

Encounter Breaks Out In Rajouri

3rd In Two Days

Observer News Service

Jammu: A fresh encounter broke out in the Thanamandi area of Rajouri district on Sunday evening when security forces launched a cordon and search operation after getting information about the presence of two terrorists, the officials said.

"Based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists, a joint search operation was launched by security forces at Manial Gali in Thanamandi. Contact has been established and few rounds have been fired from both sides," a police official said.

Earlier in the day, a live hand grenade was found on the banks of a stream in the area and the device was later destroyed by experts in a controlled explosion.

This is the third gunfight in J&K in two days as a police officer was killed and two others injured in the Kog area of Billawar in Kathua on Saturday. The body of an unidentified terrorist | [More on P6](#)

Stage Set For Last Phase Of Polls On Oct 1

39.18 Lakh Voters To Cast Ballot In 40 Assembly Seats

Observer News Service

Srinagar: More than 39.18 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their electoral franchise during the last Phase-III of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election to be held on 01st October 2024 across the 40 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) in 7 districts of the Union Territory, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Shri Pandurang K Pole said.

In Kashmir Division, 16 Assembly Constituencies including Karnah, Tregam, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara, Langate, Sopore, Rafiabab, Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg, Wagoora-Kreeri, Pattan, Sonawari, Bandipora, Gurez (ST) and in Jammu Division 24 Assembly Constituencies comprising Udhampur west, Udhampur east, Chenni, Ramnagar (SC), Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jasrota, Kathua (SC), Hiranagar, Ramgarh(SC), Samba, Vijaypur, Bishnah(SC), Suchetgarh(SC), R.S Pura, Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota,



Jammu West, Jammu North, Akhnoor(SC), Chhamb will also go to the polls in this phase.

In this phase, there are 5060 Polling stations across 7 districts of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Udhampur, Samba, Kathua and Jammu will be established. Four election staff, including Presiding Officer will be stationed in every polling station. In total, more than 20,000 Polling staff | [More on P6](#)



415 Candidates

7 Districts
Kupwara
Baramulla
Bandipora
Udhampur
Samba
Kathua

Voters
20.09 Lakh Male
19.40 Lakh Female
57 Third Gender

5060 Polling Stations

Campaigning Concludes, Stakes High For BJP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The intense campaigning for the third and final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election concluded on Sunday evening, with major political parties, particularly the BJP, Congress, NC and PDP, engaging in fierce exchanges over critical issues, including Pakistan, Article 370, terrorism and reservation.

Voting for this crucial phase, covering 40 Assembly segments across seven districts -- Jammu, Udhampur, Samba and

Kathua in the Jammu region and Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara in north Kashmir -- is scheduled for October 1.

The electoral fate of 415 candidates, including former deputy chief ministers Tara Chand (Congress) and Muzaffar Beig, are at stake in this phase.

The voter turnout was robust in the earlier phases, with 61.38 per cent participation recorded in the first phase on September 18 and 57.31 per cent in the second phase on September 26.

This is the first Assembly | [More on P6](#)

23 Employees Suspended For MCC Violations

Observer News Service

Jammu: Taking cognizance of participation of government employees in election campaigning and related political activities, the J&K Election Office has suspended 23 officials besides disengaging six contractual/Adhoc employees for violating MCC guidelines.

Moreover, 20 employees have also been shifted from their incumbent offices to offices in other tehsils/districts against whom there were complaints of acting in a partisan way.

The election office has further informed that a total of Rs 130 crore seizures have been made by different enforcement agencies in J&K during ongoing assembly elections 2024 till now.

The Police Department has made the highest seizure of Rs 107.50 crore followed by CGST with Rs 9.88 crore, SGST/CT with Rs 8.03 crore, NCB with Rs 2.06 crore, Income tax department with Rs 87 lakh | [More on P6](#)



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Kashmir Enraged Over Hezbollah Leader's Killing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anti-Israel protests continued for the second day on Sunday in several parts of Kashmir and Ladakh against the killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon.

A large number of men, women and children -- carrying black flags -- poured out on the roads in Baramulla district, Magam town, in Budgam and many parts of Srinagar city to protest

against the killing.

The protestors were chanting anti-Israel and anti-US slogans, denouncing Nasrallah's assassination by Israel on Friday.

The protests remained peaceful even as a large posse of police personnel maintained vigil to ensure that the demonstrations did not turn violent, the officials said.

Demonstrations were reported from several parts of Srinagar on

Sunday as well. Long traffic jams were reported from several parts of the city, including the Khanyar-Hazratbal axis, where most of the protests took place.

Zadibal witnessed the largest protest in almost a decade. Thousands of people marched from Lal Bazar to Hawal. Later they dispersed peacefully.

In Kargil, Ladakh, the Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust (IKMT) also organised a | [More on P6](#)

Cyber Police Warns Against Inflammatory Posts

Cyber Police Kashmir has warned social media users against fanning communal or sectarian tensions in the valley in the wake of the killing of Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli strike in Lebanon on Friday. "We've noticed inflammatory and sectarian posts being shared on social media, threatening communal harmony. We urge everyone to refrain from posting or engaging in such divisive content," the Cyber Police Kashmir said in an advisory | [More on P6](#)

Special Dev Package For J&K Reached 90,000 Cr: Rajnath

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India would have given a larger bailout package to Pakistan than sought by Islamabad from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had the neighbouring nation maintained friendly relations with New Delhi.

Addressing an election rally in Gurez assembly segment of Bandipora district, Singh referred to the prime minister's development package for Jammu and Kashmir announced in 2014-15 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Modi ji in 2014-15 announced a special package for development of Jammu and Kashmir which has now reached Rs 90,000 crore. The amount is much bigger than what Pakistan was seeking from the IMF (as bailout package)," the senior BJP leader said.

Singh referred to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's famous statement that "we can change friends but we cannot change the neighbours".

"I said, my Pakistani friends, why have strained relations, we



are neighbours. If we had good relations, we would have given more money than the IMF," he added.

Singh said the Centre gives money to Jammu and Kashmir for development while Pakistan has been misusing financial aid for a long time.

"It seeks money from other countries to run a terrorism factory on its soil," he added.

The defence minister said Kashmir will again become a paradise on earth when Vajpayee's dream of restoring "Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat" in the valley is achieved.

Singh said Pakistan, which has used terrorism as a tool against India, | [More on P6](#)

Why 65% Posts Vacant In J&K: Kharge Asks PM Agencies

Jammu: All India Congress Committee (AICC) president questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah as to why BJP failed to fill one lakh vacant posts in J&K for the past ten years.

"BJP has promised five lakh jobs in its manifesto. I want to ask PM Modi and Home Minister Shah as to why they failed to fill one lakh vacant posts in various government departments," Kharge said addressing a poll rally at Jasrota in Jammu region.

He said 65 per cent posts are lying vacant in various government departments of J&K.

"Congress and the National Conference government will fill all these posts on priority soon after coming to power in J&K," Kharge said. He said people of J&K have taken a pledge to wipe out BJP from the UT.

He accused PM Modi and HM Shah of resorting to provocative speeches during poll rallies. "He (PM) doesn't have own children and he is least bothered about the fall out of his provocative statements. The Home Minister claims to be the tallest leader of India. If you (Shah) are the tallest leader, why is there unemployment at its peak across the country," Kharge said.

He said that reservation will continue to remain in the country as long as there is "untouchability issue" in the nation. Kharge said that under the currency change, Rs 1000 notes were sold for Rs 500.

Kharge said every | [More on P6](#)

Drug Menace: A Key Challenge For Next Govt In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: With Kashmir witnessing a steep surge in psychotropic drug abuse, especially the consumption of heroin among youngsters, whoever comes to power in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face an uphill task in tackling the menace.

According to experts, instances of drug abuse have risen manifold over the years



due to the easy availability of heroin and rehabilitation centres in the Valley are fully occupied.

Dr Mohammad Muzaffar Khan, who is associated with a de-addiction centre run by the Jammu and

Kashmir Police, said, "There is no doubt that the number (of drug abuse cases) has increased."

"The last report of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment placed in Parliament says there are 10 lakhs (drug) abusers in Jammu and Kashmir a majority of them consume heroin," he said.

Back in 2018, the people of Jammu | [More on P6](#)



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The heart plays a crucial role in pumping blood throughout the body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to tissues while removing carbon dioxide and waste. When its function is compromised, the body's performance declines, leading to serious conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, and heart failure.



Heart Attacks, Strokes Account For 3.9 Mn Deaths Annually In South-East Asia: WHO

IAN S

Heat attacks and strokes are a global health challenge, accounting for 3.9 million deaths annually, in the South-East Asia Region, including India, said the World Health Organization on Saturday, ahead of World Heart Day. World Heart Day is observed every year on September 29 to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), accelerating actions to prevent, detect early, and manage heart health. The theme this year is 'Use Heart for Action' "Cardiovascular diseases remain a significant global health challenge responsible for over 18 million deaths each year," said Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia. "The burden is particularly heavy in the WHO South-East Asia Region, where CVDs account for 3.9 million deaths annually, primarily due to heart attacks and strokes. This represents 30 per cent of all deaths in the region, with nearly half of these occurring prematurely, before the age of 70 years," she

added.

The heart plays a crucial role in pumping blood throughout the body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to tissues while removing carbon dioxide and waste. When its function is compromised, the body's performance declines, leading to serious conditions

raised blood pressure, and one in 10 has diabetes. Alarmingly, less than 15 per cent of people living with hypertension and diabetes are on effective treatment," Wazed said.

Dr S Venkatesh, Lead Consultant - Interventional Cardiology, Aster RV Hospital, Bengaluru, said heart

Recognising early warning signs, like chest pain, shortness of breath, and irregular heartbeats, is also a key focus, as these symptoms can lead to prompt medical intervention, potentially saving lives

such as heart attacks, strokes, and heart failure.

Wazed attributed the high burden of CVDs to "modifiable lifestyle practices such as tobacco use, unhealthy diets, particularly those high in salt, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption". In addition, drug treatment of hypertension, diabetes, and high lipids are necessary to reduce acute events of CVDs, she said. Further, in the South-East Asia Region, "one in four adults has

health is fundamental to living a long and fulfilling life.

"Recognising early warning signs, like chest pain, shortness of breath, and irregular heartbeats, is also a key focus, as these symptoms can lead to prompt medical intervention, potentially saving lives," he added.

The experts called for increasing awareness and adopting heart-healthy habits. A healthy heart not only enhances physical and mental well-being but also boosts energy levels and overall quality of life.



IGP Kashmir Reviews Law And Order Situation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi-IPS, chaired a comprehensive law and order review meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) in Kashmir.

The session was attended by senior officials from the police, security forces, and intelligence agencies, including all range DIGs of Kashmir Zone, DIGs of CRPF South and North Srinagar, district SSPs of Kashmir Zone, and other key officers.

During the meeting, the attending officers provided IGP Birdi with an overview of the current security landscape, detailing the challenges and discussing intelligence gathering, preparedness, and response strategies. Each district SSP shared insights into the law and

order situations in their respective areas.

IGP Birdi emphasized the importance of meticulous planning, monitoring, and preventing any potential disruptions. He directed the district SSPs, along with the Cyber Cell and IT & Social Media teams, to closely track social media for rumor-mongering and the dissemination of incriminating content. The IGP stressed strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and encouraged regular coordination meetings with the public to maintain peace in the valley.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to ensuring peace and security across the region, reaffirming the police and security forces' dedication to upholding law and order while safeguarding citizens' rights and safety.

In 2014, NC Had Almost Decided To Go With BJP: Junaid Mattu

Agencies

Srinagar: Former Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu has made a startling revelation on his social media handle, claiming that the National Conference (NC) had nearly decided to go with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014.

The disclosure was made in a social media post on X (formerly Twitter), where Mattu explained that negotiations between the two parties were ongoing in Delhi until opposition from within the NC itself derailed the talks.

"In 2014, NC had almost decided to go with the BJP," Mattu said.

He attributed the breakdown of discussions to senior NC leader Aga Syed Ruhullah, who vehemently opposed the alli-

ance. "The wrench in the wheel was thrown by Aga Syed Ruhullah, who wrote a very strongly worded letter to Omar Abdullah, warning against this alliance," Mattu explained.

According to Mattu, Ruhullah's letter was sent to then-NC leader Omar Abdullah while negotiations were still ongoing.

"This letter was written while talks were ongoing between NC and BJP in Delhi," Mattu wrote.

Interestingly, BJP leader Devender Singh Rana had also claimed that Omar Abdullah had met with top BJP leaders, including Amit Shah and Ram Madhav, in 2014. Rana had earlier remarked, "Omar Abdullah met with top BJP leaders and Ram Madhav in 2014, as the National Conference wanted to form a government with the BJP." (KINS)

Seizures Worth Rs 130 Cr Made During J&K Assembly Polls: CEO

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A total of 1,263 violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) were reported and cash and other materials worth Rs 130 crore were seized during the ongoing assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, according to poll officials.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) P K Pole said that the police department has made the highest seizure at Rs 107.50 crore.

Out of the total 1,263 MCC violations reported till date, 600 stand closed after enquiry and taking appropriate action, he said.

He said 364 complaints are under investigation which too will be disposed of soon besides notices have been issued to 115 candidates, political parties, media houses and others for alleged MCC violations.

Taking stern action against illegal activities involving drugs, cash and liquor, the enforcement agencies have registered 32 FIRs, the CEO said.

"Seizures worth a total of Rs 130 crore have been made by different enforcement agencies in J-K during ongoing assembly elections 2024 till now," Pole said.

Giving details, he said that the police department made seizures worth Rs 107.50 crore followed by CGST with Rs 9.88 crore, SGST/CT with Rs 8.03

crore, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) with Rs 2.06 crore, the income tax department with Rs 87 lakh and the State Excise Department with Rs 50 lakh respectively.

As many as 7,088 permissions have been given to different political parties and candidates regarding rallies, processions, opening of party offices, vehicles, display of banners, flags, pamphlets, hoardings, street corner meetings, door-to-door canvassing, etc.

Voting for the third and final phase is scheduled for October 1. The voter turnout was robust in the earlier phases, with 61.38 per cent participation recorded in the first phase on September 18 and 57.31 per cent in the second phase on September 26.

This is the first Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, with the results set to be announced on October 8.



Women pour out on streets in Hawal area of Srinagar over Hezbollah leader's killing -Photo: Abid Bhat/KO

Pothole-Ridden Bemina Road Sparks Urgent Repair Calls

Agencies

Srinagar: A critical stretch of road between the Bemina Bypass and Bemina crossing is in dire need of repairs, with massive potholes causing daily traffic snarls and widespread frustration among commuters.

Despite temporary fixes in the past, the condition of the road has only worsened, leading residents and travelers to appeal to the district administration and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's office for immediate intervention.

The potholes, which have plagued the road for months, are not only causing frequent traffic jams but also pose a serious risk to vehicles, particularly two-wheelers. Local residents have reported significant wear and tear on their vehicles and fear that the situation could lead to accidents if left unaddressed.

Asim Shabir, a local scooter rider, said, "The potholes on this road are enormous and extremely troublesome for riders like me. Navigating them is not only inconvenient but also hazardous. I am constantly worried about damaging my scooter or getting into an accident."

Although a temporary solu-

tion was attempted with some dust material being used to fill the potholes, the effort proved ineffective. The condition of the road remains the same, leaving residents disillusioned and worried about the safety of this heavily traveled route.

Zahoor Ahmad, another resi-

dent, expressed his concerns: "While we acknowledge the government's efforts on other roads, this stretch seems to have been overlooked. The damage to vehicles and the constant traffic jams are becoming unbearable. We urge LG Manoj Sinha and the Chief Secretary to take immediate action to address this problem and speed up the macadamization process."

The deteriorating state of the road, which serves as a major commuter route, has had a ripple effect on daily traffic, causing congestion at peak hours and increasing the risk of vehicle damage. Residents say the road's importance has made the issue even more pressing.

"We appeal to the Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar and the LG administration to prioritize this road for repairs. The community is hopeful that the authorities will take action soon to ensure safer and smoother travel for everyone," added a local shopkeeper from the area.

Residents are optimistic that their concerns will be heard, and the necessary steps will be taken to repair the road and ease the daily commute for thousands of people in the region. (KINS)

- 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: 03
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4: 37
Magrib	6:23
ISHA	7: 43

HIJRI CALENDAR
25 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1446

This Day In History

- 1520 Suleiman the Magnificent succeeds his father Selam I as Ottoman Sultan (rules till 1566)
- 1939 - Germany & Russia agree to partition Poland
- 1939 - Britain first evacuates citizens in anticipation of war.
- 1940 - 47 German aircraft shot down above England
- 1958 - French Guinea becomes independent republic Guinea
- 1966 - Botswana (formerly Bechuanaland) gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1967 - BBC starts its own popular music radio station (Radio 1)
- 1968 - 1st Boeing 747 rolls out
- 1980 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1980 - Ethernet specifications published by Xerox working with Intel and Digital Equipment Corporation.
- 1981 - Seoul, South Korea, is selected to host 1988 Summer Olympics
- 1986 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1986 - US releases soviet spy Gennadiy Zakharov
- 1986 - Mordechai Vanunu, who revealed details of Israel covert nuclear program to British media, is kidnapped in Rome, Italy
- 1988 - IBM announces shipment of 3 millionth PS/2 personal computer
- 1989 - NASA closes down tracking stations in Hawaii & Ascension
- 1989 - Senegambia separates back into Gambia & Senegal
- 1990 - The Dalai Lama unveils the Canadian Tribute to Human Rights in Canada's capital city of Ottawa.

From KO Archives

Valley Wide Alert As Experts Trace Adulterated Oil

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Officials of Food and Supplies Department and Srinagar Municipality in joint raids today seized tins of adulterated edible oil, capable of causing dreaded dropsy. Alert has been sounded and people warned not to use contaminated brands.

The joint teams today and yesterday fanned out in different directions of capital Srinagar and raided various godowns and retail outlets of edible oil, leading to the seizure of 7800 tins of P. Mark and over 100 canisters of Hira Brand mustard oil.

Sampling, followed by analysis on war footing of the seized edible oil tins was done by assistant public analyst from State's Drug and Food Control Organisation. The assistant public analyst, Mushtaq Ahmed Khateeb confirmed adulteration in Hira brand, packed under seal number 200-201/PFAK, Dated 4-9-1998.

P. Mark Bahadurgarh Haryana Brand was also found adulterated, as per the officials, who warned the general public this evening not to use the two contaminated brands. The analysis of other brands seized by the teams is underway and reports are expected by Sunday.

Out of 225 samples analysed in the laboratory till now, reports of only 140 were received by this evening. While 139 samples tested negative, one tested positive. That was the sample taken from Hira brand, manufactured and marketed by M/S Grower Oil Mills, Private Limited, Bari Brahmana, Jammu.

The raids were conducted by the teams at Court Road, Sarai Bala, Tankipora, Hazuribagh and other parts of the city. More teams will conduct raids tomorrow to trace out adulterated oil.

Eight tins of adulterated Hint brand were seized from a dealer at Court Road. Reports revealed that the said dealer has sold off hundreds of tins of Hira brand to retailers all across Kashmir. Messages have been flashed to different districts to trace out the adulterated brands.

Two edible oil factories -situated at Zainakote, have also been raided and samples taken for analysis. The two factories, reports said, import oil from Jammu in huge tankers. "The factories will be sealed if the samples test positive," a top official in Srinagar Municipality said on condition of anonymity.

With detection of contaminated edible oil, panic has gripped the people in the Valley as thousands of them have been continuing their food preparations on these brands - now declared adulterated. According to an eminent epidemiologist there is every chance of dropsy disease invading the state now.

(Kashmir Observer, September 30, 1998)



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HPVT / Help Poor Voluntary Trust.
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If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

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



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9070806160

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Did you know?

Creating Wealth through Smart Money Management basics a Pratical Guide

Irshad Mushtaq

Creating wealth begins with the fundamental step of saving money and investing wisely. Many people struggle to save money due to a consumption mindset, often spending on things they don't need. This is exacerbated by the frequent use of credit cards and high-interest loans, leading to unnecessary financial burdens.

The Consumption Trap

We often buy depreciable products on credit, accumulating additional costs through interest payments. These purchases are frequently made not out of necessity, but to keep up with societal expectations. This pattern increases our spending, reduces our savings, and traps us in a cycle of debt.

Breaking the Cycle

To break this cycle, it's crucial to develop good saving habits. Start by cutting unnecessary expenses and avoiding high-interest debt. Aim to save at least 20% of your earnings. Once you have a substantial amount saved, invest in quality assets that can generate returns over time. This way, your money works for you, instead of the other way around.

The Importance of Early Financial Education

Learning money management skills at a young age can pave the way for a financially secure future. Early financial education can help you understand the importance of saving, investing, and controlling expenses, which are key to achieving long-term financial freedom.

Avoiding Common Pitfalls

1. Unnecessary Loans: Avoid taking loans for items that depreciate quickly. The interest you pay on these loans increases your overall spending.
2. Impulse Purchases: Resist the urge to buy items on impulse, especially those you don't really need.
3. High-Interest Debt: Pay off high-interest debts as soon as possible to free up more money for saving and investing.

Long-Term Vision

Financial freedom is achievable with a clear vision and disciplined approach. By prioritizing savings and making smart investments, you can secure your financial future. The earlier you start, the easier it will be, as responsibilities tend to increase with age.

Conclusion

By shifting your mindset from consumption to saving and investing, you can build a solid financial foundation. Understand money management, control your expenses, and educate yourself about financial matters. With these steps, you can avoid the struggle that many face and achieve long-term financial prosperity.

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

Water Conservation in the Age of Climate Change

Mohammad Hanief

From the beginning of life on earth to the present, water has been the foremost pillar of continuous existence and development of the living world. In the future, the importance of water is remarkable for the socio-economic sustainable development of human beings, energy and food production, the entire environment and the existence of human beings themselves. As the world population is witnessing the fastest growth, water can be seen as a very important subject in densely populated areas of the world. It is vital for reducing the global burden of disease and improving the health, welfare and productivity of populations and could be seen as the primary source for the universal development of human beings.

History testifies that resource shortage has been the subject of many wars fought in the world. It would not be an exaggeration to say that in future the next war between the countries is for water. Even today, water disputes are seen between many countries. India is facing this issue both at the national and international levels. Whoever is understanding the importance of water today, believes that by properly conserving this resource, proper access to it should be ensured for all. This goal of water conservation can be achieved through the prevention of its pollutants, efficiency and improvement in the use of technology, reuse, reduction in exploitation etc.

Water is essential to our daily lives. Whenever water is used, there is a potential for conservation both inside and outside of your home or business. Fresh water is a limited resource, making water conservation an important factor for the environment. With population growth, expansion of industry, increasing levels of development activity, and the potential for climate change impacts there is increasing pressure placed on the province's water resources. Whether you are on a municipal or a private domestic water supply, water conservation is a wise practice.

The majority of indoor household water use comes from toilets, washing machines, baths, showers, faucets and leaks. Outdoor water usage for things like watering the grass, washing the driveway, and for recreational uses can also use significant amounts of water. What you can do to save water is fairly simple. There are numerous ways to decrease your water use and help conservation efforts:

Typically, water use increases in the summer as we try to meet water demand of lawns, vegetable gardens and flowers. Unlike most



In India's arid and semi-arid areas, the 'Tank System' is traditionally the backbone of agricultural production. 'Tank System' refers to large tanks constructed either by bunding or by excavating the ground to collect rainwater, check water flow and accumulate the run-off. Simple techniques like these can be used to reduce demand for ground water for irrigation

provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador uses more water in the winter months compared to the summer. This is mainly due to the risk of freezing water pipes during cold temperatures.

Water is one of the most essential natural resources for life on Earth. About 97% of the earth is surrounded by water with only 3% of this being fresh water, which can be used for consumption, agriculture and other usages. Water scarcity situation occurs when high rate of aggregate demand from all water-using sectors exceeds available supply, under the prevailing infrastructural conditions. From Cape Town to sub-Saharan Africa to Asia's teeming megacities, there's a global water crisis affecting millions of people. Water scarcity affects every continent and was listed in 2019 by the World Economic Forum as one of the largest global risks in terms of potential impact over the next decade.

As per UN estimates, globally, 844 million people lack access to clean water, rendering families and communities, locked in poverty for generations. Among this, women and children are worst affected — children because they are more vulnerable to diseases of dirty water and women and girls because they often bear the burden of carrying water for their families for an estimated 200 million hours each day. Recognizing the importance of addressing the global water crisis, The United Nations observes March 22, as the World Water Day every year.

India, the second most populous country in the world, has a diverse population that is three times the size of the United States but lives in one-third the physical area. The usage of water across various sectors in India is on the rise, driven by a combination of population growth, socio-econom-

ic development and changing consumption patterns.

Geographically also, there is considerable variation within the country with respect to water availability. About 71 per cent of India's water resources are available to only 36 per cent of the area while the remaining 64 per cent has to make do with 29 per cent of available water (India's Water Future 2050; Verma & Phansalkar report). Irrigation perhaps the most important input in the agriculture production compared to all other key inputs like seed, fertiliser, etc. In fact, these inputs cease to realise their full benefit unless combined with irrigation. As with all countries with large agricultural output, excess water consumption for food production depletes the overall water table.

India has made massive improvements to both the availability and quality of municipal drinking water systems, however, due to increase in population and rapid growth in India's urban areas, water scarcity is a looming problem in most major cities across the country. India's water demand is expected to continue increasing at a similar rate until 2050, accounting for an increase of 20 to 30% above the current level of water use. This can be attributed mainly due to rising demand in the industrial and domestic sectors. Moreover, as the overall population is expected to reach 1.6 billion during the same time period, water scarcity situation, similarly, will further worsen in times to come. Therefore, sustainable management is essential to protect the water environment and to meet the increasing water demand in the future.

Many areas of India are fortunate to have a relatively wet climate, even in the most arid regions. In these areas, rainwater harvesting could be one solu-

tion for water collection. In India, rainwater harvesting has been in practice for more than 4000 years. It is basically a simple process of accumulating and storing of rainwater for drinking, irrigation, and water for livestock.

Rainwater harvesting and management hold tremendous potential for reducing rainwater runoff and reducing groundwater consumption, particularly in urban areas. These systems are acting as incredible support systems in many Indian cities by providing a superb alternative to the main water supply, especially during dry seasons. Widespread installation of these systems is also revitalizing the natural properties of land, helping to improve the quality of groundwater, raising its level, and preventing wells and tube wells from drying up. Additionally, efficient deployment of rainwater harvesting systems is limiting surface runoff of water, which is reducing soil erosion, and increasing its fertility.

More or less all states in India, have made rainwater harvesting mandatory in government institutions, commercial complexes, and residential high-rises. Some of these laws have already come into effect, and others are soon to follow. The Central Ministry for Drinking Water and Sanitation, in association with the Central Ground Water Board has prepared a conceptual document called the 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India'. The master plan envisages the construction of about 23 lakh rainwater harvesting structures in rural areas, and close to 88 lakh artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting installations in urban centres.

Conservation of water in the agricultural sector is essential since water is necessary for the growth of plants and crops. Only a part of the rainfall or irrigation water is taken up by plants, the rest percolates into the deep groundwater, or is lost by evaporation from the surface. In India's arid and semi-arid areas, the 'Tank System' is traditionally the backbone of agricultural production. 'Tank System' refers to large tanks constructed either by bunding or by excavating the ground to collect rainwater, check water flow and accumulate the run-off. Simple techniques like these can be used to reduce demand for ground water for irrigation. Therefore, by improving the efficiency of water use, and by reducing its loss due to evaporation, agricultural water demand can be reduced.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com X (Twitter): @haniefmha

Bridging Minds And Machines

Siddharth Pai,

Imagine controlling a computer with nothing more than your thoughts. Or better yet, imagine asking Alexa to turn on the lights — not with your voice, but with a direct mental command. This may sound like science fiction, but it's rapidly becoming the science of today. Brain implants are paving the way for revolutionary technologies that allow people with disabilities to interact with the world in ways previously thought impossible. For paraplegics and others with similar conditions, this could mean regaining autonomy over their lives, including communication, mobility, and everyday tasks.

At the heart of this innovation is a field called brain-computer interfaces (BCIs). These devices, once the stuff of futurist speculation, show real-world potential in restoring communication, control, and even sensation for those with physical limitations. The most exciting recent breakthroughs involve pairing BCIs with digital assistants like Alexa and Siri to offer seamless interaction and accessibility.

Brain implants work by interpreting the brain's electrical activity. Neurons communicate via tiny electrical impulses, and BCIs capture these signals using microelectrodes implanted in the brain. These signals are decoded and translated into commands controlling external devices, such as computers, robotic

limbs, or home appliances.

This technology can offer profound benefits for paraplegics who have lost the ability to move or control parts of their body due to spinal cord injury or disease. The brain can send movement-related commands, but the severed spinal cord prevents these messages from reaching their intended targets, like the arms or legs. BCIs step in, essentially bypassing the damaged pathways and providing a new communication channel.

One of the most striking advancements has been BCIs' ability to integrate with digital assistants. Companies like Neuralink (founded by Elon Musk), Synchron, and Blackrock Neurotech are at the forefront of developing BCI technology that could soon allow people with paraplegia to control smart home devices and communicate digitally by simply thinking. In 2021, Synchron, an emerging leader in the field, successfully implanted their device in the brain of a man with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This degenerative disease gradually robs people of muscle control, including the ability to speak. The implant allowed him to send text messages using only his thoughts. This device, known as the Stentrode, is less invasive than many other brain implants, threading a small electrode-laden stent into the brain via blood vessels. Once in place, it captures the electrical impulses corresponding to movement or intent and translates them into digital signals.

Now, Wired magazine reports that Synchron has, on an experimental basis, been able to seamlessly allow paraplegics who volunteered to command both their phones and Alexa to help them operate phones, tablets, and computers with their thoughts to surf the internet or compose emails. With the Amazon integration, they can control Alexa with a Fire tablet to turn the lights on and off at home, watch TV, make video calls, play music, control their Ring security camera, read books on Kindle, and shop on Amazon (bit.ly/47DHRJn).

This isn't just a convenience; for paraplegics or individuals with locked-in syndrome — where they cannot move or speak at all — this technology represents a lifeline to independence.

For many paraplegics, the most pressing challenge isn't just regaining control over their environment but re-establishing communication. ALS and similar conditions often leave individuals trapped inside their bodies, fully conscious but unable to move or speak. BCIs offer an elegant and profound solution: a direct mental connection to a computer that can express their thoughts.

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

Balancing Tradition and Technology

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Montessori Education

Dr. Aamina Parveen
Firdous Ahmad Malik

With the increasing integration of technology into Early Childhood Education, Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays an increasingly important role in the Montessori educational method. With its ability to provide individualized learning experiences, enhance classroom management, and assist teachers in encouraging creativity and critical thinking in young students, AI can enhance the hands-on, experiential learning and child-led exploration associated with the Montessori's educational philosophy. Every child learns differently and at their own pace, which is one of the fundamental principles of Montessori education. AI can help with this by providing individualized learning methods based on the requirements, interests and training preferences of each student. AI powered software's, for example, evaluate a child's accordingly to keep them interested and engaged without making them feel dissatisfied. This individualized strategy fits in nicely with the Montessori's educational philosophy, which honors each child's unique developmental stage.

By providing flexible and adaptive instructional materials, integrating technology also has the potential to improve the educational environment. Children's can be engaged in math, science, and language studies by using AI-driven educational games and software's that follow the principles of Montessori education through entertaining activities. In order to maintain a balance between guided learning and independence, these technologies can analyze a child's performance in real time and provide prompts, hints, or more difficult challenges as needed. AI promotes a sense of ownership over a child's learning experiences, which is an essential part of Montessori education, by allowing them explore subject at their own pace and offering immediate feedback.

Moreover, Artificial Intelligence can help educators who work as facilitators and guides in comparison to traditional teachers. Teachers in Montessori classrooms put a lot of emphasis on observing children, understanding their interests, and giving them the resources they need to explore. AI has the potential to



simplify administrative duties including student progress, managing lesson plans, and planning classroom activities. With more time to dedicate to developing relationships with students and cultivating a supportive learning environment that encourages experimentation and discovery, educators can focus on these tasks instead of handling administrative responsibilities. This shift preserves the personalized approach that Montessori's education championed while enabling teachers to interact more deeply and meaningfully with each student.

AI can promote creativity and critical thinking, which is another significant aspect of its involvement in the Montessori's method. Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies has the potential to enable children with creative and innovative tools for instance AI-based platforms can facilitate children's narrative and game design, encouraging critical thinking and exploration of new ideas. These experiences are consistent with the Montessori method, which emphasizes problem-solving and creativity as important components of the child's growth. AI supports

The application of AI in Montessori Education is expected to become increasingly significant as we move forward. AI's capacity to stimulate students' creativity and innovation will advance along with technology

a comprehensive educational experience that encourages both intellectual and emotional growth by creating a space where children may experience and express themselves freely. AI may also provide useful, information on the learning

outcomes and behaviors of students, which can assist teachers in choosing the best teaching methods. Teachers can identify trends and modify their methods to better facilitate both individual and group learning by analyzing data on how children's engage with different learning resources and tasks. With the use of this data-driven understanding, educators may better fulfill the requirements of their children's by fine-tuning the requirements their approaches and ensuring that the customized education principles of Montessori are upheld. These insights might also point out areas, in which children's might benefit from extra help or challenge, which will improve their learning process all around.

Through there are many benefits of incorporating AI into Montessori Method of education, it is crucial to uphold the fundamental values of the Montessori Method. Technology should never take the place of social interaction and hand-on learning. Rather, Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be seen as a supplementary tool that improves learning without compromising the core principles of Montessori

education. In the context of early childhood education, social skills development, emotional intelligence, and cooperative learning are crucial components that should be prioritized in alongside with technological improvements.

It is also necessary to provide appropriate teacher training in conjunction with the implementation of AI in Montessori classrooms. Teachers must possess the skills and knowledge required to successfully use AI tools into their lesson plans while following to the principles of Montessori education.

Teachers can be empowered to use AI's capabilities to improve learning without compromising their usage of educational technology through professional development programs that emphasize responsible technology use. A smooth integration process can also be facilitated by collaboration between teachers, parents and technology developers, since this will guarantee that all stakeholders involved are aware of the advantages and restrictions of Artificial Intelligence in early childhood education.

It is important to take into consideration the potential of

challenges associated to the integration of AI in Montessori education. Issues related to data privacy and security is paramount, particularly when working with young children. In order to ensure that AI technologies adhere to ethical standards and privacy regulations, educators and technology developers must place a high priority on protecting student data. Furthermore, there is still serious concern about the digital divide. Not every family has access to the technology needed to take advantage of education enhanced by AI. Regardless of their socioeconomic status, schools should make an effort to provide the resources to enable all children to use these tools.

The application of AI in Montessori Education is expected to become increasingly significant as we move forward. AI's capacity to stimulate students' creativity and innovation will advance along with technology. Teachers need to adapt to this new reality and include AI into the classroom as a fundamental component rather than merely an extra tool. It is essential to cultivate an innovative culture in educational institutions. Teachers and students should be able to experiment with AI technologies in the classroom to discover new approaches to teaching and learning teachers can help students in adjusting to a constantly changing world and preparing them for obstacles ahead by promoting an innovative mindset in their students.

Conclusion: Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a variety of roles in the Montessori educational system including personalized learning, improved materials, support for educators, and the encouragement of creativity and critical thinking. A Montessori classroom can create rich learning settings that prepare students for a future where invention and adaptation are essential by carefully implementing the principles of Montessori education. Using AI as a teaching tool while adhering to the fundamental principles, the Montessori school of thought will enable the following generations of thinkers and creators to flourish in a world that is becoming more complicated and dynamic by the day.

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How Overly Polite Communication Leads to Misunderstandings

Amy Morin

In our quest to maintain harmony, avoid conflict, and prevent hurt feelings, we're sometimes tempted to sugarcoat the truth. While being polite is generally seen as a positive trait, excessive politeness can muddy the waters of communication, leading to misunderstandings and leaving important issues unresolved.

As I explain in my book, 13 Things Mentally Strong People Don't Do, taking responsibility for your emotions and allowing other people to take responsibility for their emotions is a key component in healthy relationships and responsible communication. Your job isn't to soften the blow when delivering bad news to the extent that you leave others feeling confused about your intentions.

Fortunately, there are some strategies that can help you foster more direct communication while still being kind.

Why We Sugarcoat

Whether we're turning down a social invitation, disagreeing with a colleague, or asking for what we need, sugarcoating comes into play in many different scenarios. But, regardless of what we're

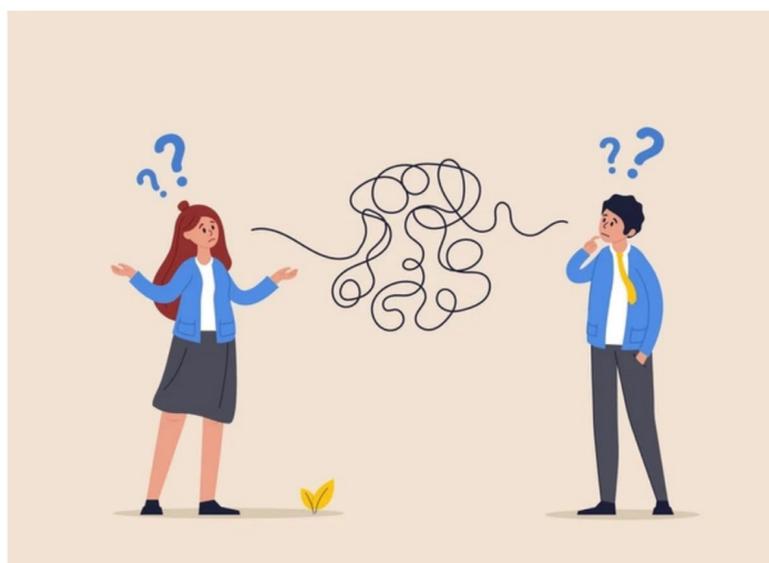
talking about, here are some common reasons we become overly polite:

- **Fear of Conflict.** Many people avoid direct communication because they're afraid of conflict. They believe that softening their words will minimize the risk of argument or hurt feelings.
- **Desire to Please.** Some individuals have a strong desire to be liked and accepted, leading them to sugarcoat the truth to avoid displeasing others or to maintain a positive image.
- **Cultural Norms.** In some cultures, indirect communication is the norm, and being overly polite is a way to show respect and maintain social harmony.

The Downside of Overly Polite Communication

While being polite has its merits, excessive politeness can create new issues. Whether you deliver difficult news with a smile or you repeatedly thank someone while attempting to express your displeasure, here are the dangers of sugarcoating:

- **Misinterpretations.** When messages are wrapped in layers of politeness, the true inten-



tion or meaning can be lost. This can lead to misinterpretations, where the receiver may not fully grasp the seriousness or urgency of the message.

- **Unresolved Issues.** Sugarcoated messages can prevent important issues from being addressed. When feedback is not clear, the recipient might

not recognize the need for change or improvement.

- **Frustration and Resentment.** Over time, the lack of clarity can lead to frustration and resentment, especially if one party feels they are not being heard or understood.

Strategies for More Direct Communication

Although being straightforward feels uncomfortable at first, it can ultimately help the relationship over the long-term. It's possible to be kind and direct at the same time. Here are some strategies that can make communication become more direct:

1. **Write out your talking points in advance.** Spend a few minutes thinking

about the message you want to deliver and how you can communicate it effectively. Pay attention to the things that you're tempted to say, like, "We can still be friends," to avoid hurting the other person. Edit and revise your script as needed to ensure you're not sending mixed signals.

2. **Be clear and concise.** Clarity is key to effective communication. Strive to be clear and concise in your messages, ensuring that your intent is unmistakable. The longer you speak, the more likely your words may become confused.
3. **Use constructive feedback.** When providing feedback, be direct but also constructive. Saying things like, "I need you step up," isn't helpful. Offer specific examples and potential solutions to make the conversation more productive.
4. **Practice empathy.** Understand the perspective of the person you are communicating with. You might start the conversation by acknowledging, "This is a difficult conversation but it's important." This will help you frame your message in a way

that is both honest and considerate.

5. **Establish the tone.** While it's important to be direct, maintaining a warm and respectful tone can help ensure that your message is received positively. Just make sure you aren't being incongruent by smiling while you deliver sad news or laughing while setting a boundary. Don't confuse a respectful tone with a mixed message.
6. **Encourage openness.** Foster an environment where open and honest communication is valued. Encourage others to express their thoughts and feelings frankly. Listen to feedback and provide clarity when necessary.

While it's natural to want to spare others' feelings, overly polite communication can sometimes do more harm than good. By striving for more direct and honest interactions, we can reduce misunderstandings and cultivate relationships built on trust and clarity. Remember, the goal is not to abandon politeness but to balance it with honesty, ensuring that our communications are both kind and effective.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Nasrallah's Body Retrieved Intact From Bombed Site

Trans Asia News

Beirut: The body of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has been recovered from where he was assassinated by Israeli airstrike on Friday, media reports said on Sunday.

Sayyed's body was found "intact" in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh - where senior members of Hezbollah had gathered, according to medical and security sources.

He was found with no direct wounds and is believed to have died from the blunt trauma of the explosion.

Israel used at least 15 US-made BLU-109 bombs with JDAM (Joint Direct Attack Munition) guidance kits, weighing 2,000-pounds to kill Sayyed Nasrallah, a report in the New York Times claimed.

The claim was based on the analysis of a video published by the Israeli military on Telegram where F-15i fighter jets of the Israeli Air Force's 69th Squadron were seen taking off from the Haterim Airbase to carry out Nasrallah's assassination.

Hezbollah described him as a "brave martyr" in the statement confirming his death on Saturday.

"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.

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."

While confirming Nasrallah's demise on Saturday Hezbollah has so far not given any additional details about the circumstances or when and where his

funeral might be held.

Rumors circulating on social media suggesting that the funeral of Hezbollah leader would take place on Monday, September 30 were called false by Lebanese media. Media said the date for the funeral has not yet been determined.

An unconfirmed media report quoting family members said Sayyed Nasrallah has made a will to be buried in the holy city of Najaf, the resting place of Imam Ali in Iraq.

Nasrallah's Death Mourned by Lebanese Christian Leaders: 'Legend Is Born'

Agenceis

Prominent Christian political leaders in Lebanon released statements on Saturday eulogizing Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah after he was confirmed killed in an Israeli attack.

Speculation that Nasrallah had been killed began swirling shortly after Israel carried out a massive strike on Friday, which leveled multiple buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs. Hezbollah, a group allied with the Palestinian militant group Hamas and backed by Iran, confirmed the death on Saturday.

Considered by some as the most charismatic leader in a network of proxies that projected Iran's power across the Middle East, Nasrallah rarely appeared in public but cultivated a cult-like following with his televised speeches. Israel and the United States have designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

While Hezbollah is a Shi'ite Muslim political and militant group in Lebanon, some of the Middle Eastern nation's Christian leaders are allied with the movement.

Sleiman Frangieh, leader of Lebanon's Christian political party Marada and Hezbollah's preferred candidate for the presidency, posted a brief statement on X, formerly

Twitter, on Sunday.

"The symbol is gone, the legend is born, and the resistance continues," he wrote.

Former Lebanese President Michel Aoun, a Christian and founder of the Free Patriotic Movement party which is allied with Hezbollah, posted a lengthier statement praising Nasrallah as a martyr for the country.

"With the martyrdom of His Eminence the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanon loses a distinguished and honest leader who led the national resistance on the paths of victory and liberation. He was faithful to his promise and loyal to his people who reciprocated his love, trust and commitment," he wrote on X.

The former Lebanese president described Nasrallah as "an honorable friend." He also warned against the "dangers" Lebanon is "witnessing as a result of the ongoing Israeli aggression," calling for national unity.

"May God grant the great martyr a spacious place in heaven, and condolences to his family, the resistance, all his loved ones, and all of Lebanon," Aoun wrote.

Under Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing government system, the president must always be a Maronite Christian. Aoun was the nation's most recent president, with his term ending nearly two years ago in

October 2022. His successor should be chosen by Lebanon's parliament, but political deadlock has left the country without a head of state.

Lebanon has a relatively large number of Christians, with a 2019 State Department report estimating them to make up north of 32 percent of the country's population. Historically, Lebanon was more evenly split between Christian and Muslim sects, with Christians long having held significant political and economic power.

Firas Maksad, a senior director for strategic outreach at the Middle East Institute, told Newsweek that Nasrallah's death "leaves a big void and raises serious questions about the future role of the [Shi'ite] community within Lebanon's archaic sectarian system."

Despite representing the Shi'ite community in a country riven by sectarian feuds, Nasrallah became a revered figure nationally when Israel ended its 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah also built a strong political presence in Lebanon with a powerful faction in parliament.

"Short-term, the Lebanese army and the country's veteran communal leaders will have a key role to play in stabilizing the system and the situation on the ground," Maskad said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Encounter Breaks

was recovered Sunday afternoon from the scene of the encounter, taking the death toll in the two-day operation to two, the officials said.

They said a grenade launcher, some grenades and other materials were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorist, while a massive search operation is underway to neutralise other foreign terrorists.

Head Constable Bashir Ahmad laid down his life and two officers - Deputy Superintendent of Police (Operations) and Sukhbir Singh and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Niaz Ahmad - were injured when terrorists attacked a joint security search party on Saturday evening.

Director General of Police R R Swain paid tributes to the fallen policeman, saying "Bashir did not fear death when it came to protecting his community and countrymen".

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain said the search operation was launched in the village on Saturday following information about the presence of three to four foreign terrorists in a house.

Talking to reporters near the scene of the encounter, he said both the injured officers are stable.

"The whole area is under tight security cordon and an operation is underway to neutralise the terrorists hiding in the area," he said.

Asked about the interception of the terrorist group ahead of the third phase of polls on October 1, the police officer said the operations against terrorists will continue.

"We are getting continuous information about terrorists and subsequently conducting operations with an endeavour to neutralise them as soon as possible," he said.

He said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in all poll-bound areas to ensure that there is no terror-related incident.

Besides Kathua, the third phase covers Jammu, Udhampur and Samba districts in Jammu region and north Kashmir's Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts.

The DGP, in a statement, condoled the demise of the head constable and said that the entire police force stands behind his family.

"While the J&K police force cannot bring back HC Bashir, it undertakes to extend every possible support to the family and avenge the martyrdom of the courageous Bashir who did not fear death when it came to protecting his community and countrymen and gave hell to the foreign terrorists with his LMG before succumbing to his injuries," he said.

The police chief also prayed for the speedy recovery of other injured personnel.

Earlier, two unidentified terrorists were killed in south Kashmir's Kulgam district and four security personnel, including an officer, sustained injuries in the encounter on Saturday.

Stage Set For

will be deployed on duty for 3rd phase election.

Total 39,18,220 lakh voters eligible to exercise their franchise. Out of them, there are 20,09,033 male voters; 19,40,092 female voters and 57 third gender voters. As many as 1.94 lakh youth between the age 18-19 years, along with 35,860 Person with Disabilities (PwDs) and 32,953 elderly voters above the age of 85 are also eligible to exercise their franchise in this phase.

The voting will take place from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm and before that there will be mock poll in the polling stations in presence of the polling agents. Also, the voting will continue even after 6.00 pm, if voter's queue is still there in the Polling Station premises to exercise their right to vote.

There will be 50 polling booths managed by women, known as Pink Polling Stations, 43 polling stations manned by specially abled

persons and 40 polling stations manned by youths. Also, there will be 45 green polling stations in order to spread message about environmental concern and 33 Unique Polling stations. 29 polling stations are established near the LOC/ IB for residents residing there. The purpose behind these special polling stations is to spread awareness among sections of society like women, specially abled, first-time young voters to come forward and exercise their right to vote.

Till date more than 1.07 Lacs plants have been planted in the premises of all polling stations

Every polling station will be provided with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF's) like drinking water, electricity, toilet, ramp, furniture, veranda/shed besides wheelchairs will also be provided to the needy. The ballot unit will also have a list of contesting candidates in braille script. Where ever required, there will be separate queues for senior citizens and specially-abled persons facilitating them with early polling. Additionally, there will be a voter help desk, manned by the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO), to extend necessary help whenever required.

Campaigning Concludes

election in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, with the results set to be announced on October 8.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign, emphasising the party's initiatives over the last 10 years to address what he described as "decades of injustice and historic discrimination".

His remarks at a rally at the M A M Stadium were aimed at galvanising support for the BJP in the party's traditional stronghold, asserting that the Union Territory status for Jammu and Kashmir is merely "temporary" and promising restoration of statehood.

The BJP achieved its best poll performance in Jammu and Kashmir in the 2014 Assembly election, winning 18 seats from the four Jammu districts and securing a total of 25 seats. Historically, the saffron party has never won any Assembly seat in the Kashmir valley.

Senior BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and party president J P Nadda, have actively campaigned, accusing the Congress, National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) of pursuing a "Pakistani agenda" and fostering terrorism -- a claim vehemently denied by these parties.

Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadera, have also campaigned vigorously, promising to restore statehood in Jammu and Kashmir and provide a "people-friendly" government in a coalition with the NC.

Following a disappointing performance in the 2014 election -- when the Congress failed to win any seat from the Jammu districts -- there is hope for a stronger show by the party this time, buoyed by anti-incumbency sentiments against the BJP.

However, the Congress faced a setback when Kharge experienced dizziness while addressing a rally in Kathua on Sunday, though his condition was stable following medical care. The Congress president had to cancel his last rally at Udhampur.

The NC and the PDP, led by former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, have also intensified their outreach efforts, criticising the BJP for an uptick in terror incidents in Jammu over the last three years.

Omar Abdullah challenged the BJP's narrative, suggesting that by blaming the opposition, they absolve Pakistan of accountability.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, the PDP won seven of the 15 seats in north Kashmir, while the NC and Congress secured three and two seats

respectively.

According to election officials, all necessary arrangements, including security measures, are in place, ensuring a secure environment for the voters.

The campaigning period, characterised by a political frenzy involving numerous candidates, including independents, concluded peacefully at 6 pm, marking the start of the mandatory 48-hour silent period before polling.

In the final phase, Jammu district has the highest number of candidates at 109, followed by Baramulla (101), Kupwara (59), Bandipora (42), Udhampur (37), Kathua (35) and Samba (32).

While the NC and the Congress are contesting the election in an alliance, their top leaders have largely campaigned separately for this phase. Rahul Gandhi addressed rallies in Jammu city and Sopore, a region previously known for separatism and insurgency.

Emerging regional players, such as People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone and Awami Ittehad Party chief Sheikh Abdul Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid, have also been active in the campaign. Rashid's party has fielded his brother Khurshid Ahmad from Langate while Lone's party is contesting two seats.

As the political landscape evolves, the entry of Jamaat-e-Islami-backed candidates in some north Kashmir constituencies adds another layer of complexity to this competitive electoral battle.

23 Employees

and State Excise Department with Ra 50 lakh respectively.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), P K Pole, while elaborating details in this regard, stated that about 7088 permissions have been given to different political parties and candidates regarding rallies, processions, opening of party offices, vehicles, display of banners, flags, pamphlets, hoardings, street corner meetings, door to door canvassing, helicopters and helipads, video vans, vehicle permissions for star campaigners, party office bearers and vehicle permission within ACs.

Out of total 1263 MCC violations reported till date, 600 stand closed after enquiring and taking appropriate action while 364 are under investigation which too will be disposed off soon besides notices stand issued to 115 candidates/political parties/media houses and others for reported MCC violations.

Taking a stern action on carrying drugs, cash and liquor illegally, the concerned enforcement agencies have registered 32 FIRs, the CEO informed.

Drug Menace: A Key

and Kashmir were in a denial mode about drug consumption and nobody was recognising it as a problem, Dr Khan, who heads the youth development and rehabilitation centre in Srinagar, said.

However, with the effort of police and a huge awareness programme, there is a mass acceptance that the menace of drug addiction is prevailing in the Valley, he said.

Dr Khan highlighted that there has been a change in the addiction scenario in the Valley and it also poses a huge problem.

"Ten years ago, the drugs prevalent here were cannabis and charas which are locally grown. But in the last seven to eight years (from 2016 onward) we have seen a different trend. Now most of the patients are heroin addicts and have developed dependency on heroin," he said.

The in charge of a private rehabilitation centre said the youngest patient at the facility is 14 years old and the oldest is 60.

Deputy Superintendent of Police of Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Nisar Bakshi said the whole of Jammu and Kashmir Police is fighting the narcotics menace.

The establishment of this wing has narrowed the scope of drug smugglers, the police officer said.

"Anti-narcotics is the Jammu and Kashmir Police's specialised wing that was established in 2020. It has two police stations in the Jammu division and Kashmir division," he said.

Following the establishment of this wing, the properties of drug smugglers have been seized and many have been detained, DCP Bakshi said, adding the wing has registered 83 FIRs and 181 have been jailed.

"This is not a fight of the police alone, it's everybody's fight. Unless citizens cooperate with the police, we won't be able to have a complete victory. Unless our children are safe from this menace, the future is dark. If we want to make this place heaven on earth, we have to fight together against drug abuse," Bakshi said.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a youth in Kashmir said, "I have been consuming drugs for the past four years. It began for fun and with friends. After a few days, we began experiencing withdrawal symptoms."

"I told my parents about the entire scenario, I requested them to take me to a doctor. They admitted me to the rehabilitation centre and I spent a month there. Now I feel better," he said.

The youth now works as an outreach worker (ORW) at the same facility.

Another person said that he started consuming drugs in 2016, after seeing his friend do it. "I started with cigarettes and then shifted to heroin," he said while admitting that it was a mistake that cost him dearly.

"I lost everything and now my business is running in loss. Never take drugs," the person said.

All political parties, be it the BJP, Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party, the National Conference or the Congress, see the problem of drug abuse in the region as one of the major issues and have mentioned it during their campaign in the assembly polls.

Kashmir Enraged

protest in response to Nasrallah's killing. Earlier several leaders condemned the killing with Lok Sabha member from Srinagar Aga Ruhullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti suspending their election campaigns.

"Cancelling my campaign tomorrow in solidarity with the martyrs of Lebanon & Gaza especially Hassan Nasarullah. We stand with the people of Palestine & Lebanon in this hour of immense grief & exemplary resistance," Mufti posted on X.

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari also condemned the killings in Lebanon.

"Israel's ongoing airstrikes on Lebanon are causing heavy casualties and massive destruction. Innocent civilians are suffering the most from this violence."

"The lack of any effective response from the international community is alarming, and the silence of world leaders worsens the situation. I stand in solidarity with the victims and pay tribute to Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and other martyrs killed in these aggressive airstrikes," Bukhari posted on X.

Cyber Police

posted on X. The police warned of strict action against anyone posting or sharing any inflammatory or provocative content.

"Any individual found posting or sharing sectarian, inflammatory, or provocative content aimed at disturbing peace will face strict legal action under the relevant sections of law. Let's work together to maintain the unity and tranquility of Kashmir," it added.

Spontaneous protests broke out in the Shia-dominated areas of Srinagar and Budgam districts soon after the killing of the Hezbollah chief.

While the protests on streets have been peaceful so far, there were reports of some

social media users posting provocative content online.

Special Dev

has been isolated at the international forums with some of its trusted allies also stepping back.

"Whenever we have investigated terrorism, we have found Pakistani involvement. Our successive governments have tried to make Pakistan understand that they should stop terror camps but to no avail. Pakistan is frustrated after revocation of Article 370 and is making attempts to revive terror. They do not want democracy to take roots here. (But) India is strong enough that it can take on Pakistan on its soil. If anyone in Pakistan carries out an attack on India, we can crossover and respond," he added.

Singh said Pakistan has been isolated now. "Even Turkey, which used to support Pakistan, has not made mention of Kashmir at the UNGA," he added.

The BJP leader said since his party's government came to power at the Centre, peace has returned to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The business of terrorism is not going to last very long now," he added.

Reiterating the promises made in the BJP's election manifesto, Singh said, "As the defence minister, I assure you that if (BJP candidate) Faqeer Mohammad Khan wins, more people from Gurez will be recruited in the Indian Army."

He said the biggest demand put forth from Gurez is construction of a tunnel through the Razdan pass that will establish all-weather connectivity with the rest of the country.

Electricity is supplied round the clock, internet towers have been installed. Roads have become better and they will be further improved, he added.

"As the defence minister of the country, I assure you that after polls I will bring the concerned minister here to discuss it," he said.

Why 65% Posts

now and then BJP accuses Congress of being pro-Pakistan. "Facts remain that Congress has never hugged the Pakistan prime minister. It was PM Modi who went to Pakistan to hug Nawaz Shareef and to taste biryani," he said. "We never went to Pakistan to hug any PM there."

Kharge said the constitution framed by B R Ambedkar promises justice to all. "But when that constitution came to fore, who torched the same constitution. It was the RSS people who set ablaze the copies of Ambedkar's constitution in Ram Leela ground," he said. "Who torched Pandit Nehru's, Ambedkar and Gandhiji's posters at Ram Leela ground."

Kharge said Rahul Gandhi took out a rally from Kanyakumari to Kashmir to ensure people vow to protect the Indian constitution. "Now BJP is teaching Desh Bhagti (patriotism) to Congress," he said.

The AICC said that Congress is committed to restore the age-old practice of Darbar Move. "This will help revive businesses of the both regions once again. We will also ensure Statehood is restored to J&K," Kharge said, adding that BJP never wanted to hold polls in J&K.

"It was after the Supreme Court ordered that elections should be held in J&K, only then BJP agreed for polls," he said. "Otherwise, they (BJP) wanted to rule J&K through Lieutenant Governor." Kharge also asked the BJP why the Dogra regiment is being gradually closed. "Agri-veer scheme is being launched to do away with the Dogra regiment," he said.

He said BJP cannot fulfil its promises. "Had they been committed to do so, they would have done that in the past ten years," Kharge said, adding that "BJP is the king of liars. They never looked at the poor." He sought votes for the Congress candidates in the fray for the last phase of Assembly polls.

All Arrangements Completed For Smooth Polls: DEO Bandipora

Agencies

BANDIPORA: The district election officer Manzoor Ahmad Qadri (KAS) on Sunday said that all security and other necessary arrangements have been completed for smooth polls in the district for the third phase of elections on October 01.

Addressing the media DEO Bandipora, said that the 312 polling stations have been set up at 230 locations in three constituencies and all assured minimum facilities have been made available at every polling station.

He also said that several teams have been constituted to monitor any poll-related intimidation and unfair practices. "All arrangements for smooth polling on Oct 01 have been completed for the third phase of elections in Bandipora district."

"In every constituency Pink



polling and red polling stations have been set up in which persons with disabilities will manage all the things."

He further added that strong rooms have been set up in the district and the EVMs will be shifted to strong rooms at night hours after the completion of polling.

"In last assembly polls, the district has recorded 62% of polls this time we expect 75% of voting in the district."

Warm farewell To DGP J&K Police & Chairperson PWWA By J&K Police Public School



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a momentous event the J&K Police Public School, Bemina bid adieu to Worthy Director General of Police (DGP), R.R.Swain along with the esteemed Chairperson of the Police Wives Welfare Association (PWWA), J&K, Prof. Rasmata Das Swain.

During the event, the dignitaries shared their invaluable experiences, enlightening the students and faculty with profound insights about their roles and responsibilities towards society and the nation.

The occasion was further graced by the presence of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IPS, IGP Security, Sujit Kumar and DIG, Om Prakash Pandey, adding to the prestige of the event. The Principal, Ms. Snigdha Singh Chauhan, Vice Principal, Ms. Pragati Pandey, and Headmistress, Ms. Shabeera Shabnam extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries by presenting them with tradi-

tional Kashmiri shawls as tokens of love and respect.

Elevating the significance of the event the dignitaries had the honor of inaugurating the newly renovated state-of-the-art conference hall. This updated facility is set to become a hub of intellectual exchange, providing an inspiring environment for school meetings, educational seminars and a range of dynamic academic activities. Designed to foster collaboration and innovation, the conference hall symbolizes the school's commitment to excellence and growth, offering both students and faculty a modern space to share ideas and shape the future."

Students from different classes had an engaging interaction with the guests, exchanging thoughts and ideas that reflected the bright future ahead of them. The dignitaries praised the students for their curiosity and enthusiasm, emphasizing the importance of education in shaping responsible citizens.

DGP Condolences Martyrdom Of HC Bashir Ahmad

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: DGP J&K R.R. Swain has condoled the martyrdom of the braveheart HC Bashir Ahmad of J&K Police, who sacrificed his life in an encounter with foreign terrorists in Kathua district.

Expressing his deep sorrow, DGP J&K conveyed to the family of the brave policeman that the entire police force stands behind it and would continue to do so in future.

While the J&K police force cannot bring back HC Bashir, it undertakes to extend every possible support to the family and avenge the martyrdom of the courageous Bashir who did not fear death when it came to protecting his community and countrymen and gave hell to the foreign terrorists with his LMG before succumbing to his injuries.

DGP also prayed for the speedy recovery of other injured personnel.

Farooq Ahmad Shah Concludes Campaign From Gulmarg Constituency

Observer News Service

GULMARG: JKNC candidate for the Gulmarg Assembly Constituency, Farooq Ahmad Shah, concluded his election campaign with great enthusiasm and overwhelming support from the public. On the final day of his campaign, Mr. Shah visited several villages, including Ogmuna, Lalpora, Chuker, Narpora, Treeran, Chek Treeran, Wailoo, and concluded at Ferozepora Tangmarg.

The public outreach programs in these villages saw massive participation, with people from all walks of life pledging their full support to Shah. Supporters expressed confidence in his vision for the development of the Gulmarg

constituency, especially his focus on improving infrastructure, education, and health-care, and creating employment opportunities for the youth in various sectors.

Speaking at his concluding event in Ferozepora Tangmarg, Shah thanked the people for their unwavering trust and support. He reaffirmed his commitment to addressing the concerns of the constituency, emphasizing the importance of unity and collective effort in bringing about positive change.

The widespread enthusiasm and active participation of the people throughout the campaign have set the stage for what promises to be a landmark election for the Gulmarg constituency.

Development Boom: Kupwara, Baramulla Complete Thousands of Projects Since 2020

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kupwara and Baramulla districts in Jammu & Kashmir have witnessed a significant rise in the completion of development projects over the last four fiscal years, according to official sources. The data indicates a remarkable surge in the pace of infrastructure development, contributing to the overall growth and betterment of these districts.

In Kupwara, a substantial increase in the number of completed projects was recorded. According to data accessed by Kashmir Observer, in FY 2020-21, 794 projects were completed in Kupwara. This number jumped to 2,217 projects in FY 2021-22. The trend continued with 4,061 projects completed in FY 2022-23, and as of FY 2023-24, 3,453 projects have been completed to



date. The projects span across multiple sectors including infrastructure, health, education, rural development, and public utilities, aiming to enhance the quality of life for residents.

Similarly, Baramulla also experienced a significant uptick

in development activities. In FY 2020-21, 543 projects were completed, followed by 2,044 projects in FY 2021-22. In FY 2022-23, 2,661 projects were completed, and in FY 2023-24, 2,593 projects have been completed to

Modi Government Restored Peace In Jammu & Kashmir: Tarun Chugh

Agencies

SRINAGAR: BJP National Spokesperson Tarun Chugh launched a scathing attack on the Mufti, Abdullah, and Nehru families, accusing them of being responsible for the destruction and stagnation of Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at a public rally in Bangla Tangdar, Chugh said these political dynasties exploited the region during their time in power, but the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has brought peace and ushered in a new era of construction and development.

Tarun Chugh highlighted that under the Modi government, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir now hold jobs instead of guns and stones. He accused previous governments of sowing discord between different communities, particularly between Gujjars and hill tribes. However, he claimed that the BJP has created employment opportunities and restored peace and harmony in the region.

He assured that the BJP government would continue to prioritize the welfare of the poor, including increasing



pensions and making special recruitment efforts in border areas. Promising further development, Tarun Chugh told the people of Karnah that voting for BJP would result in the construction of the much-needed Sadhana Tunnel and more job opportunities for the youth.

Tarun Chugh also touted the party's achievements in health-care, noting the increase in Ayushman Bharat health insurance coverage from 75 lakh to 77 lakh, and vowed to provide housing and land to those in need. He emphasized that the Modi government had granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the hill communities, ensuring that their children could aspire to prestigious roles such as IAS and IPS officers.

Highlighting the success of

government initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh said that tourism has reached record levels, and significant efforts have been made to boost the sector. Accompanied by BJP leaders Sunil Kumar Sharma, Shugat Ghayur, and Kupwara District President Javed Qureshi, Tarun Chugh ended by urging voters to support BJP candidate Muhammad Ardis Karnahi in the upcoming elections, claiming that peace and development remain the party's top priorities.

Tarun Chugh reassured the media that no one could take away the Scheduled Tribe status from the hill communities and emphasized that people are increasingly supportive of BJP due to its development agenda in the region.(KNS)

Vote For Development, Maintain Unity, Brotherhood: Azad

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad addressed a series of public meetings in Jammu, where he called for unity and brotherhood among the people. He urged the public to vote for development and progress in the upcoming elections. Azad stated, "For years, political parties have used division as a tactic, offering excuses not to develop both regions.

This has led to conflict, while those in power continue to enjoy their privileges." He urged people to recognise that their shared struggles should unite them rather than create rifts, stressing that only through unity can genuine progress be achieved. Reflecting on his tenure as Chief Minister, he noted "People witnessed real progress and development during my time. Through double and triple shifts, we initiated a developmental revolution that no other leader has been able to replicate.

Many projects that I sanctioned remain incomplete to this day, highlighting the urgent need for a renewed focus on de-



velopment." Azad voiced concerns over the promises made by various political parties regarding the return of Article 370, asserting that these promises are not grounded in reality. Azad stated, "We all want return of Article 370, but we cannot expect anything from the BJP.

Even Congress fails to speak on this crucial issue. It is not possible to restore Article 370 through the assembly, but we can introduce legislation to ensure that no outsider can buy land or secure jobs in our region. This was the essence of Article 370." He further said "I do not cheat, lie, or mislead. I recognise that some people have become accustomed to falsehoods

and have been voting based on those lies, but I speak the truth, which only a few may comprehend. I will never give false hope or make unrealistic promises." Azad acknowledged the widespread disillusionment among people, who are tired of false slogans that have only led to bloodshed and unrest. "People are fed up with the empty promises that have resulted in nothing but chaos and division," Azad stated.

"Today, we must focus on creating jobs for our youth, who are increasingly becoming involved in drugs, this is the biggest issue we face." He highlighted the desire for peace and unity among the people of Jammu, stating, "Whether in Samba, Gandhi Nagar, or Bakshi Nagar, the people of Jammu yearn for harmony. This is part of our Dogra culture and we must strive to maintain this unity. We cannot allow ourselves to be influenced by parties that seek to divide us." Azad further said that his return to the state is driven by a desire to serve the poor, who remain deprived of basic necessities such as water and electricity.

Samba District Gears Up For Assembly Elections

Observer News Service

SAMBA: District Samba is fully geared up for the upcoming Phase III of Assembly Elections scheduled for October 01.

The district administration has made all necessary arrangements to ensure smooth and transparent electoral process, allowing over 2.60 lakh voters to cast their ballots across its three Assembly Con-

stituencies (ACs) of Ramgarh, Samba and Vijaypur. The district has a voter population of 2,60,999 souls, among which 1,33,736 are male, 1,27,261 female and 2 third gender voters.

For smooth and hassle-free facilitation of voters, ECI has established 366 polling stations across the district with 42 urban polling stations and 324 rural polling stations.

Among all the three Assembly

Constituencies of the district, 70-Samba AC has highest number of 91,280 registered voters, comprising 46,783 male and 44,497 female voters. The constituency also houses 151 polling stations, 23 urban and 128 rural for smooth and hassle free voting experience of all registered voters.

69- Ramgarh (SC) Assembly Constituency comes next with a voter population of 88,947 souls, among which 45,461 are

Engineer Rashid's Car Attacked At Campaign

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The campaign vehicle of Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid was attacked Sunday by an assailant who stomped on the bonnet and the front windshield, damaging the glass.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid (57), popularly known as Engineer Rashid, who was in the car when the incident happened was unhurt.

The car was attacked in the Langate area of Kupwara district on the last day of electioneering in north Kashmir.

A video of the attack which appeared on social media showed a man climbing and stomping on the bonnet and the front windshield of the vehicle.



Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party has not commented on the incident so far.

According to sources, the assailant is a former aide of the Member of Parliament and was instrumental in his Lok Sabha election campaign in April-May, but has fallen out with him since.

Sajad Lone Mourns Killing Of Syed Hassan Nasrallah

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sajad Lone expressed his condolences over the martyrdom of Syed Hassan Nasrallah.

In a tweet, Lone mourned the loss, referring to it as the "supreme martyrdom" and prayed for Allah's blessings on

his soul. He also urged people to carry forward Nasrallah's legacy against oppressors.

May Allah (SWT) bless his soul & grant us strength to carry forward his legacy against oppressors, Lone tweeted using hashtags #HassanNasrallah and #MartyrOfTruth.

Engineer Rashid's Election Campaign Permission Revoked In Baramulla

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The permission granted to Shoaib Lone for an election campaign scheduled featuring Star Campaigner Engineer Rashid, has been revoked on Sunday by Baramulla administration.

This decision comes in light of security concerns raised by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, in Order No. HQR/E-Permission/2024/1140-44 dated August 29, 2024, related to the

upcoming General Election to the Legislative Assembly.

"In view of the security concerns raised by the Dy. Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, vide Order No. HQR/E-Permission/2024/1140-44 dated 29-08-2024, regarding the General Election to the Legislative Assembly 2024, permissions granted to Shoaib Lone for 29-09-2024 for Election campaign with Star Campaigner Engineer Rashid is hereby cancelled with immediate effect," reads an order.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Expresses Grief Over Hassan Nasrallah's Killing

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mirwaiz Umar farooq expressed heartfelt grief and sympathies at the martyrdom of Hassan Nasrallah and the hundreds of Lebanese civilians killed in Israeli bombing.

Mirwaiz who continues to be under house arrest said the people of Kashmir stand in solidarity with the brave and oppressed people of Gaza and

Lebanon in the face of immense ongoing aggression from Israel. He said the heart wrenching suffering inflicted on the people of Gaza and now Lebanon is very painful to bear as is the inability of world to stop the blatant Israeli violence against the justice seeking people of Palestine.

Mirwaiz prayed for the departed souls and for the victory of good over evil.

Final Randomization Of Poll Staff Held At Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In view of Assembly Elections 2024, the final randomization of poll staff was conducted at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The final Randomization for allotment of Polling Stations to Polling Staff was conducted by District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri under the supervision of General Observer for Bandipora and Sonawari AC, Nelson Eyon Bage besides General Observer for 16-Gurez AC, Ramniwas Yadav also oversee randomization process in virtual mode.

The randomization was conducted using a dedicated software for the purpose as per the prescribed guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), ensuring fairness and im-

partiality in the deployment of polling staff.

It was given out that 312 teams have been created to conduct polling in three assembly constituencies of Bandipora viz 14-Sonawari, 15-Bandipora and 16-Gurez which are scheduled to go for polls on 01 October 2024.

Further, randomization of micro observers was also conducted on the occasion. Among others, DyDEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, ACR/RO 15-Bandipora Shabir Ahmad wani, DIO/Nodal Officer MCMC Aadil Manzoor Wani, CEO Kishor Kumar, DyCEO Dr. G. M. Pujoo and other concerned were present.

RO 14- Sonawari, Mur-taza Ahmad Sheikh, and RO 16-Gurez Mukhtar Ahmad also attended virtually.

male and 43,486 are female voters. To facilitate the voters, 112 polling stations have been established in this constituency; 04 urban polling stations and 108 rural polling stations.

71- Vijaypur AC, with the lowest voter count in the District, has 80,772 registered voters, including 41,492 male, 39,278 female and 2 third gender voters. For smooth voting process, 103 polling stations

have been established, including 15 urban and 88 rural polling stations.

To enhance voter participation, Special polling stations have been established in the District including 13 polling booths managed by women as Pink Polling Stations, 7 polling stations manned by specially abled persons, 1 Border polling station, 9 green polling stations and 3 model Polling stations.

BCCI Unveils State-Of-The-Art Centre Of Excellence In Cricket In Bengaluru

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: It took 24 years for the National Cricket Academy (NCA) to find a dwelling that suits its stature and growth, but the wait was worth it as the facility finally took a new avatar as the BCCI Centre of Excellence, a hub of ultra-modern features including three different kind pitches.

The Centre of Excellence, now operating closer to the international airport here, was inaugurated by BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Saturday, and the most striking features were three international-quality grounds and 86 decks—prepared specifically to make players feel at home in any conditions at home or abroad.

The Ground A, the main ground, boasts an 85-yard boundary with 13 meticulously maintained Mumbai red-soil pitches that will offer a good amount of bounce.

Another unique feature of



this ground is the Herringbone drainage system that allows uber quick evaporation of water in case of rain.

The ground also is equipped with floodlighting and state-of-

the-art broadcasting facilities, if ever the venue is required to host a much high-profile match.

The Ground B and C serve as dedicated practice grounds

with 75-yard boundaries, featuring 11 Mandya soil pitches and nine Black Cotton soil pitches from Kalahandi, Odisha, respectively.

Apart from those three

grounds, the Comprehensive Practice Resources in the centre, sprawling over 40 acres, offers an impressive 45 outdoor net pitches for practice divided into nine clusters, separated by safety nets sourced from England.

The outdoor facility will also receive a dedicated fielding practice area and six outdoor running tracks with natural grass and Mondo synthetic surfaces.

The indoor practice facility is as impressive as the outdoor one. It gets eight pitches with premium English and Australian turfs and Australia.

The Sports Science & Medicine Block (SSM) is equipped with best-in-class equipment such as four athletic tracks, a physiotherapy rehab gym, sports science and medicine lab and recovery area and so on.

The BCCI secretary Jay Shah remarked that the facility will also be open to India's Olympic athletes in future.

Short TAKES

Four Matches Played In Srinagar Football Academy League



Srinagar Football Academy League saw four exciting matches take place at Polo Ground on Sunday. In the first game, Alamdar Academy played Bemina Academy. The second game was between Polo Ground Academy and Noorbagh Academy. Kashmir Harvard took on Young Development Barzullah in the third game, while Fort View Academy locked horns with JK Football Academy in the fifth game of the day. The Srinagar Football Academy League is being organised by District Football Association Srinagar.

Musheer Khan Says He Is Doing Fine After Getting 'New Life'

Mumbai cricketer Musheer Khan on Sunday said he is doing fine after a getting new life following a car accident in the outskirts of Lucknow.

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 earlier this week, effectively ruling him out of Mumbai's matches at the start of the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 season, beginning from October 11.

"First of all I want to thank almighty Allah for granting me a new life. I'm fine as of now, and abbu [father] was with me [in the crash], and he's fine too. I just want to thank all of you for your blessings," said Musheer in a video posted on his Instagram handle.

BCCI Abandons New Duleep Trophy Format Amid Pressure

The Duleep Trophy is set to return to its traditional zonal from next year after the state units gave a thumbs down to the four-team concept introduced this season.

The red-ball event featured four teams -- India A, India B, India C, India D. India A beat India C to win the competition earlier this month.

Usually, six teams from as many zones -- central, east, west, north, south and north east -- take part in the tournament, providing more opportunities to the players from their respective zones.

Liam Delap Double Helps Ipswich Draw With Aston Villa

Ipswich Town played out a fourth straight Premier League draw after they held Aston Villa 2-2 on Sunday at Portman Road where Liam Delap opened the scoring for the home side before grabbing the equaliser in the second half.

Morgan Rogers and Ollie Watkins scored for Villa in the first half before Delap grabbed his second but neither side could find a winner as promoted Ipswich continue to wait for a first win on their return to the Premier League.

Bayern Says Kane's Ankle Injury Not As Bad As Initially Feared

Bayern Munich star Harry Kane's left ankle injury is not as serious as initially feared, the Bundesliga club said.

"Examinations by the club's medical unit on Sunday determined a positive development," the Bavarian powerhouse said. "Kane will continue to receive appropriate treatment."

The club did not say whether Kane will be fit for Bayern's visit to Aston Villa in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Day 3: Wet Outfield Wipes Out Play In Kanpur Test

Press Trust of India

KANPUR: No play was possible for the second consecutive day in the second Test between India and Bangladesh due to a wet outfield at the Green Park Stadium here.

Overnight rain had caused a delay to the start of action but even as the sun was shining bright around 2 pm and there were no soggy patches on the ground, the officials decided to call off the play.

Almost eight sessions have been lost in the game due to persistent rain that has played havoc with the final match of the two-



game series. Questions on the drainage system used at the venue have been duly raised.

Bangladesh had ended the rain-shortened opening day at 107 for 3.

The entire second day was washed out without a ball being bowled, and

only 35 overs were bowled on the opening day.

India pacer Akash Deep (2/34) and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/22) were among the wickets.

On Friday also, the start of the match was delayed by an hour due to a wet outfield.

Succession Plan For New BCCI Secretary Gains Momentum

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: The members who were present at the 93rd BCCI Annual General Meeting (AGM) here on Sunday requested incumbent secretary Jay Shah to speed up the process of finding his successor to keep the transition of power as smooth as possible.

Shah is expected to step down from his post in the last week of November and take over as the chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC) for a three-year period from December 1.

While selecting the new secretary was not on the AGM agenda, it has been learnt that the attendees discussed the succession plan among themselves to keep the procedure open.



As things stand now, Rohan Jaitley, president of Delhi and District Cricket Association, BCCI treasurer Ashish Shekar, joint secretary Devajit Saikia and Gujarat Cricket Association secretary Anil Patel are the candidates who are in the fray to succeed Shah, unless a dark horse emerges in the latter stages of the selection process.

Sri Lanka Climb, NZ Plummet In Latest ICC Test Ranking

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: A dominant 2-0 series win over New Zealand has elevated Sri Lanka to the third position in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 standings.

Following their impressive victory by an innings and 154 runs in the second Test at Galle, Sri Lanka boasts a 55.56 per cent point percentage (PCT) from five wins and four losses in nine Tests.

This puts them within striking distance of Australia, who occupy second place with a PCT of 62.50. India, with a PCT of 71.67, continues to hold the top spot.

New Zealand, on the other hand, has slipped to seventh place after their series defeat, with a PCT of 37.50.

Sri Lanka now faces a crucial phase in their WTC campaign. They have four remaining Tests, two against South Africa away from home in November-December



and two at home against Australia in January-February next year.

To secure a place in the final, Sri Lanka must finish with a higher PCT than either India or Australia.

Mohammad Yousuf Steps Down As Pakistan Selector

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Former Pakistan cricket captain Mohammad Yousuf on Sunday stepped down as national selector citing personal reasons.

Yousuf, who had been attached with the Pakistan Cricket Board in different roles since last year, was part of a broad-based national selection committee that includes two former Test players, head coaches, captains and an analyst.

In his post on X, Yousuf wrote, "I announce my resignation as a selector for the Pakistan cricket team due to personal reasons. Serving this incredible team has been a profound privilege, and I am proud to have contributed to the growth and success of Pakistan Cricket."



However, a source close to Yousuf said that the former batter was not happy with the criticism aimed at him in the PCB.

Yousuf will continue to serve as a batting coach in the high-performance centre.

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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.