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Election Commission of India

Tohan Khairmakdam

Welcoming all voters to exercise their right
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J&K Assembly Elections-2024

Phase-3
40 ACs

October

01

Ease of Voting at the Polling Stations



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Election Commission of India

Mason Dies, Two Others Injured In Srinagar House Collapse

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A mason lost his life and two laborers were injured after the roof of an under-construction house collapsed at Shamswari, Kalashpora area of the old city on Monday. The sudden collapse of support-structure of an under-construction house at Shamswari, caused total chaos and confusion in the entire locality. Identified as Mohammad Ismail Shuloo (58), son of Ghulam Rasool Shuloo, a mason died in the sudden building collapse while two

laborers suffered injuries in the incident. Witnesses claimed that as workers were working on construction, the structure's support suddenly failed, causing the building to collapse. The victims were immediately removed to the hospital, where two are being treated and one was pronounced dead upon arrival. The deceased mason is survived by two sons and wife. Meanwhile, the police have taken cognizance of the incident and set the investigation into motion.

Chief Secy Visits Assembly Complex, Reviews Dev Works

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the Legislative Assembly Complex Srinagar to assess its final readiness for holding sessions after culmination of the ongoing assembly elections in the Union Territory. During his visit to the complex, the Chief Secretary toured the Assembly Hall, Meeting Halls, as well as the chambers designated for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and others. He also reviewed functionality of the sound system, internet connectivity and other amenities necessary for smooth functioning of the complex. The Chief Secretary is-

sued directions regarding Upgradation to be made in the communication network in meeting halls to ensure holding of video conferencing along with making other improvements. While inspecting the ongoing works, he emphasized upon maintaining the quality simultaneously while completing the same within the given deadline. He also enquired about the Upgradation works in MLA hostels in the twin cities saying that they should be equipped with improved facilities. He said that both of them should be made fully functional before the culmination of the current election process.

SKIMS Hosts Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Update

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Srinagar hosted an insightful event on 'Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Update' at the SKIMS Auditorium, in observance of PCOS Awareness Month. The event was organized under ICMR-PCOS National Task Force Study, for which SKIMS serves as the nationwide coordinating centre with Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS and EOSG as the National Chief coordinator for the last seven years.

The event commenced with welcome address by Dr Anjum Malik, Associate Professor, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, SKIMS-MC, Bemina, followed by a presentation on Introduction to ICMR PCOS Task Force Initiative, Multidisciplinary PCOS Clinic-A SKIMS initiative and a PCOS Documentary. The Inaugural ceremony of the event began with a welcome address by Dr. Cimona Lyn Saldanha, Head, Department of OBG, SKIMS, who emphasized the significance of the event and set the tone for further proceedings.



People Of J&K Ought To Enjoy Peace With Dignity: RR Swain

Pay Tributes To Slain Soldiers At Balidan Stambh

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The outgoing chief of the Jammu and Kashmir police RR Swain claimed on Monday that he had done all within his command and control to bring about peace in the region, and that people, irrespective of language, ethnicity, or religion, ought to enjoy it. On his last day of service, Swain, an IPS officer (AGMUT: 1991) who succeeded Dilbag Singh as the 17th DGP of the J&K police on October 31 last year, paid floral tributes to the fallen soldiers at Balidan Stambh in Pratap Park, claiming that he could be one of the hundreds of his colleagues who lost their lives in J&K. Nalin Prabhat, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, would succeed Swain as the 18th Director General of Police (DGP) of J&K. For any police or security forces officer, he said, the Balidan Stambh which embodies the emotions, the fervor, and the blood and sweat of those who laid down



On his last day of service, Swain, an IPS officer (AGMUT: 1991) who succeeded Dilbag Singh as the 17th DGP of the J&K police on October 31 last year, paid floral tributes to the fallen soldiers at Balidan Stambh in Pratap Park, claiming that he could be one of the hundreds of his colleagues who lost their lives in J&K

their lives in the line of duty is no less than a place of worship. "All mothers, sisters, children, parents, and elderly citizens in J&K ought to live in harmony and prosperity, free from intimidation and fear, regardless of their religion or race," Swain told the media, adding, it was a highly eventful phase in which I tried

to contribute to, and bring about lasting peace, or peace with dignity as many would say, but for me it was more than just a lip service; it was a difficult choice that I made with all of my heart, body, and mind. Swain also expressed his sincere gratitude to the government and to the Almighty for providing him with an opportunity to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir. According to Swain, he was satisfied with his attempts to have a beneficial influence on the area "I believe I haven't lost the opportunity to play my part" "I made every effort to seize any opportunity that came my way, should be able to bring smiles, happiness, peace, and prosperity—not just to the security forces but to the entire population of J&K," he said, adding, not everyone is given this opportunity. Besides Almighty, I express my sincere gratitude to the government and all my fellow J&K police officers as well as other security personnel.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR 26 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5: 03
ZUHR	12:22	
ASR	4: 37	
Magrib	6:23	
ISHA	7: 43	

This Day In History

- 331 BC - Alexander the Great defeats Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Gaugamela
- 911 - During a siege in Constantinople, the Theotokos (Mary, the mother of Jesus) appeared at the church in Blachernae holding her veil over the praying faithful, among them St. Andrew of Constantinople.
- 965 - John XIII Crescentii elected to succeed Pope Leo VIII
- 1606 - Spanish troops under Spinola occupies fort Rhine birch
- 1632 - Battle at Castelnau: Duke Henri de Montmorency's rebel army loses
- 1653 - Russian parliament accepts annexation of Ukraine
- 1768 - British troops under General Thomas Gage land in Boston
- 1787 - Russians under Suvorov defeat the Turks at Kinburn.
- 1795 - France annexes Southern Netherlands
- 1795 - Belgium is conquered by France.
- 1800 - Spain cedes Louisiana to France in a secret treaty
- 1801 - Britain & France sign Preliminary of London
- 1864 - Cyclone strikes Calcutta: 70,000 killed
- 1867 - Karl Marx' "Das Kapital" published
- 1887 Balochistan conquered by the British Empire.
- 1904 - Netherlands and Portugal lay down boundaries splitting the island of Timor in two
- 1918 - World War I: Arab forces under T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia") capture Damascus
- 1928 - USSR launches its first 5-year plan
- 1934 - Adolf Hitler expands German army and navy, violating Treaty of Versailles
- 1936 - Generalissimo Francisco Franco establishes state of Spain
- 1943 - Allied forces captured Naples during WW II
- 1943 - Germans attack Jews in Denmark
- 1947 - The F-86 Sabre flies for the first time.
- 1949 - People's Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Zedong (National Day)
- 1949 - Republic of China (Taiwan) forms on island of Formosa
- 952 - Monte Bello-Island (Great Britain 1st atom bomb explosion)
- 1953 - Indian state of Andhra Pradesh partitioned from Madras
- 1958 - Britain transfers Christmas Island (south of Java) to Australia
- 1958 - US space agency NASA begins operations incorporating earlier National Advisory Council on Aeronautics and other bodies
- 1961 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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

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

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

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

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

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

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

9070806160

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in school record has been wrongly written as. SHAHEENA AKHTER D/O GH RASOOL MIR R/O HABIL GAM TANGMARG while my correct name is MASRAT RASOOL S/O GH RASOOL MIR R/O HABIL GAM TANGMARG which needs to be corrected .if anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office GOVT BOYS SCHOOL HAIL JAGIR / ZEO WAGOORA within a period of seven days from the date publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained

Name: MASRAT RASOOL
D/O : GH RASOOL MIR
R/O : HABILGAM TANGMARG
DIST: BARAMULLA fko

Condolence Notice

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un

With deep sorrow, we inform the passing of our beloved father Mohammad Amin Sofi, Son of Abdul Ahad Sofi, Resident of Bachi Darwaza, Makhdoom Sahib Srinagar, who left us for heavenly abode on 28th September 2024. The Ijtima-i-Fateh Khwani will be held on Wednesday, 2nd October 2024, at our ancestral graveyard Astan Aaliya Bahau Din Sahib Nowhatta Srinagar, at 10:30 am. We humbly request your prayers for the departed soul and ask Allah to grant him Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen.

Bereaved Family
Muzamil Amin Sofi
Munazir Amin Sofi
Jahanzaib Amin Sofi
All sons of Mohammad Amin Sofi
RSVP: 9697748033 inf

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

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

Roll No: 717381
Class 10th
Year & Session : April May 1991
Registration: 42348-LP-IX-89
Name : Abdul Khaliq Mir
Father's Name: Gh Nabi Mir
Mother's Name : Mukhti Begum
Date of Birth:- 05-01-1975
Residenc:- Litter Pulwama

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 42095 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQ)B/KD/
Dated Assistant Secretary
inf Certificates, KD.

Exit Polls Only After 6 PM On Oct 5: ECI



Observer News Service

Jammu: Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed all media outlets (print, electronic, or digital), polling agencies, and individuals that publication or broadcast of exit poll results related to the ongoing elections in Jammu and Kashmir may be published after 6:00 PM onwards on 5th October 2024.

This restriction is mandated under Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Violation of this provision may lead to legal action, including fines and imprisonment as prescribed by law.

The restriction applies to all forms of media including newspapers, television channels, radio, online news portals, social media platforms, and messaging services like WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram etc. It also applies to political parties, candidates, polling agencies, and any individuals engaged in election-related activities.

The Chief Electoral Office, Jammu and Kashmir, along with the District Election Officers, Returning Officers and law enforcement agencies, will monitor compliance. Any violations will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law.

This measure aims to maintain the integrity of the electoral process and ensure free and fair election environment, and to ensure that voters make their decisions uninfluenced by premature predictions or analysis of electoral outcomes. | More on P6

'39.18 Lakh Voters, 40 Assembly Seats'

J&K Votes Today In Final Phase

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the stage set for 3rd and final phase of General Elections to Legislative Assembly, scheduled for October 01, the fate of 415 candidates will be determined by over 39.18 lakh voters.

The third phase of the Legislative Assembly Elections 2024 will cover 40 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) across seven districts of Jammu & Kashmir. These include Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora in the Kashmir Division while as Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua and Samba in the Jammu Division.



Participate In Large Numbers: CEC To Voters

On the eve of the third phase of voting in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar urged voters to participate in greater numbers. Kumar congratulated the people of J&K for turning out in | More on P6

List Of Constituencies

KASHMIR DIVISION

- › Karnah
- › Trehgam
- › Kupwara
- › Lolab
- › Handwara
- › Langate
- › Sopore
- › Rafiabad
- › Uri
- › Baramulla
- › Gulmarg
- › Wagoora-Kreeri
- › Pattan
- › Sonawari
- › Bandipora
- › Gurez (ST)

JAMMU DIVISION

- › Udhampur West
- › Udhampur East
- › Chenani
- › Ramnagar (SC)
- › Bani
- › Billawar
- › Basohli
- › Jasrota
- › Kathua (SC)
- › Hiranagar
- › Ramgarh (SC)
- › Samba
- › Vijaypur
- › Bishnah (SC)
- › Suchetgarh (SC)
- › R.S. Pura
- › Bahu
- › Jammu East
- › Nagrota
- › Jammu West
- › Jammu North
- › Marh (SC)
- › Akhnoor (SC)
- › Chhamb

Baramulla AC Leads With 25 Candidates

Observer News Service

Baramulla: Baramulla Assembly Segment of North Kashmir leads with the highest 25 candidates in poll fray, while Akhnoor assembly constituency of Jammu district will witness a contest among three candidates only during this phase.

In this phase, 109 candidates are in fray in Jammu district, followed by 101 in Baramulla district, 59 in Kupwaradistrict, 42 in Bandipora district, 37 in Udhampur district, 35 in Kathua district, while 32 candidates are contesting in Samba district.

In Udhampur district, 12 candidates are in fray in 59-Udhampur West AC; 9 in 60-Udhampur East AC; 9 in 61-Chenani AC; while 7 candidates are contesting in 62-Ramgarh (SC) AC.

In Kathua district, 8 candidates are in



fray in 63-Bani AC; 4 in 64-Billawar AC; 4 in 65-Basohli AC; 8 in 66-Jasrota AC; 5 in 67-Kathua (SC) AC; while 6 candidates are contesting in 68-Hiranagar AC.

In Samba district, 7 candidates are in fray in 69-Ramgarh (SC) AC; 14 in 70-Samba AC; while 11 candidates are contesting in 71-Vijaypur AC.

In Jammu district, 9 candidates are in fray in 72-Bishnah (SC) AC; 11 in 73-Suchetgarh (SC) AC; 14 in 74-R.S. Pura-Jammu South AC; 12 in 75-Bahu AC; 9 in 76-Jammu East AC; 8 in | More on P6

Over 20k Polling Staff Deployed

Over 20,000 polling staff have been mobilised Monday across seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of third and final phase of assembly elections which will decide the electoral fate of 415 candidates including two former deputy chief ministers Tara Chand and Muzaffar Beig, officials said. The highlight of the voting will | More on P6

28 Women Candidates In Fray

A total of 28 female candidates are competing in the third and final phase of the assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir, scheduled for October 01, 2024 (tomorrow). According to details, 14 candidates are from the Kashmir division and 14 from the Jammu division. In the Kashmir division, candidates include Saleema from the Nationalist | More on P6

'Women Outnumber Men In 17 Constituencies'

The turnout of women was more as compared to male electors in 17 of the 50 constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir where polls have been held, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Monday. Talking to reporters on the eve of the final phase of assembly elections in the Union territory in which | More on P6

In Solidarity With Palestinians: Ruhullah

'Called Off Poll Campaign To Protest Nasrallah Killing'

Srinagar: Amid protests in Jammu and Kashmir over the killing of Hezbollah Chief Hassan Nasrallah by Israel Defence Forces, National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi said on Monday that Nasrallah's martyrdom caused a grave loss to the resistance and calling off election campaign was a protest as they wanted to express their solidarity with them.

"They want to break the spine of the Palestine resistance; they want to weaken it. His chief Hassan Nasrallah martyrdom caused a grave loss to the resistance. They are fighting Israel for their existence and Israel is trying to weaken it. This is a great loss. He was a great power against Israel, he had provided strength to the resistance. This (calling off election



campaign) was a protest, we also wanted to express solidarity with them. People of J&K understand the injustice done by Israel to Palestine. People of J&K have always stood with the people of Palestine," the National Conference MP said. Earlier on | More on P6

J&K Polls: Srinagar Sees Surge In Garland Sales

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: As Kashmir prepares for the third and final phase of assembly elections on October 1, garland sellers in Srinagar are experiencing a remarkable boom in business. With political parties ramping up their campaign activities, garlands have become a hot commodity, flying off the shelves in key markets such as Maharaja Bazar, Bohri Kadal, and Koker Bazar.

Local vendors said that the demand for garlands has surged significantly since the election process began, marking a notable shift after a decade of political silence in Jammu and Kashmir. Prices for garlands vary



widely, ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 1,000, with extravagant 'money garlands' priced as high as Rs 1 lakh.

Feroz Sofi, a local dealer, said, "Since the election season kicked off, our garland business has seen a

substantial uptick. We offer various patterns and prices for leaders and candidates. While garlands were primarily sold for weddings in the past, elections have dramatically increased our demand." Garlands, | More on P6

Sajad Lone Gets EC Notice Over Anti-Modi Slogans

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The election authorities have served a show-cause notice to Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone for chanting slogans "Modi Ka Jo Yaar Hai, Gaadar Hai, Gaddar Hai" during an election rally at Trehgam in district Kupwara.

In the notice, Lone has been asked by the authorities to explain why action shouldn't be taken against him over these slogans.

"It has been reported that you have used unparliamentary language during your election campaign speech at Trehgam specifically chanting slogan 'Modi Ka Jo Yaar Hai, Gaddar Hai Gaddar Hi' which is a clear violation of MCC/ ECI guidelines," reads the notice.

The nodal officer for Model Code of Conduct for district Kupwara has asked Lone to



submit his reply within 24 hours, failing which the matter shall be forwarded to the chief electoral officer J&K for further action under Rules.

Notably, Sajad Lone is contesting the Assembly elections from twin constituencies of Handwara and Kupwara.

In Handwara constituency, with around 98,000 voters, Lone is facing | More on P6

PM Modi Talks To Netanyahu

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu about the recent developments in West Asia and asserted that terrorism has no place in our world.

It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages, Modi said.

"Spoke to Prime Minister @netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia. Terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages," Modi said on X.

India is committed to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace and stability, PM Modi said.

While PM Modi did not mention any specific incident, Israeli strikes in Lebanon last week killed seven high-ranking commanders and officials from the Hezbollah militant group, including the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah. Hezbollah had | More on P6

J&K Faces 35% Deficient Rainfall

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 35 per cent deficient rainfall during the last four months with Shopian topping the list at 81 percent deficit precipitation since June 01, 2024 to September 25, 2024.

In Shopian, a rainfall of just 54.0 mm was recorded against the normal precipitation of 279.3 mm. According to the details, four stations of Jammu and Kashmir including Shopian, Kulgam, Kishtwar and Poonch have recorded large deficient rainfall since June 01, 2024 to September 25, 2024.

As per the details, Shopian has recorded a deficit rainfall of 81 per cent, followed by 76 per cent in Poonch and 64 & 62 per cent in Kishtwar and Kulgam respectively. With 35 per cent deficient

rainfall in J&K, at least 12 stations of the Union Territory have recorded a deficient rainfall including Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Doda, Ganderbal, Kathua, Kupwara, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Srinagar and Udhampur.

According to the data prepared by the local Meteorological department, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded a deficit rainfall of 37 per cent.

However, the details show that only a few stations including Baramulla, Jammu, Pulwama and Samba have received normal precipitation during the period.

In J&K, against the normal precipitation of 542.7 mm, only 352.7 mm have been recorded. Meanwhile, a statement issued by an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng | More on P6



A picturesque view of the Lidder River glistening under a vibrant sunset in Pahalgam. Photo by Irfan Mushtaq

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Congress Blinks in Jammu

The party's muted campaign in Jammu signals a missed opportunity, potentially ceding ground to BJP's aggressive push



RIYAZ WANI

KO VIEW

Middle East on edge

The assassination of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah by Israel has plunged the Middle East deeper into turmoil. The reckless Israeli actions have brought the region to the brink of a broader regional war. Nasrallah had earned a legendary reputation as the head of Hezbollah for the past over three decades. In 2006, Hezbollah under him was credited for forcing the retreat of Israel from southern Lebanon. This had imparted his persona a halo and enigma unlike any other leader in the region. This is why his death in an air strike by Israel has evoked deep emotions not just among his dogged followers in Lebanon but also globally. Kashmir too didn't remain untouched. Soon after the news of his killing spread, thousands of people poured out on the streets in solidarity with the rights of Lebanese and Palestinians.

The horrendous war began on October 7 last year after Hamas staged its unprecedented attack on Israel. Ever since Israel has killed over 41,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and destroyed much of the small strip of land called Gaza. The war is nowhere near the end, despite global calls for a ceasefire. In March, even the United Nations passed a resolution, overwhelmingly supported by 14 out of 15 members, underlining the urgent need for peace and the cessation of hostilities that have ravaged the region. It was a call for humanity, compassion, and the protection of innocent lives in Gaza. But Israel has refused to listen. After degrading Hamas, Israel has changed its focus to Lebanon, where in the past two weeks, it has wrought havoc, killing not just civilians but also several top leaders of Hezbollah. Nasrallah is the biggest of them all.

In Lebanon also, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has contemptuously dismissed the calls for ceasefire. This means war is not just likely to go on, but also expand, potentially drawing in Iran also. However, Iran, so far, has exercised maximum restraint and privileged regional stability than a knee-jerk reaction, although Israel is trying its best to drag it into the combat. But if the Israeli provocations continue, the region could very well be heading towards a big conflagration whose outcome would be catastrophic not just for the region but the world too. This is why, world needs to act and put an end to this madness. So far, the major western powers have just been making occasional right noises, calling on Israel to ceasefire but actually funding and arming it to lay waste to the region. It is time that the time world powers make a meaningful effort to stop Israel and pull the region back from the brink.

As we head into the third and final phase of the election, the elections seem by and large evenly placed among the major political parties - although the NC and the BJP seem to have a distinct edge over others. More so, the BJP which operates in a less crowded electoral scene in Jammu division, with the Congress its only major competitor. However, unlike in the past, the Congress campaign in the region has been muted. It almost seems that the party is fighting to lose Jammu to the BJP.

This already has the ally National Conference worried. The NC leader Omar Abdullah wants the Congress to focus more on Jammu to make up for the perceived lost ground in the region. But it is already too late for that. Congress is fighting 32 seats in Jammu including four of the five friendly contests with the NC. It is contesting just nine seats in Kashmir Valley.

But the party's national heavy weights haven't campaigned in the region as proactively as was needed. This is unlike the BJP, whose top leaders have descended on the region to hold rallies. They include from prime minister Narendra Modi on down to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, party national president J P Nadda, and the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

On the contrary, Rahul Gandhi has addressed just five rallies in the region. He couldn't attend the two planned rallies at Ramgarh and Chhamb on September 27, after his plane failed to take off from New Delhi due to bad weather. This is likely to cost the party dearly. Now, on the last day before the final phase, it is next to impossible for the party to turn around the situation. One can only wonder why the

Congress didn't make Jammu the focus of its J&K campaign. More so, when Rahul Gandhi had received an overwhelming public response in Jammu and Kashmir during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in December 2022. In Kashmir Valley too, where the public participation in the yatra was the first such major political mobilization of people after the withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019.

The yatra, without doubt, had reinvigorated the party's rank and file in the union territory boosted further by the return of leaders who had joined the former Congress leader Gh-

the BJP could very well replicate its 2014 performance, may be even better it, and then go on to fish for the remaining seats in Kashmir Valley. And given the state of the current political scene in the Valley, the remaining candidates could be easy pickings for it.

Congress no-show in Jammu could also leave the another favourite party, the NC, in a tricky situation - that is, if it gets a majority of seats in the Valley and a few from Jammu region. It could also try to form a government with the support from smaller parties and the independents, but may be no match to the incentives

region is also witnessing a degree of anxiety about the post-Article 370 state of affairs and for more or less similar reasons as in the Valley: loss of jobs, land and identity. People apprehend that their region would be the first destination for the eligible outsiders choosing to settle in J&K

But as things stand, these apprehensions are not deep enough to cause people to protest publicly. Besides, in case of Jammu, the fears of a demographic change are being trumped by the expectation of development of the region and more importantly the anticipated shift of political power away from



Jammu thus holds the key to government formation and the Congress lackluster campaign has made the perpetuation of the existing state of affairs inevitable. There's, however, a small possibility that the Congress fortunes can still turn around

ulam Nabi Azad's newly floated Democratic Azad Party. At the time, Congress entered the former state with a proper political agenda: it sought statehood and Article 371 for J&K, a constitutional provision that protects jobs and land rights in regions such as Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and some areas of Assam, some areas of Karnataka-Hyderabad. However, it has eschewed the mention of the latter pledge since then. The party now stresses restoration of statehood, something that the BJP - which alone can do this under the circumstances - also does, albeit, with a lesser accent.

In the unlikely prospect of Jammu throwing up a surprise,

the BJP can offer to the MLAs not committed to any party, and necessarily to an ideology. Besides, a government formed by keeping the BJP out will be up against the wrath and the might of the centre, and may face insurmountable odds in asserting its writ, whatever little of that has been left to exercise now, will most owners going to the Lieutenant Governor.

Jammu thus holds the key to government formation and the Congress lackluster campaign has made the perpetuation of the existing state of affairs inevitable. There's, however, a small possibility that the Congress fortunes can still turn around. The past few years have witnessed the disaffection against the BJP's policies growing in Jammu. The

Kashmir Valley. In fact, under the current dispensation this shift has already happened. And with delimitation giving more Assembly seats to Jammu, this will also be inherited by the future democratic government. So, unlike Ladakh, Jammu has also many reasons to be happy with the BJP, and it may very well go with the party again. But as of now, much like the Valley, Jammu is keeping its cards close to its chest. The outcome may turn out to be more mixed than is expected.

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



Did you know?

Investing calls for strategic analysis and patience

Irshad Mushtaq

Beware the trap of market timing—it often leads to heartache. The stock market world contrasts sharply with the grind of traditional business operations. In conventional business, we dedicate long hours, meticulously manage teams, and navigate complex procedures. The stock market, however, offers a different kind of challenge—relying on strategic analysis and decision-making, often conducted quietly behind a screen. However, there's a paradox: focusing too intently on market fluctuations and excessive trading can cloud judgment, leading to poor decisions and financial heartbreak. Many fall into the trap of trying to time the market, a risky game that often ends in frustration and loss. Investing in the stock market is like buying a piece of a dream. By putting money into equity mutual funds, you're not just investing in stocks; you're buying stakes in multiple enterprises brimming with potential. Your investments spread across various ventures, making you a co-owner in several promising businesses. This diversified approach mitigates risks and aligns you with these businesses' success trajectories. Unlike running a traditional business, where you immerse yourself in daily operations, stock market investing allows you to take a more strategic and patient approach. Viewing your investments as stakes in flourishing enterprises cultivates a more strategic and hopeful outlook. For those embarking on this journey, starting with a SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) in mutual funds is a smart move. Patience is key; the longer you wait with a good fund, the more it works as a CAGR, offering compounding growth. In essence, traditional business demands our effort and meticulous planning, while stock market investing requires strategic thinking and patience. By adopting the mindset that your investments are stakes in flourishing enterprises, you can better navigate the stock market's complexities and uncertainties. Conclusion The stock market contrasts sharply with the grind of traditional business. While businesses require long hours and meticulous management, investing is more than buying stocks; it's about owning a piece of potential. By diversifying through equity mutual funds and starting with a SIP, you align with the success of numerous enterprises. Remember, while traditional business thrives on effort, the stock market rewards strategic thinking. Embrace your investments as part of flourishing ventures.

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



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Housing For All: A Rural-Urban Approach

To orchestrate a harmonious future, meticulous housing planning is imperative in the symphony of urban development. Proper housing planning should extend to rural areas, conserving abundant agricultural land, a critical natural resource. Sustainable resource management resonates through judicious land allocation and eco-conscious dwelling practices. Robust housing with minimal ecological impact necessitates discouraging rampant urban expansion into productive suburban lands, considering not only present needs but also anticipating future demands in our ever-changing world. This holistic housing approach can transform cities, suburbs, and rural areas into living ecosystems where humans coexist harmoniously with nature. A clarion call for stakeholders—government, private developers, housing boards, and citizens—to converge, compos-

ing a symphony committed to a more resourceful tomorrow.

Arable land, vital for food production, faces constant threat from rampant urbanization. Rising population demands intensified residential spaces, but without proper planning, fertile land converts to housing. In UT Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Srinagar city, the alarming loss of fertile land to urbanization is exacerbated by the profit-driven interests of land mafias and private property dealers. Unplanned colonies by unregistered property dealers often receive favors for essential infrastructure development, attracting residents in need of housing facilities. However, government or housing board colonies lag in civic amenities, discouraging citizens from choosing well-planned options.

For instance, the J&K Housing Board's Ompora colony in Budgam is ecologically sound, being unirri-

gated and upland, with minimal flood threats. Unfortunately, authorities' apathy toward civic amenities in such colonies drives citizens toward unplanned, private colonies on fertile lands with better infrastructure. The Ompora housing colony, meticulously planned with dilapidated roads and drains, exemplifies the need for transforming government colonies into model settlements. Authorities should focus on providing better amenities, roads, drainage, electrification, and drinking water to make these colonies preferred destinations.

Being a resident of Ompora Housing Colony, I witness firsthand the significant challenges our community faces, grappling with a lack of essential amenities crucial for our well-being. Issues such as well maintained roads and drains, an unreliable supply of pure drinking water, inconsistent electricity, the absence of a dedicated marriage hall, inadequate fire and emergency

services, the need for a well-equipped hospital, and the absence of a police station demand urgent attention. These deficiencies not only impede the colony's potential as a preferred destination but also necessitate immediate action from authorities.

The urgency lies in transforming Ompora into a model housing colony for the region. Authorities must address these fundamental needs promptly to enhance our quality of life. Integrating these essential amenities will not only meet the immediate needs of residents but also contribute significantly to the overall success of sustainable housing initiatives in the area. It is crucial that these issues are prioritized and resolved, ensuring that Ompora becomes a shining example of well-planned, well-equipped, and thriving housing for the benefit of all its residents.

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Attachments and Detachments The Push and Pull of Human Hearts

Mahoor Haya Shah

The most bittersweet melody of existence resonates through human relationships; the allegro of connection, the lingering adagio of attachment, and the poignant staccato of parting.

Amid the brisk chatter of fleeting acquaintances and occasional close sojourns, we continue to draw a definitive pattern, painted with the pastels of weals and woes. Life plays an inscrutable artist sketching fleeting moments, feelings, and people into the panorama of existence, which stands testament to the fundamental truth – humans meet, connect, develop attachments, and eventually, they part. While technology has put our interpersonal worlds on a grid of infinite connections, our ability to experience emotional depth and profound engagement has always remained in the primal need to foster relationships. Be it a blossoming friendship in a coffee shop or a romantic liaison kindled on a bustling city sidewalk, we all crave connections, making this yearning a unifying human attribute.

Our shared moments, innocent laughter, tear-filled evenings, intellectual debates and comfortable silences, interlace to form an attachment so vivid that its essence seeps into our very identity. This connection further serves as the vessel for experiences, delivering doses of love, wisdom, trust, growth and, oftentimes, inevitable pain. Attachment lends humanity its warmth and affability.

Then comes the parting... It pushes our thresholds, wrenching us into reality with such brute force that it renders us vulnerable, and paradoxically, stronger. Whether it's the physical parting with a beloved one, the transition from an endearing stage of life, or the piercing void left behind by loss, parting tears at our deepest fibers.

While our trajectories may intersect for a moment, a month, or a lifetime, we leave traces etched into each other's beings. Such intricate memories become vivid instances, rekindling sparks of happiness or rendering hollowed voids of pain and sorrow.

Despite the poignant reality of temporal ties, an increasing number of individuals now eschew profound human connection, branding themselves as apathetic, even stoic. As unset-



ting as it may seem, this transformation appears to have been amplified by an unsettling drive for fleeting gratification, treating emotions and attachments as ephemeral constructs to be discarded on a whim.

These stones roll effortlessly across life's expansive terrain, seemingly unfazed by the terrain's highs and lows. Withstanding the torment of departing is, undeniably, not an easy ordeal. Every heartfelt bond lost seems to sear an unforgettable pain deep into the heart, leaving a vacuum seemingly impossible to refill.

These partings carry the crushing weight of sorrow, pain that stems from a profound sense of loss – the deprivation of something we hold dear. But beneath that veneer of despair, there lies an incredible beauty. Just as every day surrenders to the night only to give birth to a fresh dawn, every parting sets the stage for new connections. With each ending, something inside us gets re-woven, replenished with a new thread of memories, dyed with retrospective emotions and experiences.

Every departed connection leaves behind a legacy – of lessons learned, wisdom gleaned, moments shared, and feelings expressed. These memories shape our perception of the past, color our present, and influence our

Every word exchanged, every gaze met, and every feeling ignited within us through connection and attachment carve deep impressions on our hearts. These imprints stand as mute spectators in the archives of our memory, nudging us, comforting us, enlightening us, in their own unassuming ways

future decisions. As poignant reminders of moments we've lived and the people we've known, these memories serve as essential footnotes in the story

of our existence. These gems, no matter how much anguish they bring, always succeed in keeping a part of those who are gone alive within us. As time ticks by, pain begins to dull, yet the memories – these intricate pieces of past happiness and heartbreak – shine more vibrantly. And herein lies the great paradox. This overwhelming pain validates the existence of beautiful shared experiences, leading to a life marked by extraordinary depth and warmth.

In retrospect, we come to realize that every meeting, attachment, and eventual separation is a metaphor for life itself – it's a constant flux of connections and disconnections. Life's beauty, ironically, lies in its inherent uncertainty.

Our call to action? Resist succumbing to the facile temptation of transient relations and realize the extraordinary potency of authentic human bonds. Revisit the moments of vulnerability that resulted in the purest of connections. Hold onto them tightly and endure the tempest of emotions. Let us acknowledge, remember, and cherish every meeting, every connection, and every farewell as an integral part of our human journey, imparting immense beauty and, undeniably, a share of inevitable pain. The pain, beauty, and memories in every interaction create a captivating human mosaic, reminding us that while everyone we meet has a departure ticket, every departure is also a destination – an everlasting memory within the epic tale of our existence.

Every word exchanged, every gaze met, and every feeling ignited within us through connection and attachment carve deep impressions on our hearts. These imprints stand as mute spectators in the archives of our memory, nudging us, comforting us, enlightening us, in their own unassuming ways.

At the end of the day, we're all chapters in someone's life, bound in a tome of shared experiences. It's up to us to determine if these pages tell tales of bitterness or if they narrate stories of a resilient spirit, uplifting relationships, healing conversations, and poignant memories that reverberate with grace, even when parting beats its melancholic drum.

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Jammu & Kashmir: A Rising Hub for Startups and Innovation

Dr. Shahid Jibran

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is emerging as a promising startup hub, especially in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, handicrafts, and information technology. With a growing number of startups addressing local challenges and leveraging regional strengths, J&K is making strides toward becoming a significant contributor to India's innovation landscape.

The J&K government has taken decisive steps to boost entrepreneurship through initiatives like the J&K Startup Policy, which was revamped in February this year. The policy offers financial support, seed funding, patent aid, and registration assistance through the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). In addition, the government has established incubators, co-working spaces, and training programs to enhance entrepreneurial skills and foster a vibrant startup culture.

Particularly noteworthy are the incentives for women-led startups, reflecting a commitment to gender inclusivity. The administration has also introduced a grievance redressal mechanism and set up entrepreneurship knowledge cells in higher educational institutions, encouraging students to embrace entrepreneurship as a career path. Startups in tourism, IT, agriculture, and agri-tech are leading the charge in J&K's startup ecosystem. These sectors leverage the region's rich cultural heritage, natural resources, and technological advance-



ments. From digitizing tourism experiences to providing tech-driven agricultural solutions, these startups aim to address both local and global challenges. Despite 722 registered startups in the region, which include leading ventures in construction and engineering, the ecosystem still faces several hurdles. These challenges include limited access to capital, inadequate infrastructure such as poor internet connectivity, and restricted market access. J&K has the potential to transform into a thriving startup hub by focusing on several key areas:

- Funding Access:** Securing early-stage funding and investment remains a priority for entrepreneurs in the region. Collaborations with national institutions and investors could help bridge this gap.

- Building Infrastructure:** Establishing more innovation hubs and co-working spaces across the region, combined with improving digital infrastructure, will provide a strong foundation for startups to grow.

- Skilling the Workforce:** A well-trained, skilled workforce is critical to the success of J&K's startup ecosystem. Educational institutions should focus on entrepreneurship programs, STEM education, and digital literacy to prepare the next generation of entrepreneurs.

- Global Connectivity:** Creating global connections is vital for scaling J&K's startups. Encouraging participation in national and international startup competitions, and supporting exports from the region, will help local businesses expand their reach.

Promoting Local Strengths

J&K's cultural heritage and natural beauty offer unique opportunities for startups focused on tourism and handicrafts. Digital platforms that connect local artisans to global markets, as well as innovative tourism solutions, can significantly boost the region's economy. Moreover, sustainability is becoming a central focus, with startups working on clean energy, waste management, and eco-tourism solutions that align with the region's environmental needs. Although the startup ecosystem is evolving, continued investment in resources, mentorship, and networking opportuni-

Digital platforms that connect local artisans to global markets, as well as innovative tourism solutions, can significantly boost the region's economy. Moreover, sustainability is becoming a central focus, with startups working on clean energy, waste management, and eco-tourism solutions that align with the region's environmental needs

ties is crucial. Overcoming barriers like infrastructure limitations and market accessibility will be key to fostering innovation and driving economic growth. With active government involvement, simplified regulations, and tax benefits, the region can become an even more attractive destination for startups. Jammu & Kashmir's startup ecosystem is on the rise, driven by supportive government policies, entrepreneurial spirit, and a growing number of innovative ventures. The region is uniquely positioned to harness its local strengths in tourism, agriculture, and handicrafts while embracing digital transformation. By addressing challenges and fostering collaboration, J&K has the potential to emerge as a major player in India's rapidly growing startup landscape.

Echoes of Isolation: The Lost Path in the Pursuit of Progress

Syed Dur Rahman

A few days ago, I was traveling through the bustling streets of a city, riding my bike as the world around me unfolded in a chaotic symphony. The moment I crossed the city limits, I was immediately greeted by the incessant blaring of car horns. The noise was overwhelming, a constant reminder of the fast-paced, mechanical pulse of city life. The roads were packed with vehicles, and despite the traffic lights dutifully blinking, it seemed as though no one bothered to follow their instructions.

It was as if the lights were nothing more than an afterthought in a world where everyone was so focused on their own journey, their own destination. Drivers were fixated on their paths, eyes locked ahead, fingers tapping impatiently on their steering wheels, minds oblivious to anything outside their own little bubble. In that moment, I saw no camaraderie, no sense of shared experience—only individualism, where each person was engrossed in their own race. There was no patience for others, no thought to yield. Each person was a solitary competitor in this arena of asphalt and steel.

The scene before me felt eerily familiar, almost Darwinian in nature—a living manifestation of the "survival of the fittest." It was a race, not for survival in the literal sense, but for dominance on the road, for getting ahead, for cutting through the swarm of vehicles in an unspoken com-



petition. A brief pause at a traffic light revealed a collective impatience. Cars crept forward before the light turned green, itching to reclaim the road. There was no sense of shared order or courtesy, only an unrelenting need to move faster, to push forward.

As I navigated this urban jungle, I began to imagine the

scene from a higher perspective. I mentally lifted myself above the ground, viewing the city as though I were looking down from a bird's-eye view. From up there, the roads and cars became mere lines and dots, like ants scurrying across a vast surface. The people, now so small from my imagined vantage point, were like tiny

workers in a massive, disorganized machine, all moving but with no clear coordination.

From this perspective, it struck me that no one seemed to care about their neighbor. The cars, once symbols of human progress, now resembled isolated cells in a sprawling system, each one focused solely on its own

trajectory. There was no thought given to the others on the road, no acknowledgment of their existence beyond the immediate need to avoid collision. People honked, swerved, cut each other off, and pressed on with a singular determination. It felt as though they had forgotten where they were going, caught in the

monotony of simply trying to move forward faster than the person next to them. The path itself was forgotten in this rush. I imagined the city not as a place of collaboration or community, but as a battlefield, where everyone was fighting their own private war. There were no alliances here, only competitors. And in this Darwinian world, it wasn't the strongest that survived, but the fastest—the ones who could cut through traffic, make the quickest moves, and pay the least attention to anything else. I realized that, for many, driving had become a metaphor for life itself: a race where the focus was not on the journey, but on how quickly you could reach the next destination. As I returned from my imagined aerial view, back to the reality of the streets, the chaotic scene before me no longer felt like mere traffic. It was a reflection of a broader truth about how disconnected we've become in our pursuit of individual goals. It was as though we had collectively lost our way, focused so intently on the race that we'd forgotten where we were headed or why we were even in it to begin with.

The horns continued to blare, the cars kept moving, and the competition raged on. But I couldn't help but wonder: when did we forget to care for those around us? When did we become so lost in our own paths that we stopped noticing the people traveling beside us?

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Hezbollah Deputy Delivers Defiant Message

Sheikh Naim Qassem asserts that despite the killing of its leader, Hezbollah remains militarily capable and ready to meet any Israeli ground offensive.

Agencies

Beirut: Hezbollah's deputy Secretary General has pledged that the Lebanese movement was ready to meet an Israeli ground offensive, despite the killing of its leader and many senior commanders.

Israel has not hit Hezbollah's military capabilities, said Sheikh Naim Qassem on Monday as he delivered a message of defiance in a public address. Despite the setbacks suffered during the ferocious Israeli air raids in recent days, he insisted that Hezbollah will continue to fight.

Hezbollah's operations have continued at the same pace and more since the assassination of Sayyed Nasrallah on Friday, Qassem asserted.

He added that Hezbollah will install a new leadership soon via "internal mechanisms". The choice of new

leadership is clear, Qassem continued, without offering further details.

In his speech, Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary-General announced that the party would appoint a new Secretary-General as soon as possible, as per the established protocol, emphasizing that "the choices are easy and clear because we are united in purpose."

He explained that "within [Hezbollah's] structure, there are deputies for leaders and reserve alternatives ready [to assume positions]."

'Ready'

"We are quite ready, if the Israelis want a ground incursion, the resistance forces are ready for that," Qassem declared.

Hezbollah will continue with its main goals despite Israel's aim of



creating chaos with aggression and massacres against civilians in Lebanon, Qassem continued.

"Israel is committing massacres in all areas of Lebanon until there is no house left without traces of Israeli

aggression in it," he said. "Israel attacks civilians, ambulances, children and the elderly. It does not fight fighters, but rather commits massacres."

Qassem also underlined the role of the US, which he called "a partner with Israel, through unlimited military support - culturally, politically, financially."

"We will win, just as we won in our confrontation with Israel in 2006," said the deputy chief as he ended the video message.

The dramatic escalation has come as Israel has shifted its focus from fighting Hamas in Gaza to its northern frontier where it has traded nearly daily crossfire with Hezbollah since the start of the war in Gaza in October.

Israel's stated aim in its offensive in Lebanon is to allow the return of tens of thousands of Israeli civilians to their

homes in the north of Israel.

However, its operations against Hezbollah, including the detonation of electronic communications devices that killed 39 and injured thousands, and its subsequent killing of Nasrallah, appear to have raised confidence that it could destroy its longstanding enemy in Lebanon.

For the first time since stepping up its attacks on Lebanon, Israel on Monday struck a central area of the capital Beirut, signalling further potential escalation towards an all-out war.

Wary

Hezbollah's insistence that it can defend Lebanon was supported by backer Iran, which appears wary of the risk of a wider regional war that any direct confrontation with Israel would carry.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

Exit Polls Only

All concerned parties, including media houses, social media platforms, and polling agencies, are urged to adhere to these instructions and refrain from publishing or sharing any exit poll results before the stipulated time.

J&K Votes

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, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC) and Chhamb will go to the polls in this phase.

According to the latest electoral rolls, 39,18,220 voters are eligible to cast their ballots in this phase, comprising 20,09,033 male voters, 19,09,130 female voters and 57 third-gender voters.

Underlining the significance of the role to be played by youth of Jammu and Kashmir in strengthening the democracy, as many as 1.94 lakh youths voters aged 18 to 19 are eligible to vote in the 3rd phase of Assembly Election.

This phase will also see participation from 35,860 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and 32,953 voters above the age of 85.

To facilitate the voters for smooth and hassle free electoral participation, Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 5,060 polling stations with 100% webcasting across 40 Assembly Constituencies. These include 974 Urban Polling Stations and 4,086 Rural Polling Stations.

To enhance voter participation, 240 special polling stations have been established across 7 districts in this phase, including 50 polling stations managed by women, known as Pink polling stations, 43 polling stations manned by specially abled persons and 40 polling stations manned by youth. Also, there will be 45 green polling stations in order to spread messages about environmental concern, 29 polling stations are established near the LOC/IB for residents residing there and 33 Unique Polling stations.

A total of 24 special Polling Stations have been established for Migrant Voters of Kashmir Division, which includes 19 Special Polling Stations in Jammu, 4 in Delhi and 1 in Udhampur District. Special Polling Station-wise extract voter list will be with BLOs.

A team of four officials, including Presiding Officer will be stationed in every polling station. In total, more than 20,000 Polling staff will be deployed on duty for the 3rd phase of the Assembly election.

The Kupwara district has recorded a total of 5,42,535 registered voters, including 2,71,601 males, 2,70,924 females, and 10 transgender across six Assembly constituencies. A total of 622 polling stations are spread across these constituencies of the district, ensuring that every registered voter has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

The Baramulla district comprises seven Assembly Constituencies with 7,24,335 electorates which includes 3,65,074 males, 3,59,249 females, and 12 transgender voters. A total of 908 polling stations are spread across the district.

The Bandipora District has registered a total of 2,59,893 voters across its three Assembly constituencies, including 1,32,679 male voters, 1,27,208 female voters, and 6 transgender voters. A comprehensive network of 312 polling stations has been established across the district.

Udhampur District is divided into four Assembly constituencies, with a total of 4,22,802 registered voters, including 2,21,457 male and 2,01,345 female voters. To facilitate the voting process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 654 polling stations across the district.

The Kathua district has registered a total of 5,06,679 voters, including 2,65,420 male, 2,41,256 female, and 03 transgender voters across its six assembly constituencies. A comprehensive network of 704 polling stations has been established by the ECI for free, fair and transparent elections.

The Samba district comprises three Assembly constituencies, with 2,60,999 registered voters, including 1,33,736 male, 1,27,261 female and 02 transgender voters. ECI has established 366 polling stations throughout the district.

The Jammu district, with eleven Assembly Segments, has 12,009,77 electors, including 6,19,066 male, 5,81,887 female, and 24 transgender voters. To facilitate the voting process, ECI has established 1494 polling stations across the District.

The voting will take place from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Participate In Large

record numbers. During the first phase, the voter turnout was 61.38%, and in the second phase, it was 57.3%. Comparatively, the voter turnout during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was 58.58%.

Kumar stated, "I congratulate the people of Jammu and Kashmir for participating in the celebration of democracy. We witnessed an increase in the voting percentage, the number of candidates, processions, and campaigning. In the last two phases of polling, there have been no cases of boycotts or repolling. This voter turnout is historic. We urge every section of society to cast their vote in the third phase of elections. In 17 assembly constituencies, the voting percentage of women is higher than that of men."

More than 7,200 permissions were granted through the Suvidha portal for rallies and meetings. The first phase of voting took place on September 18, and the second phase concluded on September 25. Voting in the third phase will take place on Tuesday across 40 constituencies. The counting of votes is scheduled for October 8, with results expected shortly afterward, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

More than 3.9 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots across 40 constituencies spread over seven districts. Voting will take place between 7 AM and 6 PM, with security measures in place to ensure a smooth and peaceful process. At least 415 candidates, including former deputy chief ministers Tara Chand (Congress) and Muzaffar Hussain Beig, are contesting in the third phase.

Baramulla AC Leads

77-Nagrota AC; 12 in 78-Jammu West AC; 17 in 79-Jammu North AC; 6 in 80-Marh (SC) AC; 3 in 81-Akhnoor (SC) AC; while 8 candidates are contesting in 82-Chhamb AC.

Similarly, in Kashmir Division's Kupwara district, 8 candidates are in fray in 1-Karnah AC; 10 in 2-Trehgam AC; 8 in 3-Kupwara AC; 11 in 4-Lolab AC; 7 in 5-Handwara AC; while 15 candidates are contesting in 6-Langate AC.

In Baramulla district, 20 candidates are in fray in 7-Sopore AC; 12 in 8-Rafiabad AC; 6 in 9-Uri AC; 25 in 10-Baramulla AC; 13 in 11-Gulmarg AC; 12 in 12-Wagoora-Kreeri AC; while 13 candidates are contesting in 13-Pattan AC.

In Bandipora district, 18 candidates are in fray in 14-Sonawari AC; 19 in 15-Bandipora AC; while 5 candidates are contesting in 16-Gurez (ST) AC.

As Baramulla district prepares for polls under phase 3rd of the Assembly Elections 2024 on 1st October 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO), Minga Sherpa said that 7,24,335 electors are eligible in the district to participate in this democratic process.

With a robust electoral framework in place, the administration is committed to facilitating a smooth and transparent voting experience for all citizens.

A total of 908 polling stations have been established, including 35 special polling stations designed to enhance voter experience and accessibility. Notably, 40 polling stations have been strategically set up in border areas to ensure that every eligible voter gets the opportunity to cast their vote.

In preparation for this significant day, 4,479 election personnel in addition election Observers, micro-observers and magistrates accompanied by Security personnel have been deployed across the district. These dedicated teams will ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process, reinforcing the administration's commitment to free and fair elections.

Ahead of poll day, the DEO conducted a thorough review of logistics and security arrangements. His visit to various dispatch centres affirmed that all necessary measures are in place for the effective deployment of polling parties to their designated stations.

"We are dedicated to ensuring a transparent, orderly, and efficient election in Baramulla. Our comprehensive preparations reflect our commitment to upholding the democratic process," the DEO stated.

Meanwhile, DEO conducted an inspection of the webcasting control room, where teams are actively monitoring live webcasting from every polling station across all seven Assembly Constituencies. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and accountability during the election process by allowing real-time observation of polling activities.

The DEO urges all eligible voters in Baramulla to participate actively in the elections, as every vote counts in shaping the future of the community.

Prabhat To Take

stabilizing highly volatile regions.

Former J&K police officers have lauded Prabhat's leadership during his earlier postings in the valley, recognizing his efforts in suppressing militancy and restoring peace during some of the most challenging periods. "Nalin Prabhat's record is exemplary. He has consistently demonstrated his ability to lead effectively in difficult situations," a senior police officer said, wishing not to be named.

Prabhat's contributions have earned him prestigious awards like the Antrik Suraksha Seva Padak and the Police (Special Duty) Medal for his service in J&K.

As the incoming DGP, Prabhat faces two significant challenges: continuing the fight against terrorism and tackling the growing drug menace in the region.

Drug trafficking and addiction have increasingly threatened the social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir in recent years, and the police have been focusing on various initiatives to address the issue.

"Under Prabhat's leadership, the Jammu and Kashmir Police will continue its fight against drugs and terrorism with renewed energy," a senior officer remarked.

One of Prabhat's key priorities will be strengthening the police's relationship with local communities, fostering trust, and enhancing cooperation.

Born on March 14, 1968, in Thungri village, Manali, Himachal Pradesh, Nalin Prabhat is a highly respected officer with an illustrious career in law enforcement.

He completed his education at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, earning both a BA (Honours) and an MA, and has been recognized for his leadership in several high-profile operations. His tenure as Additional Director General (ADG) of the CRPF saw him leading efforts in conflict-prone areas with great distinction.

Prabhat's extensive experience in Jammu and Kashmir makes him uniquely suited for his new role.

His appointment to lead the J&K Police is part of an inter-cadre deputation from the Andhra Pradesh cadre to the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories) cadre for a period of three years.

Prabhat's immediate focus as DGP will likely be on enhancing intelligence operations to prevent terrorist activities.

He is also expected to improve coordination between the police and paramilitary forces to ensure a united and robust response to militancy.

A senior officer familiar with Prabhat's work expressed confidence in his leadership, saying, "He has the experience, dedication, and vision to guide the police force during this critical time. The people of Jammu and Kashmir can trust that their safety is in capable hands." (KINS)

Over 20k Polling

be participation of west Pakistani refugees, Valmiki Samaj and Gorkha community who got the voting rights in assembly, urban local bodies and panchayat elections only after the abrogation of Article 370. They have earlier voted in block development council and district development council polls in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Over 39.18 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise at 5,060 polling stations in this crucial phase, covering 40 assembly segments in Jammu, Udhampur, Samba and Kathua in the Jammu region and Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara in north Kashmir, on October 1.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain, said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in the poll-bound areas to ensure "terror-free and peaceful" polling.

Amid tight security arrangements, thousands of election staff along with poll material left their respective district headquarters this morning to take positions at their designated polling stations by this evening.

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.

According to J&K chief electoral officer Pandurang K Pole, more than 39.18 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their electoral franchise in the final phase across the 40 assembly constituencies - 24 in Jammu region and 16 in Kashmir valley.

Prominent among others in the fray include

People's Conference chairman and former minister Sajjad Lone and National Panthers Party India president Dev Singh. While Lone is fighting on two seats from Kupwara, Singh is contesting from Chenani seat of Udhampur.

Former ministers Raman Bhalla (R S Pura), Usman Majid (Bandipora), Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurez), Taj Mohiuddin (Uri), Basharat Bukhari (Wagoora-Kreeri), Imran Ansari (Pattan), Ghulam Hassan Mir (Gulmarg), Choudhary Lal Singh (Basohli), Rajiv Jasrota (Jasrota), Manohar Lal Sharma (Billawar), Sham Lal Sharma and Ajay Kumar Sadhotra (Jammu North), Mula Ram (Marh), Chander Prakash Ganga and Manjit Singh (Vijapur) are other strong contenders in the fray.

28 Women Candidates

Congress Party in Kupwara, Fatima Javid from the Sampoorna Bharat Kranti Party in Rafiabad, and Santosh Labroo from the J&K All Alliance Democratic Party in Baramulla. Other contenders are Rehana Begum (Janta Dal United, Wagoora-Kreeri), Sahiba Begum (Samajwadi Party, Kupwara), Shafeeqa Begum (Trehgam), Arti Nehru (Sopore), Khursheda Begum (Langate), Safina Beigh (Wagoora-Kreeri), Balkees Akhter (Sopore), Raqia Akhter (Baramulla), Tanver Fatima and Mursaleen Aajir (both from Sopore), and Nighat Parveen (Baramulla).

In the Jammu division, candidates include Ashri Devi from the National Panthers Party in Ramnagar (SC), Kajal from Congress in Bani, and independent candidate Khushboo Bhagat from Kathua (SC). Other candidates are Sunita Turki (National Democratic Party, Jammu North), Usha Devi (independent, Suchetgarh, SC), Pavneet Kour (Apni Party, RS Pora-Jammu South), Pinki Devi (National Awami United Party, Samba), Geeta Manhas (Samajwadi Party, Chenani), Dr. Preeti Kumari (independent, Suchetgarh, SC), Shikha Badral (National Awami United Party, Jammu West), Sulakshna Khajuria (independent, Udhampur West), Reena Choudhary (independent, Samba), and Priyanka Sharma (independent, Jammu North).

Speaking to KNO, Khushboo Bhagat said that, if elected, she will focus on generating employment opportunities in rural areas and enhancing women's safety.

"I will work for the installation of CCTVs at main points for the safety of women," she said, adding that special attention will be given to prevent women from domestic violence.

Special attention will also be paid towards creating employment opportunities which are crucial in eliminating the menace of drug abuse, Bhagat added.

Raqia Akhter said there is a need for skill development programmes for women to foster financial independence and improve educational facilities to match those of private schools. "Women in remote areas face challenges. I will ensure better health facilities to alleviate the suffering of women in rural communities," she said.

Other candidates said that women still lag behind in various sectors and pledged to fight for women's empowerment. They raised concerns about inflated electricity bills, water issues and unemployment in Jammu & Kashmir and called for immediate action on these critical matters.

In the previous phases of the assembly elections, 19 women candidates participated. (KNO)

'Women Outnumber

the remaining 40 seats will go to polls, he also underlined that as per rules, the votes polled by each candidate will be displayed after every round of counting.

Responding to a question, Kumar said the rules are already in place in this regard and people should not fall for misinformation being spread about the counting procedure.

The votes will be counted on October 8. He said the last two phases saw a higher voter participation coupled with more number of candidates in the fray as compared to the past.

CEC Kumar also noted that the UT was ahead in seeking clearances on the Suvidha application for rallies and processions. He described this as an overall increase in participation in democratic process.

In Solidarity With

Saturday, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed the killing of Hassan Nasrallah in the airstrikes carried out by the Israeli military in Beirut. In a statement, IDF said, "Hassan Nasrallah will no longer be able to terrorise the world." He further called for the end of the killings and injuries of "innocent people" in Gaza and Lebanon and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders should also pressure Israel to establish peace in the

region.

PDP chief and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti had decided to cancel her election campaign for Sunday stating that she stands with "the people of Palestine and Lebanon in this hour of immense grief" following the death of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

"Cancelling my campaign tomorrow in solidarity with the martyrs of Lebanon and Gaza, especially Hassan Nasrallah. We stand with the people of Palestine and Lebanon in this hour of immense grief and exemplary resistance," Mehbooba Mufti said in a post on X. A protest march was also held in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam region against the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah by the Israel Defence Force (IDF) on September 29. (ANI)

J&K Polls: Srinagar

considered symbols of good fortune, are sourced from states like Rajasthan, Surat, and Delhi.

Among the most popular varieties are the 'Moti Haar' and 'Mantri Haar,' which are currently in high demand.

Sellers express their joy at the renewed political activity, which has revitalised their business.

Tariq Ahmed, a shop owner in the bustling Maharaja Bazar, welcomed the change and said, "It's a positive step for us. Our livelihood is improving, and there's a sense of optimism in the market."

"We provide a range of garlands, including Moti Haar and Mantri Haar, as well as bouquets. Mantri Haar is particularly popular right now, along with money garlands, which vary in price based on customer demand," Ahmed said.

Political supporters are purchasing garlands in bulk, with traders from neighbouring districts flocking to Srinagar to meet the rising demand. The humble garland has become an essential element in this high-stakes election season.

Aijaz Ahmed, another local garland seller, said, "During elections, business typically increases as supporters buy garlands and dry fruits for candidates."

"The workload certainly increases, and we stock up as we do for festivals like Eid. While garlands are also sold during wedding seasons, elections provide a significant boost to our trade, especially since this is the first (assembly) election in 10 years."

Out of the 40 assembly seats going to the polls in the third phase, 24 are located in Jammu region and 16 in north Kashmir.

As the election day approaches, garland sellers in Srinagar are not only celebrating the revival of their business but also embracing the renewed political engagement in the region.

Sajad Lone Gets

the National Conference's Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan, who has won from here twice, PDP's Gauhar Azad Mir, BJP's Ghulam Mohammad Mir and Abdul Majid Bandy of Awami Ittehad Party.

In Kupwara constituency, with around 100,000 voters, Lone faces Nasir Aslam Wani of the National Conference, Fayaz Mir of PDP and Peerzada Firdous of Awami Ittehad Party. In 2014, Lone's party colleague Bashir Ahmad Dar won the assembly election in Kupwara.

PM Modi Talks

been firing rockets and missiles into northern Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack from Gaza into Israel sparked a war there.

J&K Faces 35%

has stated that Jammu and Kashmir has received a deficit rainfall of 26 per cent in this Monsoon season, which ends today, saying that the 26 per cent deficient rainfall is a huge figure.

Between June 01 & September 30, Jammu and Kashmir has received just 408.5 mm of rainfall against the normal 549.1 mm, he said, adding that Srinagar has recorded a rainfall deficit of 30 per cent during the period.

Except Pulwama district, which recorded a rainfall deficit of 13%, the other districts in south Kashmir received below normal rainfall in the range of minus 50 to minus 80 per cent. Similar was the case in other districts of Kashmir Valley.

Baramulla was the only district in Kashmir to receive normal rainfall in the positive category while Samba received above normal rainfall of 13 per cent and was the best performing district. Jammu received exact normal rainfall as it should have, he said.

Rest all districts in Jammu region received below normal rainfall in the range of minus 15 percent to minus 76 percent, he added.

CS Visits Assembly Complex; Reviews Development Works



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday visited the Legislative Assembly Complex Srinagar to assess its final readiness for holding sessions after culmination of the ongoing assembly elections in the Union Territory.

During his visit to the complex, the Chief Secretary took round of the Assembly Hall, Meeting Halls, as well as the chambers designated for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and others. He also reviewed functionality of the sound system, internet connectivity and other amenities necessary for smooth functioning of the complex.

The Chief Secretary issued directions regarding upgradations to be made in commu-

nication network in meeting halls to ensure holding of video conferencing along with making other improvements.

While inspecting the ongoing works, he emphasised upon maintaining the quality simultaneously while completing the same within the given deadline. He also enquired about the upgradation works in MLA hostels in the twin cities saying that they should be equipped with improved facilities. He said that both of them should be made fully functional before the culmination of current election process.

Director Estates Department, Tariq Ahmad Ganai, apprised the Chief Secretary of the works completed besides those being executed—(KNO)

J&K Wildlife Dept To Observe Wildlife Week

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With a theme titled 'Wildlife Conservation through Co-Existence', the Jammu and Kashmir wildlife department is set to observe wildlife week from October 02 to October 08.

A senior wildlife official said that a number of calls they receive regarding wild animal sightings often turn out to be false alarms, and that to address that, they are focusing on increasing awareness about wildlife behavior, co-existence, and conservation.

The week-long event, as per wildlife officials, will focus on wildlife conservation efforts, with a strong stress on spreading awareness among the public.

The official said that apart from routine activities like painting competitions, debates, seminars, cleanliness and other events, they have planned bird watching events for visitors at wetlands, opening of

specified trekking zones, including the cycle pedalling.

"The department has also introduced new initiatives, including bird-watching tours at key wetland sites, trekking in designated wildlife zones, and cycle-peddaling events to promote eco-friendly travel through nature reserves," he said.

Officials said that human-wildlife interaction was frequent in Jammu and Kashmir, and the increasing urbanization in wildlife-prone areas was leading to more such frequent encounters between humans and animals.

"We are hopeful the events scheduled for this year's wildlife week will instil a deeper understanding of how humans can live in harmony with wildlife. The awareness is aimed to prevent unnecessary conflicts and ensure the protection of both people and animals," the official added.—(KNO)

YSS Budgam Conducts Cleanliness Drive

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Budgam, conducted a series of energetic cleanliness drives under the Swachh Bharat Naya Sankalp initiative. Zones like Beerwah, Narbal, Chadoora, Dreygam and Soibugh saw enthusiastic partici-

pation from government and private schools in cleaning primary health centres, public parks, and water canals.

These events, held under the direction of the Directorate of YSS J&K, witnessed vibrant community involvement, with students, teachers, and volunteers actively contributing to promote cleanliness and environmental care.

Newly Married Bride Killed In Bunjwah Accident

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A newly married bride and his sister were killed while her husband and two others were injured in a road accident at Pathshalla area of Bunjwah in Kishtwar district on Monday.

Giving details, an official said that a vehicle on its way from Aul area of Udyanpur in district Doda to Nali area of Bunjwah in district Kishtwar met with an accident near Pathshalla and fell into a deep gorge.

"Two ladies, identified as Mehrun Nisa (25), wife of Tariq Hussain and Rehana Begum, wife of Ashiq Hussain died on the spot whereas Tariq Hussain, son of Gulam Mohiddin, Brera Bano, daughter of Gulshan Ahmed Mir and Muzaffar Hussain, son Muhammad Amin were injured in the accident," the official said.

All the three injured and two dead bodies were firstly taken to sub district hospital Thathri and from where the injured were shifted to GMC Doda.—(KNO)

Mourning Nasrallah: Kashmir's Shia Families Scale Down Wedding Celebrations

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Grief and anger was palpable in the Shia dominated areas of Kashmir and Ladakh Monday, three days after the assassination of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in the Lebanese capital Beirut last Friday.

For the third consecutive day businesses in many areas remained shut in protest with people out in the streets holding anti-Israeli demonstrations. Nasrallah was a revered figure in the region and his life-size photos adorn Shia homes and major thoroughfares in both Kashmir and Ladakh.

Protesters marched on Srinagar-Gulmarg road and held a massive rally at Magam Chowk with mourners chanting anti-Israel and anti-US slogans. Some people had painted Israeli flags on the road so that protestors could walk over them in contempt. Reports of similar unabated protests are pouring in from across Kashmir.

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

Mosques too are buzzing with special evening prayers for those killed in Israeli action. In addition to street protests and special prayers, a new form of mourning and protest has emerged across the Shia community in Kashmir. Many families have cancelled or significantly scaled down planned wedding celebrations, opting instead for more modest events to honor Nasrallah's martyrdom. October is notably a peak wedding season in Kashmir,



characterized by its extravagant celebrations.

Reports suggest hundreds of planned celebrations have been drastically scaled down and in many cases invitation cards cancelled.

One family from Pandrethan, Srinagar, which had originally planned a large wedding celebration of their daughter and son, confirmed that they have scaled down the event. Speaking anonymously, a family member said, "We have reduced the event to just the Nikah Khwani, with only a modest gathering of close relatives. This is our way of honoring Syed Hassan Nasrallah, who was martyred defending the oppressed people. Even if we had many guests, there is no joy in celebrating in such a somber atmosphere," he said.

Another family in Srinagar's Lal Bazar area which had planned everything for a two day gala marriage ceremony on 30th September and 1st October cancelled the celebrations while expressing similar feelings.

"Nikah is an obligation which we are obliged to perform, so we will carry on with

a simple nikah ceremony, however there won't be any music and songs which are part of such occasions. We will carry out our religious obligation with utmost simplicity because of the tragedy, a family member of Ganai family from central Kashmir's Budgam district said.

Irfan Ali, one of the invitees to the wedding, said he received a call from the family informing him of the cancellation due to the events in Lebanon. He expressed admiration for the family's decision, stating, "I respect and appreciate their choice. It's a great gesture of solidarity, not just with the martyr but also with the heroic Lebanese people. Scaling down celebrations in this way is a unique form of protest against the barbarism we are witnessing," Irfan said.

"Recently during protests we had people returning from a wedding, for me it was disturbing," he added.

Similar reports of scaled-down celebrations and cancelled wedding feasts have been received from Shia-majority localities across Kashmir.

Three-Way Contest In Sonawari As Delimitation 'Changes Game'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Sonawari constituency in Bandipora district of north Kashmir is going to witness a triangular contest with NC contesting to retain power AIP's Yasir Reshi and Imtiyaz Parry seems to be the strong opponents.

Hilal Kabar lone, the son of Former Deputy speaker and alliance candidate for Sonawari constituency is now facing off against Imtiyaz Parry and Former MLC Yasir Reshi who earlier served PDP and supported People's Conference in parliament elections.

Hilal Lone who was joined by Omar Abdullah last week in his speech appealed workers to vote in favor of Hilal Lone says he was demotivated after parliament elections when he lost against AIP's Engineer Rasheed.

Lone who was elected speaker of Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly in 2007. He was made cabinet minister in the Omar Abdullah government in 15 January 2013 and was given the portfolio of Minister in charge of higher education.

In 2019, he won the Lok Sabha seat from Baramulla, in a four cornered contest involving the PDP, BJP and five other candidates.

Yasir Reshi, AIP Sonawari constituency candidate in an interview with KNO said that this election is important for Kashmiris to vote against BJP for controlling them to gain more power in Kashmir valley.

He also said that the elections are happening in the valley peacefully with people now taking part in elections in long queues, which shows Kashmir's trust in democracy.

"The people are tied up with traditional politics and they now want change. We are confident to secure a win in Sonawari constituency because of our work.

According to the political analysts as now around 18 candidates are in an election fray which includes BJP, PDP and other independent candidate the contest will be triangular with JKNC Candidate Hilal Akbar lone seemed as a strong candidates among the three Yasir Reshi (AIP) and Apni party Candidate Imtiyaz Parry.

After delimitation, around 18000 votes of Sonawari have now been added to Bandipora constituency where NC mostly received lead, which according to the analysts will affect their winning margin—(KNO)

J&K Police Bids Warm Farewell To R.R. Swain

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police gave a warm send off to its outgoing DGP R.R Swain in a specially organized function at Police Headquarters here.

On the onset of the function, DGP J&K along with DGP designate and other senior officers unveiled a Coffee Table Book of J&K Police prepared by the Crime Headquarters J&K. Crime Hqs also presented DGP J&K a pictorial album of his tenure in J&K Police.

DGP, Designate, Shri Nalin Prabhat, Prof. Rashmita Das Swain, Chairperson PWWA, ADGSP Shri M.K Sinha, Shri Vijay Kumar, Shri Nitish Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce J&K Shri Vikramjit Singh, IGS P Shri V.K Birdi, Shri B.S.Tuti, Dr Sunil Gupta, Shri Vivek Gupta, Shri M.Suleiman Choudhary, Shri Sujit Kumar, Assistant



Director (additional charge Director) ACB, Shri Shakti Pathak, DisG Armed Kashmir, CKR, SKR, Traffic Kashmir, IRP Kashmir, Railway J&K, Hqs. PHQ, Crime J&K and Personnel PHQ, SSP Srinagar, AlsG of PHQ, officers from other wings attended the function in person, while ADGP Jammu Zone Shri Anand Jain, Range DisG of Jammu Zone, District SSSP of UT, all Commandants of armed/ IR attended virtually.

Speaking on the occasion the outgoing DGP J&K while thanking all the officers who attended the function at PHQ and all those present via digitally said that each one of them was truly dear to him and resides in the core of his heart and soul. Expressing gratitude to the God, J&K Police unparallelled is that it has personnel drawn from all regions of Jammu and Kashmir, from all communities. The diversity within the force is seen to be privileged and so

to him by personnel across all ranks.

Sharing his thoughts about Jammu and Kashmir Police, Shri Swain said J&K Police unlike any other Police force in the country or for that matter anywhere else stands out for two reasons. It is truly toughest and yet the most people friendly that fights against the terrorism and separatism in Jammu and Kashmir. Besides fighting eyeball to eyeball with gun wielding terrorists no security agency other than J&K Police fights and controls stone pelting mobs to prevent spread of losses and lawlessness and it does this job with minimum loss of life and property.

The other reason which keeps J&K Police unparallelled is that it has personnel drawn from all regions of Jammu and Kashmir, from all communities. The diversity within the force is seen to be privileged and so

are the challenges we face, no other Police force anywhere in the country is pitted against an adversary that has such open and brazen support from hostile elements and it is sitting across the border. J&K police has this unique challenge of fighting the enemy within and from outside. The stamina and the endurance of J&K Police is equally indomitable.

History is in making as a new sun of peace and tranquility is rising and peace, free from fear and intimidation is beginning to shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir. "I am sure and I am fully confident that the change of guard will not deter the JK Police force from losing focus of a bigger fight we have on our hands," the outgoing DGP said.

He thanked each one from higher ranks to lower subordinates for their support day in and day out.

Lolab AC Braces For Fierce Political Battle

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Lolab assembly constituency is bracing for an exciting political battle as the third phase of polling is set for October 1, marking the first election in the region in a decade.

The vibrant political atmosphere has turned into a festival-like environment with rallies, slogans, and enthusiastic crowds. Multiple political parties and independent candidates are fighting for the seat and have made this an intense contest.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) had previously held the seat, with Abdul Haq Khan securing victory in the last two elections.

In the 2014 assembly elections, Khan won with 29,408 votes, narrowly defeating National Conference (NC) candidate Kaiser Jamsheed Lone by 2,870 votes. In the 2008 elections, Khan had a more comfortable margin, winning by 5,347 votes. This time, however, the dynamics have changed. Khan's son, Waqar Khan, has stepped into the race, facing Lone in what promises to be

another close fight.

The contest has further heated up with the entry of the People's Conference (PC) candidate, Mudassar, who, despite being a first-time contender, is expected to pull significant votes in some areas, potentially splitting the vote base. This has turned what was initially a two-party contest into a triangular battle.

From 1977 to 2014, the NC dominated this seat, winning all but two elections. PDP's Abdul Haq Khan broke this streak with back-to-back victories in 2008 and 2014. Now, the big question remains: Can PDP secure a hat-trick in Lolab, or will NC reclaim its hold on the seat?

Ghulam Rasool Tantry, a local resident told KNO that the key issues in Lolab are inflation and rising costs, Unemployment among educated youth, Potential for border tourism development and electricity and water scarcity.

As per the Voter Statistics, total voters in this assembly segment are 90,392 which include 45,391 men and 45,073 women—(KNO)

In Gurez Assembly Constituency, Its Battle Between '2 Khans'



Agencies

SRINAGAR: North Kashmir's border Gurez constituency is set to witness a fierce neck-and-neck battle between two prominent Khans of the region.

Former Deputy Speaker and three-time MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan from the National Conference is facing off against BJP leader Faqir Mohammad Khan in the elections scheduled for October 1. Both candidates have a history of dominating the constituency in past elections.

Faqir Mohammad Khan was elected to the erstwhile state Assembly from Gurez in 1996, while Nazir Ahmad Khan secured his first win in 2002. In the 2008 Assembly Elections, Nazir Ahmad Khan won again, receiving 5,817 votes with a vote share of 51.06%.

In the 2014 Assembly Elections, Nazir Ahmad Khan won the seat by a narrow margin of 141 votes, receiving 6,664 votes (48.29%) compared to Faqir Mohammad Khan, who

garnered 6,523 votes (47.26%).

The Gurez Assembly constituency has 22,291 registered voters, comprising 11,723 males and 10,568 females. To facilitate a smooth electoral process, 31 rural polling stations have been established throughout the constituency.

Meanwhile, the two Khans left no stone unturned in their campaigns in the border town of Gurez, urging residents to vote for them to make Gurez a premier tourist destination. They also highlighted the long-pending demand for the Gurez-Bandipora tunnel.

Faqir Mohammad Khan has a stronghold in Tulail Valley, while Nazir Ahmad Khan, a resident of Wanpora, maintains his base in Dawar, the central township of Gurez.

According to many political analysts, while several other candidates from DPAP, AIP, People's Conference, and independent backgrounds are in the fray, the contest is primarily between the two Khans—(KNO)

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN-2024

In continuation to already announced Festival Special Train-2024, Railways have planned to run following additional Festival Special train as per detail given below:-

03309/03310 Dhanbad Jn. - Jammu Tawi - Dhanbad Jn. Express Special Train (Weekly)		18 Trips	
Train No.: 03309	STATIONS	Train No.: 03310	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
----	10:10	Dhanbad Jn.	14:00
10:35	10:37	Nsc Bose J Gomoh	12:30
10:50	10:52	Parasnath	12:05
11:12	11:14	Hazaribagh Road	11:10
11:42	11:44	Koderma Jn.	10:35
13:30	13:35	Gaya Jn.	08:55
14:24	14:26	Anugraha Narayan Road	07:32
14:40	14:42	Dehri-On-Sone	07:10
14:54	14:56	Sasaram Jn.	06:48
15:35	15:37	Bhabua Road	06:25
17:00	17:10	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn.	05:00
18:05	18:15	Varanasi Jn.	03:25
21:00	21:10	Prayagraj Jn.	23:15
00:10	00:20	Govindpuri Jn.	20:05
05:20	05:25	Tundla Jn.	15:00
09:00	09:10	Delhi Jn.	11:35
10:08	10:10	Sonapat Jn.	09:45
10:48	10:50	Panipat Jn.	09:08
13:05	13:15	Ambala Cantt. Jn.	07:20
13:56	13:58	Sirhind Jn.	05:45
15:00	15:10	Ludhiana Jn.	04:45
15:50	15:55	Jalandhar Cantt.	03:40
19:00	19:05	Pathankot Cantt.	01:30
22:40	----	Jammu Tawi	----

DATE OF RUN: 03309 from Dhanbad Jn. on every Tuesday from 01.10.2024 to 26.11.2024 and 03310 from Jammu Tawi on every Wednesday from 02.10.2024 to 27.11.2024.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-3 Tier. For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Champions Trophy: Govt Will Decide On India's Travel To Pakistan, Says BCCI

Press Trust of India

KANPUR: Reiterating a long-held position, BCCI vice president Rajeev Shukla on Monday said a decision on whether the national cricket team will travel to Pakistan for next year's ICC Champions Trophy will depend on government approval.

Pakistan are scheduled to host the prestigious ODI tournament from February 19 to March 9.

"No decision has been taken (yet). But our policy is that for international tours, we always seek the permission of the government. It's up to the government to decide whether our team should go to any country or our team should not go to any country," Shukla told reporters here.

"In this case (also), whatever the government will decide, we will abide by that," he added. Shukla was talking to the



media on the sidelines of the ongoing second Test between India and Bangladesh here.

India and Pakistan only play

each other in ICC events. India have not travelled to Pakistan for bilateral cricket since 2008 following the Mumbai terror attacks in which over 150 people were killed.

Pakistan were in India for the ODI World Cup last year after a gap of seven years. It is being speculated that India will not

travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

The BCCI may request the ICC to pull the tournament out of Pakistan and organise it either in Sri Lanka or Dubai.

The latest edition of the Asia Cup was played as per a hybrid model allowing India to play all their matches in Sri Lanka. As a result, the island nation hosted nine games while Pakistan hosted the remaining four matches.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is averse to the idea of taking the tournament out of their country.

Recently, Pakistan all-rounder Hasal Ali had also said that if India do not travel to Pakistan, the tournament should go ahead without their Asian neighbours.

The ICC, on its part, has maintained that it would not force a member board to go against government policy.

Short TAKES

Mohun Bagan Cancels Iran Trip Due To Safety Concerns



Amid ongoing safety concerns, Mohun Bagan Super Giant has decided not to travel to Iran for their scheduled AFC Champions League match against Tractor FC. The decision comes in light of the volatile situation in the West Asian nation following the death of Hezbollah secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah.

The team was set to fly directly from Bengaluru after their Indian Super League game, but chose to return to Kolkata due to players' safety concerns. The general's death has led to a five-day state of mourning in Iran, further heightening security risks.

India Seals Victory In SAFF U17 C'ship With Dominant Play

India's dominance in the SAFF U17 Championship was reaffirmed as the Ishaq Ahmed-coached side clinched the title with a 2-0 victory against Bangladesh in the 2024 final, held at Changlimithang Stadium on Monday. Following a goalless first half, Mohammed Kaif broke the deadlock with a masterful header in the 58th minute.

The defining moment came in stoppage time when Mohammed Arbash scored a stunning left-footer to secure the win. India's strategic and persistent play throughout the match ensured they retained the championship title, celebrating their well-deserved victory.

IPL Auction: BCCI Eyes Overseas Venue Once Again

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) may once again hold the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) auction in a foreign country, similar to the previous edition.

This revelation was hinted at by BCCI vice president Rajiv Shukla, who suggested that the international venue could provide a more conducive environment for the auction process.

"We are contemplating with both the options," he said. "It may be abroad also. Last time we had in Dubai. And it went very successfully. The whole idea is to take some element of cricket overseas also. So, overseas cricket fans also get attracted."

Dembélé Left Out Of PSG Squad Amid Sanction Reports

Paris Saint-Germain forward Ousmane Dembélé has been left out of the squad that will take on Arsenal in the Champions League amid reports that he was hit by a disciplinary sanction.

L'Equipe newspaper and RMC Sport media both reported that PSG coach Luis Enrique decided to snub the France player for Tuesday's league phase match at the Emirates Stadium even though he is not injured.

According to L'Equipe, Enrique and Dembélé verbally clashed after PSG's 3-1 win against Rennes in the French league.

Real Madrid Goalkeeper Courtois Suffers Abductor Injury

Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has been diagnosed with an injury to the abductor of his left leg, the LaLiga club said on Monday.

Courtois played the full 90 minutes in Sunday's 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid, but is now expected to be unavailable for Wednesday's Champions League game against Lille and Saturday's league match with Villarreal.

The Belgian has started all 10 games for Real this season, after missing most of last season with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee.

IND vs BAN 2ND TEST

Ashwin Scalps 2 Late Wickets After Batters Break 5 Records

Agencies

KANPUR: India made history by shattering five world records -- the fastest team 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 in Test cricket -- while Ravindra Jadeja achieved the milestone of 300 Test wickets against Bangladesh on Day 4 of the second Test after two gloomy days in Kanpur's Green Park stadium.

Forceful fifties by Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul helped India declare their first innings at 285 for nine. Ravichandran Ashwin then opened India's wicket tally in the second



innings, dismissing Zakir Hasan and Hasan Mahmud, leaving Bangladesh at 26/2 at stumps, still 26 runs behind India.

Earlier, Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi

Jaiswal went beast mode as they brought up the 50-run mark in just three overs. The previous record was held by England, doing so in 26 balls against West Indies earlier this year.

Upcoming 2024 Srinagar Premier League Fixtures Announced

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Football Association Srinagar on Monday announced the upcoming matches for the 2024 Srinagar Premier League. The league, being played at TRC Turf, began on September 27. The fixtures list has several high-profile games on schedule.

On Wednesday, October 2, J&K Police XI will lock horns with Jhelum FC. The game will kick off at 4:00 PM. Thursday's match will see Kashmir Avengers FC take on Galaxy FC at 4:00 PM.

Novelty FC will go toe-



toe with Iqbal Sports FC on Friday, with kick off set for 4:00 PM. Saturday's contest will have J&K Bank Academy play AG's Office XI at 4:00 PM.

Real Kashmir FC go head-to-head against Ali Jana FC on Sunday, with

kick off set for 4:00 PM. Monday, October 7, will have Star Kashmir FC take on ARCO FC at 4:00 PM.

The 2024 Srinagar Premier League is being held under J&K Sports Council's "My Youth My Pride" initiative.

Comparing Kohli & Babar Baseless, Indian Star Way Ahead: Zaheer Abbas



Press Trust of India

SHARJAH: Pakistan great Zaheer Abbas feels the comparisons between Virat Kohli and Babar Azam are baseless as the Indian superstar is a lot more consistent than the under-fire Pakistan batter.

Once regarded as part of the 'Fab Five' including Kohli, Steve Smith, Joe Root, and Kane Williamson, Babar is currently enduring an extended slump in form.

"Yeh fizoool ki baatein hai (the comparisons are pointless). Virat Kohli scores in every match the other player (Babar) doesn't score in any match so then how can you compare. The person who scores, he is the bigger player," Abbas told PTI on the sidelines of the Cricket Predicta Conclave here.

Kohli has 80 international hundreds to his name while the much younger Babar has scored 31 centuries across formats.

Abbar also acknowledged the consistency displayed by India across formats and said the Rohit Sharma-led team will be a strong contender for the upcoming Champions Trophy.

"Indian team overall is very good. Their batters are doing well and the bowlers both are good. It is a very balanced team, one that plays soch samajh kar (thoughtfully)," said Abbas.

"They have a very good captain, who understands cricket very well. So, when

everything is going in your favour it is smooth sailing. That's the case with India right now.

"There is a very good chance of them doing well (at the Champions Trophy) because they have a balanced team," the 77-year-old said.

Hailed as the 'Asian Bradman' for insatiable appetite for runs, Abbas was one of the most elegant batters of his time. He played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs for Pakistan, accumulating 5062 and 2572 runs respectively.

Virat Kohli Becomes Fourth Player To Complete 27,000 International Runs

Indian batting superstar Virat Kohli on Monday became only the fourth player in history to complete 27,000 runs in international cricket across formats, a feat that he achieved on the fourth day of the ongoing second Test against Bangladesh here.

Kohli made a brisk 47 off 35 balls with four fours and a six as he helped India push on further in an aggressive mode to make up for the lost time in the Test due to incessant rains.

He is only the second Indian cricketer to have breached the 27,000-run mark and stands fourth in the list for most international runs across formats, which is headed by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar with 34,357 runs.

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