai, Chadoora, Budgam and Umair Wani, of Chawalgam, Kulgam.

The slain terrorists, he claimed, were affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist organization.

Last night, the security forces following inputs about the movement of terrorists, cordoned off Arigam, Kulgam area, during which the joint team was fired upon by the terrorists, IGP Kashmir told reporters here.

"Following the encounter, the security forces targeted the house where terrorists were suspected to be hiding. Since I cannot share the specific details at this moment, we will be able to share details as and when the operation concludes. Some security forces personnel suffered injuries in the encounter which is still underway, but they are stable and are recuperating," the provincial police chief added.

Cop Killed In

Billawar tehsil occurred amid heightened security arrangements in the district which goes to poll in the third and final phase on October 1 along with Jammu, Udhampur, Samba, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara.

Jammu Zone Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain and senior officers have rushed to the scene to supervise the operation, the officials said.

"During the ongoing encounter in village Kog (Mandli), one police personnel, Head Constable Bashir Ahmed, has sacrificed his life, and one ASI has sustained bullet injuries," a police spokesperson said.

According to security officials, a deputy superintendent of police (operations) was also injured in the encounter.

The exchange of fire started around 5.30 pm when security forces launched a joint cordon and search operation in the forested village following information about the presence of a group of terrorists inside a house, the officials said.

As the forces approached the target house, the hiding terrorists opened fire, prompting retaliation by the security forces, they said, adding the area has been put under a tight cordon with the induction of the reinforcements from adjoining security camps.

The officials said there was a brief lull after the initial firing and the exchange between the two sides intensified after the fall of the dusk with hiding terrorists making desperate attempts to break the cordon by taking advantage of darkness.

The area has been illuminated and modern gadgets including drones deployed to keep a close watch, they said.

They said intermittent exchange of firing was going on when last reports were received.

Israel Assassinate

and outlast individual leaders." Observers say 64 year old Nasrallah was not an ordinary leader. Since 1992, he has been steering Hezbollah that has been a

thorn in Israel's side and a symbol of resistance for many in Lebanon and the broader Arab world.

Sayyed Nasrallah led the group for nearly three decades overseeing its transformation into a formidable political, social and military force with regional sway and becoming one of the most prominent Arab and Muslim figures in generations.

He will be remembered among his supporters for standing up to Israel and defying the United States. His regional influence was on display over nearly a year of conflict ignited by the Gaza war, as Hezbollah entered the fray by firing on Israel from southern Lebanon in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas, and Yemeni and Iraqi groups followed suit, operating under the umbrella of "The Axis of Resistance".

"We are facing a great battle," Nasrallah said in an August 1 speech at the funeral of Hezbollah's top military commander, Fuad Shukur, who was killed in an Israeli strike on Beirut.

Yet when thousands of Hezbollah members were injured and dozens killed, when their communications devices exploded in an coordinated Israeli attack last week, that battle began to turn against his group.

Responding to the attacks on Hezbollah's communications network in a Sept. 19 speech, Sayyed Nasrallah vowed to punish Israel. "This is a reckoning that will come, its nature, its size, how and where? This is certainly what we will keep to ourselves and in the narrowest circle even within ourselves," he said.

He had not given a broadcast address since then.

Israel has meanwhile dramatically escalated its attacks, killing several senior Hezbollah commanders in targeted strikes and unleashing a massive bombardment in Hezbollah-controlled areas of Lebanon, which has killed hundreds of civilians, including children.

A charismatic and shrewd strategist, idolized by majority of Lebanese and respected by millions of others across the Arab and Islamic world, Hassan Nasrallah was a fiery orator. His speeches—delivered from secret locations to avoid assassination—were followed by friend and foe alike the world over. Considered an extremist by the West, Nasrallah was considered a pragmatist politician by astute Middle East observers.

Wearing the black turban of a Sayyed, or a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), Sayyed Nasrallah used his addresses to rally Hezbollah's base but also to deliver carefully calibrated threats, often wagging his finger as he did so.

He became secretary general of Hezbollah in 1992 aged just 35, the public face of a once shadowy group founded by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1982 to fight Israeli occupation forces. Israel killed his predecessor, Sayyed Abbas al-Musawi, in a helicopter attack. Nasrallah led Hezbollah when its guerrillas finally drove Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in 2000, ending an 18-year occupation.

DIVINE VICTORY

Conflict with Israel largely defined his leadership. He declared "Divine Victory" in 2006 after Hezbollah waged 34 days of war with Israel, winning the respect of many ordinary Arabs who had grown up watching Israel defeat their armies.

But his biggest challenge came when Hezbollah widened its area of operations to help the friendly government of Syria beat back Takfiri terror groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS overtly backed by the US and its regional allies. Syria still acts as a strategic land bridge between Iran and Lebanon; its fall would have choked the lifeline for resistance forces stationed in Lebanon and Palestine.

In the years following the 2006 war, Nasrallah has been walking a tightrope over a new conflict with Israel, hoarding Iranian supplied military arsenal in a carefully measured contest of threat and counter threat.

The Gaza war, ignited by the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, prompted Hezbollah's worst conflict with Israel since 2006, costing the group hundreds of its fighters including top commanders.

After years of entanglements elsewhere, the conflict put renewed focus on Hezbollah's historic struggle with Israel.

"We are here paying the price for our front of support for Gaza, and for the Palestinian people, and our adoption of the Palestinian cause," Nasrallah said in the August 1 speech. Nasrallah grew up in Beirut's impoverished Karantina district. His family hail from Bazouriyeh, a village in Lebanon's predominantly Shia south which today forms Hezbollah's political heartland.

He was part of a generation of young Lebanese Shia whose political outlook was shaped by Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Before leading the group, he used to spend nights with frontline guerrillas fighting Israel's occupying army. His teenage son, Hadi, died in battle in 1997, a loss that strengthened his image among his core constituency in Lebanon.

POWERFUL ENEMIES

He had a track record of threatening powerful enemies.

As regional tensions escalated after the eruption of the Gaza war, Nasrallah issued a thinly veiled warning to U.S. warships in the Mediterranean, telling them: "We have prepared for the fleets with which you threaten us."

"In 2020, Nasrallah vowed that U.S. soldiers would leave the region in coffins after legendary Iranian general Qassem Soleimani was assassinated by the US in a drone strike in Iraq.

He expressed fierce opposition to Saudi Arabia over its armed intervention in Yemen, where, with U.S. and other allied support, Riyadh sought to roll back the Iran-aligned Ansarallah.

As regional tensions rose in 2019 following an attack on Saudi oil facilities, he said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates should halt the Yemen war to protect themselves.

"Don't bet on a war against Iran because they will destroy you," he said in a message directed at Riyadh. Saudi's soon after declared a unilateral truce in Yemen.

Sayyed Khamenei

"Now they are trying the same foolish policy in Lebanon. The Zionist criminals should know that they are too small to cause significant damage to the strong construction of Hezbollah in Lebanon. All the resistance forces of the region are with Hezbollah and support it," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the fate of the region will be decided by the resistance forces, with Hezbollah at the head of them.

J&K Hajj Applications

applications for 2025 compared to 2,607 in 2024. Similarly, Budgam's applications dropped from 873 to 325, marking a decline of over 62%. Anantnag and Bandipora also reported decreases of over 50%, while Baramulla received just 349 applications, down from 781 in the previous year.

A key factor in the decline is the high cost of the pilgrimage. Pilgrims travelling from Srinagar face fees of around Rs 4.2 lakh, compared to Rs 3.6 lakh from Delhi, primarily due to higher airfares—Rs 1.7 lakh from Srinagar versus Rs 1.1 lakh from Delhi. However, authorities clarify that pilgrims are free to choose their embarkation point.

Economic experts said many families are prioritising essential expenses such as healthcare and education over the pilgrimage due to financial strains.

Advocate Zahoor, a local social activist, said the decline is due to rising prices and economic hardship. He said daily survival has become increasingly challenging for people of the region.

"People are struggling to make ends meet, and basic living costs have skyrocketed.

Even local contractors are finding it hard to compete with outsiders for work," he said. "Works they used to do are done by outsiders. Where will the money come from? People are in economic stress as there are minimal jobs and businesses."

Zahoor said the economic stability could return if policies for the region are revised and opportunities will be provided to the locals.(KNO)

Decision To Transform

corrupt," he said, adding it was the BJP which ended the "historic discrimination" and provided justice to the region during the last 10 years.

Referring to the setting up of various education and health institutions, including the IITs and AIIMS and infrastructure projects like tunnels, the prime minister said the Congress, NC and PDP inflicted "wounds on the people" by depriving them of their rights but the BJP reached them, irrespective of their religion, and rubbed balm on their wounds by giving them voting rights, reservations and empowering women.

"In coming times, Jammu's development will be further boosted. I want to tell the business community that the coming times will be full of opportunities for them," he said, adding "our efforts are on to bring more investment to Jammu and set up industry to provide jobs to the local youth in their own districts".

The prime minister said that earlier people close to the Congress, NC and PDP were the only persons who were getting jobs but "now every youth of J&K will get his right and honour under the BJP's rule".

"In the past 60 to 65 years, this region witnessed only destruction... Leave aside development, every sphere of life suffered. Modi is working sincerely to fill up all those pits of the past and will not leave any opportunity to address your issues," he said.

Modi also referred to the BJP's manifesto and the promises stating every section of the society, including Kashmiri migrant pandits, refugees and women, will get what is their right besides a big push will be given to boost tourism in the region by completing various projects and identifying new destinations.

"Congress was considering border villages as the last villages of the country. We are treating such villages as first villages and are developing these under a vibrant village project," he said, adding the Jammu ring road on completion will not only address the issue of traffic jams but also benefit the tehsils.

The prime minister said the electric buses are running on Jammu roads, the Jammu railway station is getting modernized, the Jammu airport is being expanded, Bahu ropeway project completed, while Tawi river front project is going to be a major attraction.

The development of Gharana wetland, Surinsar lake and border tourism is also before you, he added.

Asserting that the BJP wants empowerment of women, Modi said, "We will continue our efforts to help self help groups to make our sisters Lakshmi Didi in J&K. The women will also be given training and drones under the drone pilot scheme."

The campaigning for 40 assembly segments spread across seven districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur in Jammu region and Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts of north Kashmir is ending on Sunday evening.

'J&K To Have

He also said that the September 2016 surgical strike had left the enemies of India shaken and no one would dare to hatch conspiracies against the country now as the "mentors of terrorism know Modi will trace them wherever they would hide."

Addressing the massive election rally in Jammu, the Prime Minister said it was his last poll rally as elections will be over in J&K on October 1. "Today is September 28, the anniversary of historic surgical strikes against Pakistan. It was on this day, we hit

the enemy right in their homes and showed the world that it was new India that no more can be taken for granted," Modi said.

He said the 2016 surgical strikes taught a biggest lesson to mentors of terrorism as no one would now dare to touch India's sovereignty. "If anybody tries to play any mischief, Modi will not spare them and trace them wherever they would hide," the Prime Minister said.

"The terror mentors know that if they do anything wrong, Modi will find them even in 'Pataal' (netherworld)."

He said Congress stooped so low that it demanded proof of surgical strikes. "Do they deserve votes," Modi asked.

He said today was the freedom fighter Baghat Singh's birth anniversary as well. "Today I pray rich tributes to this fallen hero," Modi said.

He said during the past few weeks, he travelled to different parts of the J&K to address the election rallies. "Wherever, I went, I saw great enthusiasm among people towards the BJP. J&K people are tired of Congress, PDP and NC," Modi said.

He said people don't want old bad days to return where corruption was at its peak, backdoor appointments were being made. "People of J&K don't want terrorism, separatism and bloodbath to return," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that now people of J&K want peace. "They want a better future through the governance of BJP," he said. In the last two phases, people's mood suggests that they have voted in favour of BJP."

Modi said that in J&K, there will be a full majority government of BJP for the first time," he said. "This will be a historic verdict. This election will give a historic verdict."

He said for the first time, Jammu people would have the government of their choice. "This is a city of temples; you should not lose this last opportunity. BJP government will take away your worries," he said.

PM Modi said that Jammu was subjected to disparity and injustice that can only be removed by PM Modi.

Lashing out at the Congress party, Modi said that Jammu's major part was cut only because of this party's blunders. "There was a time when bullets and shells were routine here. We responded to the bullet with artillery shells and that sent a message across," he said.

Taking a jibe at Congress, Modi said this party disrespected fallen soldiers and never allowed one rank, one pension. "Soon after taking the reins of the country, I announced one rank, one pension for the soldiers and their families," he said, adding that recently this scheme was also enhanced to provide more facilities to the families of soldiers.

He said today's Congress is under the control of Urban Naxals. "When foreign intruders come to India, Congress feels good. They see vote banks in them but they were least bothered about our own people," he said. "Congress, PDP and NC are the biggest enemies of the Indian constitution. They are the ones who didn't allow implementation of B R Ambedkar's constitution."

"Jammu and Kashmir people are looking forward to a government free of "corruption, terrorism and separatism" for peace and a better future for their children."

He said wounds inflicted by the Congress, National Conference and PDP will only be healed by the BJP. "We have announced the Tika Lal Taplu scheme for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits which will be implemented soon after government formation in J&K," he said.

SHRC's Recommendations

2008 dated 4th July 2008. However the government in a communication dated 7 August 2014 rejected recommendations of the Commission and the petition, Mohammad Amin Khan had challenged the same before the court. However the court dismissed the petition.

Afzal Guru's Brother Looks To Win Sopore Seat

Press Trust Of India

SOPORE: Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru's brother Aijaz Ahmed Guroo, who is fighting the Jammu and Kashmir polls from Sopore on development and employment plank, said the challenges faced by the assembly segment mirror the broader problems of the Union Territory.

With a promise to uplift the area and create job opportunities for the youth, Guroo is determined to carve out a distinct political identity, separate from his brother's controversial legacy.

"The vision of my brother was different and mine is different," he said in an interview with PTI Videos while emphasising that his focus is on development rather than separatist ideologies.

Afzal Guru was hanged in Tihar jail on February 9, 2013, for plotting the December 2001 attack on Parliament.

Aijaz Ahmed Guroo, an Independent candidate who did not complete his matriculation, expressed his commitment to upholding the Constitution and addressing the pressing concerns of Sopore. The region has suffered years of neglect, he said.

Once known for its flourishing apple orchards, Sopore gained notoriety in the early 1990s amid a rise in militancy. Separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani was elected from the seat thrice, the last time being in 1987.

Traversing the lanes and bylanes of Sopore while campaigning for himself, Guroo highlights the dire state of the local economy.

"The youth of Sopore are unemployed and the cost of living has risen sharply over the past four to five years. The rich remain unaffected, while the poor sections have become poorer," he said.

Guroo vowed to tackle these issues and address the needs of the underprivileged while asserting that the challenges faced by Sopore mirror the broader problems across Jammu and Kashmir.

He alleged that the influence of the National Conference was responsible for the atmosphere of fear and violence in the area.

"My vision is focused on development and employment," he said.

While acknowledging that some progress has taken place in the region, Guroo claimed that bureaucrats have become more powerful and the poor are struggling.

Making a passionate appeal to voters to see him as a public representative who genuinely cares about their interests, he said, "People will vote if they believe that Aijaz will work for them. That decision is theirs to make."

Voter turnout in Sopore has historically been low due to militancy with only the 2008 assembly elections seeing only 19 per cent participation in the area. The voting percentage rose to 30 per cent in 2014.

However, the 2024 Lok Sabha polls witnessed significant voter participation with the turnout reaching 45 per cent, a marked improvement from the mere 4 per cent voting in the 2019 general elections.

Sopore will go to the polls in the third phase of the elections on October 1.

Nasrallah Assassinated: Spontaneous Protests, Shutdowns In Many Areas



Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: The assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who was popular in Kashmir for his resistance against the American-Israeli agenda in the Middle East triggered widespread protests and spontaneous shutdowns across many areas including Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora and Srinagar.

People took to the streets in protest, expressing their grief and anger soon after Hezbollah confirmed his death. In Shia-dominated areas, shopkeepers downed their shutters as a mark of spontaneous protest.

Large demonstrations were reported from Budgam town and surrounding areas, Narbal, Pattan and dozens of localities in North Kashmir. Similar reports were received from Sonawari in Bandipora district.

In Srinagar Lal-Bazar, Bagwanpora, Alamgirbazar, Bemina, Shalimar and other areas witnessed large protests till late hours Saturday. Men, women and children were out in the streets mourning the loss of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Protestors chanted pro-resistance slogans, demanding an end to Israel aggression on Gaza and Lebanon.

"My heart is broken; it is such a black day. He was one of the few resistance forces in the Middle East who fought for the oppressed. I am shattered, and I feel like my back has been broken," said Tabish Abbas, a protestor from Zadibal.

Another protestor, Fazil Hussain, who joined the protest upon hearing the news, said, "I adored him as my role model. I just heard that Nas-

rallah has been martyred, and I couldn't stay home. I had to be part of the protest."

Hundreds of women also joined the protest demonstrations. Shaafia, a participant, described her feelings: "I am yet to reconcile with what has happened. I am in a state of shock and despair, and I feel short of words to describe my feelings. It feels like all the resistance leadership in the Middle East has been eliminated."

Addressing a late night protest march in Budgam Member Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah said Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was accused of being hiding somewhere in Iran or elsewhere but due to his martyrdom he proved the values he had for himself and same for others as well. "He sacrificed his own son for the sake of the resistance, then he called for participation in the resistance, he attained martyrdom in the path of resistance, may we all meet the same fate as Nasrallah."

Political Leaders Call Off Campaigns

The assassination also led to the cancellation of political campaigns across Kashmir. Mehbooba Mufti, the chief of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), announced on her X account, "Cancelling my campaign tomorrow in solidarity with the martyrs of Lebanon & Gaza, especially Hassan Nasrallah. We stand with the people of Palestine & Lebanon in this hour of immense grief & exemplary resistance."

NC candidate for Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone, also canceled his campaign, stating, "Our programs for tomorrow are canceled over the martyr-

dom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Our hearts are ripped."

Ruhullah also canceled his campaign while on his way to Rafiabad. He posted on X, "Dear brothers in Rafiabad, I was on my way towards you and to be with you there. I had to call off my campaign because of a great tragedy that occurred. I am extremely sorry, and please forgive me for not being able to come. I am indebted to you all for this love. I will be there soon, InshaAllah."

Molvi Imran Raza Ansari, the People's Conference leader and candidate for the Pattan constituency, similarly called off his campaign, urging his supporters to stop playing music and pay respect to the late Lebanese leader. "Nasrallah fought for the poor and the oppressed, and his assassination is a big loss to the resistance front," Imran said. NC's candidate for Pattan constituency Riyaz Bedar organised a funeral prayer in absentia for Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah at Bedar House in Pattan.

Tributes Pour In

Condolences and tributes poured in from various leaders. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Kashmir's head priest took to microblogging site 'X' (formerly Twitter) posting a picture of Hassan Nasrallah with a caption "Martyrs don't die; they continue to live in our hearts as an inspiration." Dr. Sameer Siddiqui, a noted scholar from South Kashmir, described Sayyed Nasrallah as someone who aided in God's mission, saying, "He went towards the mercy of God. To Him we belong, and to Him we shall return."

NC-Cong Alliance Foiled BJP's Plans In First 2 Phases: Omar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Former chief minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday claimed that the National Conference-Congress alliance has been able to keep BJP at bay in the first two phases of polling in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We (alliance) have foiled the efforts of the BJP at government formation in the first two phases of polling. We now hope that this will continue in the third phase," Abdullah told reporters during an election campaign in the Tangmarg



area of Baramulla district. "A large number of people voted in favour of alliance candidates in south and central Kashmir," he said.

Congress Will Restore Statehood: Priyanka Gandhi

Press Trust Of India

BISHNAH (JAMMU): The Congress will restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on Saturday while she slammed the BJP for using the Union territory as a pawn to "stir emotions" elsewhere in the country. Gandhi, the Congress's national general secretary, also criticised Lt Governor Manoj Sinha saying the current administration was a "puppet" government being run with a remote control.

"The Congress party has a vision for you and for Jammu and Kashmir. We want to restore your state's status. If our government comes to power, we will immediately restore your statehood. We will also revive the tradition of the Darbar Move," Vadra told a public rally here.

Darbar Move refers to the bi-annual shift of government offices, including the secretariat, between Jammu and Srinagar in view of the harsh winter in J-K. "We want to

protect your rights, your rights to your land and your employment," said Gandhi while speaking in Bishnah, Neeraj Kundan.

Hitting out at Amit Shah's remarks on the statehood issue, she said "I found it amusing when the home minister said in his speech that if you want statehood back, you must vote for us. But the fact is, they are the ones who took it away. It is like a thief who steals your TV and then says, 'If you want it back, ask me.'"

"They claim only they can return it. If our government comes to power, we will immediately restore your statehood," Gandhi said, hitting out at the BJP government for "downgrading" J-K into a Union territory. She added "This is the peak of the country. Nature has given you everything—these resources, this beauty. From here came the great sages who spread faith, culture and teachings not only in India but in other countries too. "But the BJP has snatched everything

you have, the Congress leader added. Recalling her grandmother Indira Gandhi's "deep bond" with Kashmir, she said, "Four or five days before Indira Gandhi's assassination, she told us she wanted to visit Kashmir and see the autumn leaves. She brought us to the Kheer Bhawani temple, and just a few days after returning to Delhi, she was assassinated."

"It was a call from her land and Mata that took her to Kashmir," she reminisced, emphasising her family's long standing relationship with the region.

Gandhi also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi during her speech, saying he was not serious about the concerns of the people of J-K. BJP leaders have turned Jammu and Kashmir into a pawn in their political chess game as policies are not being made for the people of the region, she said. "They are created to stir emotions across the country using you and serve political purposes," Gandhi said.

Article 370 Can Be Restored Only By Govt Of India: Azad

Press Trust Of India

BANI/JAMMU: Asserting that Article 370 can only be restored by the Government of India, chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad, took a dig at the National Conference (NC) and the Congress over the "restoration of statehood" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have already committed to restoring the statehood, he said. Azad said that people are enthusiastic as they are participating in elections after ten years.

"Neither the National Conference nor the PDP spoke in Parliament on Article 370 and statehood. I spoke on it. The prime minister and the home minister had said they would restore statehood," Azad told reporters here.

Azad, responding to a question about the demands of the NC and the Congress to restore statehood and Article 370, further said, "Article 370 can only be restored by the Government of India, not any state."

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi warned the BJP-led Union government Wednesday, vowing that the opposition INDIA bloc will "hit the road and use full



force" both inside and outside Parliament if Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is not restored after the assembly elections.

Azad, who was campaigning for his party's candidate in the Bani Assembly of the Kathua district, said there is immense enthusiasm among people for the polls.

"There is huge enthusiasm among the people as they are participating in these elections after ten years," he added.

Azad addressed a public meeting in Bani, where he appealed to people for unity and urged them to vote for development and progress. He urged people not to be "exploited" by false promises and slogans.

"By voting for the DPAP, we believe the people of Bani can pave the way for a prosperous and inclusive future," he said, adding, "Together, we shall rebuild Jammu and Kashmir."

Lal Singh Faces Uphill Task To Reclaim Seat For Congress

Press Trust Of India

BASHOLI (KATHUA): Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district goes to polls with battle lines clearly drawn between the Congress and the BJP across all six seats with focus on the Basholi Assembly constituency, where three-time MLA and two-time MP Choudhary Lal Singh faces a herculean task to reclaim his traditional stronghold for the fourth time.

Famous for its unique 'Basohli Paintings' and located along the banks of the river Ravi, Basholi has sent Singh and his wife Kanta Andotra to Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for four times out of the nine elections, while the Congress has won it seven times overall. Although Singh is in a four-way contest with BJP's Darshan Kumar, PDP's Yoginder Singh, and BSP's Pankaj Kumar, the real battle is expected to be between the BJP and the Congress.

"It's a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress. For Lal Singh, it's a tough challenge to bring the seat back to the Congress after 20 years. For the BJP, it's a test to achieve a hat-trick on this seat," said political expert Vikas Kumar.

Lal Singh has lost three consecutive Lok Sabha elections to Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in 2014, 2019, and 2024. During the last Lok Sabha election, the Union minister secured a lead of 14,000 votes on the Basholi segment, leaving Lal Singh with an uphill task to retain the seat, which he won in 2014.

"It's a tough contest for Singh, especially with two other contenders from the Rajput community, which constitutes 60 per cent of the population here," Kumar said.

Lal Singh started his political career as a student leader and was first elected as an MLA from Basholi in 1996. He was re-elected in 2002 and became the minister for health and medical education in the Congress-PDP coalition gov-

ernment. He later won the Udhampur seat in the 2004 and 2009 Lok Sabha elections.

An arts graduate from the Jammu University, Lal Singh rejoined the Congress in March this year before the Lok Sabha elections, after leaving the BJP in 2018 over the Kathua rape case.

After parting ways with the BJP in 2018, he launched a movement for the "Dogra pride," advocating for a public holiday on Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary and a separate state for Jammu.

He also faces a money laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate and was briefly arrested.

"People are frustrated with the LG administration and the BJP government. They want an end to this BJP's dictatorship and cruel regime. They will vote the BJP out across Jammu and make the Congress victorious. I will win this seat and help the Congress form a coalition government in J-K," said Lal Singh, who is campaigning door-to-door in the remote, mountainous areas of the constituency.

While the PDP and the BSP have fielded their candidates, the main competition remains between 66-year-old Lal Singh from the Congress and 48-year-old businessman Darshan Kumar from the BJP. Kumar, who is currently the district president, also belongs to the Rajput community. Basholi's 60 per cent Thakur community plays a crucial role in deciding the outcome, which is why both the Congress and the BJP have fielded Rajput candidates.

Meanwhile, BJP's Kumar has intensified his campaign with door-to-door outreach, corner meetings, and public rallies. The BJP has brought in star campaigners, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, G Kishan Reddy, and Dr Jitendra Singh.

RTIM Commemorates Int'l Access To Information Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement on Saturday commemorated the international access to information day which is celebrated across the world on September 28th. The programme was held in association with Peace School Nagam Chadora.

While addressing the students and teachers of Peace School, Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat gave a historical background of the access to information law in India and how it got enacted after passing of the historic Supreme judgement in the Raj Narayan V/S Union of India case.

He explained in detail the provisions of RTI Act 2005 and urged upon the students and faculty to make use of this law not only to make Govt officials accountable but to ensure the better understanding of participatory democracy.

This year's international access

to Information Day's theme is "mainstreaming access to information and participation in the public sector". Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat urged upon the public authorities particularly the designated public information officers (PIOs) not to make RTI applicants wait for 30 days in supplying the information as section 7 of the RTI Act clearly mentions that PIO has to provide information as expeditiously as possible.

"It has become a habit of PIOs to provide information after 30 days even if the same is already available with them and is neither to be created nor collected," he said.

Several eminent speakers also spoke on the occasion which included Dr Rouf Mohiuddin—Director Koshish, Chairman Peace School Nagam Athar Pravaiz Mir, Administrator Ajaz Jalal, co-ordinator RTI Movement Budgam Mushtaq Ahmed, Shabir Ahmed Bhat-coordinator-Pratham and social activist Amir Khan were also present on the occasion.

WORLD HEART DAY

Heart Attacks, Strokes Reported In Every Season In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Heart attacks and strokes in Jammu & Kashmir are on the rise, much like the rest of the world. Experts have identified pollution, insufficient exercise and high fast food consumption as key contributing factors.

Cardiologists from several tertiary healthcare facilities in the Union Territory informed that the number of heart attacks has nearly doubled over the past five years. They said hospitals have seen a significant increase in stent procedures during this time.

Dr Irfan, a cardiologist at GMC Srinagar, said the incidence of heart attacks at SKIMS and SMHS has increased substantially. "In the past, there were about 70% fewer cases in the summer compared to winter. Now, we are admitting more young patients year-round with heart-related issues, necessitating frequent stent procedures and pacemaker implantations," he explained.

The doctor said heart attacks are now being reported across all seasons, and there is no longer a clear distinction between urban and rural cases. "Factors such as air pollution, rapid urbanisation, drug abuse, seden-

tary lifestyles, stress and smoking have led to increased rates of hypertension and diabetes, which have further elevated the risk of heart attacks," he said.

Dr Irfan further said that young patients with heart problems, previously rare, are now increasingly common. "Many individuals are becoming overly reliant on convenience, favouring easy tasks facilitated by online delivery and work-from-home arrangements. This sedentary lifestyle has also contributed to a rise in drug abuse and related health issues, including Endocarditis, which was once uncommon in the region," he said.

Dr Showkat, another cardiologist, said the rising prevalence of stress-related disorders is a major factor in the increase in heart disease. "The socio-political climate, economic pressures and daily life stressors are elevating stress levels," he said. "Stress has been shown to trigger high blood pressure, promote inflammation, and lead to unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as smoking and poor dietary choices."

Many young professionals and students report high anxiety levels, which contributes to stress-induced hypertension and heart problems, he added. (KNO)

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 6107218
Class 10th
Year & Session Annual Regular 2019
Registration: N18381410008
Name: Rifat Rashid
Father's Name: Abdul Rashid Lone
Mother's Name: Gulshana Banu
Date of Birth:- 16-02-2004

Residence:- Nowpora Nagam Pulwama
According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & II KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 5034464 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Certs-I-DQ)/KD/20
Dated
MP

Sd/-
Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.



Rain Washes Out 2nd Day Of Kanpur Test Between India & Bangladesh

Press Trust of India

KANPUR: The second day of the second Test between India and Bangladesh was on Saturday called off without a ball being bowled due to persistent downpour.

The drizzle in the morning turned into heavy rain, not letting the action begin on day two at Green Park Stadium.

The groundsmen put the three super soppers to work around 11:15 am after the rain stopped. The visibility was also poor. As conditions did not improve, the second day's play was called off officially at 2:15 pm.

As per the weather forecast, the city is expected to receive rain even on Sunday but Monday and Tuesday are likely to be sunny and warm.

In that scenario, the match seems to be headed for a draw. Bangladesh had ended the rain-curtailed opening day at 107 for three as only 35 overs



could be bowled.

India pacer Akash Deep accounted for Bangladeshi openers -- Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam -- while off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin sent back rival skipper Najmul Hos-

sain Shanto.

India are leading the two-match series 1-0, having won the Chennai Test by 280 runs.

The Two Contenders To Replace Jay Shah As BCCI Secretary

The primary focal point of the BCCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting, to be held in Bengaluru on Sunday, will be to elect two representatives of India to the ICC meetings, as finding a successor to incumbent secretary Jay Shah is not on agenda.

The meeting assumes importance because the International Cricket Council has scheduled a conclave in Dubai at the end of the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup in the UAE.

The final of the marquee event is slated for October 20 in Dubai, and Shah will still be in the chair of the BCCI secretary on that date, as he will take over as ICC chairman from December 1.

As things stand now, two names have been doing rounds for the post -- Anil Patel, the secretary of Gujarat Cricket Association and Rohan Jaitley, son of late Arun Jaitley and the president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association.

But it has been learned that Patel is the current frontrunner for the post which will be officially ratified at the Special General Meeting (SGM), and the date of which too is expected to be revealed after the AGM.

Short TAKES

Sarfraz Khan's Brother Musheer Injured In Road Accident

Mumbai all-rounder Musheer Khan, younger brother of India batter Sarfraz, is "stable" after suffering a road accident on the outskirts of Lucknow but is set to miss cricketing action for a prolonged period starting with the upcoming Irani Cup.

The 19-year-old is expected to be out of action for at least three months due to neck injuries he sustained in the accident, effectively ruling him out of Mumbai's matches at the start of the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 season, starting from October 11.

It is learnt that Musheer was en route to Lucknow from Azamgarh, his hometown, for the Irani Cup beginning on October 1. He was accompanied by his father Naushad Khan, who also suffered minor scratches in the accident that took place on the Purvanchal Expressway after his car hit a divider and overturned.

Sri Lanka Near Historic Series Sweep, New Zealand On The Brink

Sri Lanka is just five wickets away from sealing a monumental series sweep against New Zealand after reducing the visitors to 199 for five in their second innings on Saturday.

New Zealand, needing 315 runs to avoid an innings defeat, face a formidable challenge. The match, anticipated to end in under three days, was only prolonged by bad light, prompting umpires to call off play with 20 overs remaining.

The third day was tumultuous, with New Zealand losing 13 wickets, including a morning collapse of nine.

Six Players From Nepali FA's Academy Missing After Landslide

Six players from the Nepali soccer association's (ANFA) academy in Makwanpur district are missing after they were thought to have been caught up in a landslide during heavy rains that killed several people in the region, the ANFA said on Saturday.

The incident occurred in Indrasarowar, not far from the capital Kathmandu, while the players were moving to a safer location, ANFA said in a statement.

Debris from the landslides blocked highways in at least 28 locations, police said.

Palmer Makes PL History With 4 First Half Goals For Chelsea



Chelsea playmaker Cole Palmer has become the first player in the 32-year history of the Premier League to score four goals in the first half of a match.

The England international's flurry of goals came in a 20-minute span against Brighton at Stamford Bridge on Saturday as Chelsea built a 4-2 lead by halftime.

Palmer scored in the 21st, 28th, 31st and 41st minutes. No player has ever scored so many goals before halftime in a single match.

Downtown Heroes Downed 2-1 In I-League 3 Playoffs Game

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC lost their second straight match of the 2024-25 I-League 3 Playoffs on Saturday after losing 2-1 to Keinou Library & Sports Association at Naihati Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The defeat has sent the Heroes to the bottom of the Group A table, having lost 3-1 to SESA Football Academy in the playoffs opener.

Ngangom Ronald Singh gave the Manipur-based Keinou Library & Sports Association an early lead in the 12th minute. Downtown equalised 12 minutes later when Konthoujam Amrajit Singh found the back of the net in the 24th



minute. However, the parity between the two teams was broken four minutes later, as Ngangom Ronald Singh scored a brace and made it 2-1 in the 28th minute.

The Heroes will next take on Assamese champions

Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC on October 2 at 9:00 AM.

Downtown Heroes Playing XI: 26 Nirdosh, 2 Abid, 5 Musaib, 6 Arun, 33 Amit, 10 Lalramza, 17 Shahmeer, 31 Mohammed, 16 Sahil, 34 Fahad, 36 Konthoujam

LG Felicitates Paris Paralympics Bronze Medallists From J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday met and felicitated Paris 2024 Paralympics Bronze Medallists, Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, at Raj Bhawan.

The LG congratulated the Para Archers from J&K for their incredible performance at Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Interacting with Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar, the LG said that their hard work, dedication and remarkable achievements in International games have made the nation proud.

"Your exceptional performance will inspire the young generation," the LG said.

The LG also felicitated Archery coach Abhilasha Chaudhary and extended



his best wishes to the athletes and the coach for their future endeavours.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, and other senior officers of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.

J&K Throwball Association, RP School Organise Friendly Matches

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Throwball Association, in collaboration with RP School Lawaypora, successfully hosted friendly throwball matches at the school's premises, attracting over 50 female students. This event was part of the "Throwball for Health" initiative launched by the Throwball Federation of India, aimed at promoting the health benefits of sports.

Principal Shabir Ahmad emphasized the importance of engaging in physical activities, urging students to participate in sports rather than relying



on mobile games and online platforms.

Sahil Ali, representing the J&K Throwball Association, extended gratitude to the school management and Physical Education staff for

their support. He also announced that trials for the upcoming Throwball National Championship, scheduled to take place in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, in October 2024, would soon be held.

Ishfaq Ahmed-Coached U17 India Enters SAFF C'ship Final

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: India beat Nepal 4-2 on Saturday at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan, to enter the 2024 SAFF U17 Championship final.

After a goalless first half, the team, coached by Kashmir Valley's footballing great Ishfaq Ahmed, scored four goals in the second half to set a finals clash against Bangladesh. Bangladesh beat Pakistan on penalties in the other semi-final clash.

The Blue Colts are led by another Kashmiri football stalwart, as they are managed by Majid Yousuf Dar, son of legendary Yousuf Dar and brother of top football



coach and educator, Sajid Yousuf Dar. The SAFF Championship final will be played on Monday.

Manchester City Feel Rodri Absence In 1-1 Draw With Newcastle United

Agencies

NEWCASTLE: Manchester City failed to shrug off the absence of Rodri in a 1-1 draw at Newcastle as they dropped Premier League points for the second consecutive game on Saturday.

The Spaniard has been ruled out for the rest of the season due to a serious knee injury picked up in last weekend's fiery 2-2 draw with title rivals Arsenal.

Josko Gvardiol put the visitors in front at St James' Park, but Newcastle were well worthy of the point given to them by Anthony Gordon's second-half penalty.

A point edges City two points clear at the top of the table, but they could be overtaken by Liverpool, Aston Villa and Arsenal by the end of the weekend.

Guardiola described Rodri, who is unbeaten in his past 52 Premier League appearances stretching back to February 2023, as "irreplaceable" but vowed to find a collective solution.

Teenager Rico Lewis was thrust forward into a central midfield role alongside Mateo Kovacic.

But City lacked the control



and poise so often provided by Rodri on and off the ball.

Newcastle have lost only one of their opening six Premier League games of the season but until now results have been better than the performances from Eddie Howe's men this season.

The Magpies were also missing key personnel with last season's top goalscorer Alexander Isak out injured.

Neither side had seriously threatened until Gvardiol collected Jack Grealish's pass inside the box and produced a finish

Erling Haaland would be proud of by curling a low shot into the far corner.

City should have quickly doubled their lead when Nick Pope's clearance fell to Ilkay Gundogan, who mishit his attempted lob of the England goalkeeper rather than picking out Haaland.

Newcastle had to wait till first-half stoppage time to test Ederson.

Joelinton brilliantly took down a Kieran Trippier free-kick and fired goalwards only to be denied by his Brazil team-mate.

League Condemns Fans Plan To Racially Abuse Vinicius By Wearing Face Masks

Agencies

MADRID: The Spanish league said Saturday it will ask police to act against the promoters of a social media campaign that the league says is aimed at promoting racist acts against Vinicius Junior at Sunday's derby between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid.

The social media campaign is based on a hashtag encouraging Atletico fans to wear face masks, apparently to make it more difficult for authorities to identify individuals who participate in racist chants or insults.

Vinicius, who is Black, has been particularly targeted by racist slurs in away games for Real Madrid over recent seasons. One of the ugliest attacks against the Brazil forward came before a derby against Atletico in January 2023 when an effigy of him was hung from a bridge. Four people were arrested for the dummy hanging and are now facing criminal charges that could send them to prison for four years.



The league says it will ask police to find and detain the promoters of the face covering campaign. The league said the campaign is intended to "incite hate."

"The league energetically condemns these actions that encourage, promote or incite directly or indirectly hatred against a given person, in this case is Vinicius Junior, for mo-

tives of race," the league said in a statement.

Real Madrid Aim To Avenge Last Season's Losses: Ancelotti

Real Madrid will be keen to forget their only two losses of last season when they take on fierce local rivals Atletico Madrid - the winners in both of those defeats, who are now an even stronger proposition,

Real manager Carlo Ancelotti said on Saturday.

Ancelotti's men visit the Metropolitan on Sunday, where Atletico handed them their first defeat of last season, a 3-1 loss in September. Although they remain unbeaten in 39 league matches since then, they also failed to beat Atletico in the reverse fixture when they drew 1-1.