

Ayatollah Khamenei's Rare Friday Sermon

'Be Ready For Any Situation'

Agencies

Tehran- Leading a rare Friday prayer to commemorate the death of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei said that Muslims should strengthen their defences across all Islamic countries and vowed to strike Israel again amid the escalating tension in the region.

A gun in hand, the 85 year old Iran leader declared that Israel would not prevail against resistance as chants of "we are with you" from the crowd of tens of thousands echoed in the vast mosque grounds.

Iran leaders first Friday sermon in five years marks a crucial show of defiance amid threats to his life. He remains a top target for Israel, which has vowed to retaliate after Tuesday's missile attacks. Several Western media outlets have been reporting that the leader has been transferred to a "secure location with increased security measures" following Israel's assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on September 27 and subsequent Iranian retaliation against Israel.

"The brilliant work of our armed forces was completely legal and legitimate. What our armed forces did was the least punishment for the usurping Zionist regime over the astonishing crimes of this wolf-like regime and rabid dog of America," he said.

The Supreme Leader told the massive congregation that Iran will not "procrastinate nor act hastily to carry out its duty" in



IRAN WILL NOT PROCRASTINATE NOR ACT HASTILY to carry out its duty in confronting Israel.

confronting Israel, adding that the missile attack on Israel was "legal and legitimate."

Iran launched a barrage of missiles against Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for Israeli strikes that killed Hezbollah leader in Beirut last Friday and the assassination of Hamas' chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July.

Ayatollah Khamenei called Israel a "tool" for the United States "to take control of all the lands and resources in the region."

"There is no doubt that the Zionists and the Americans are dreaming - the Zionist entity will be uprooted from the ground, it has no roots, it is fake, unstable, and exists only because of American support," he said.

"The enemy | More on P6

NO INTERNATIONAL LAW PREVENTS PALESTINIANS from defending their land and exercising their duty in liberating their land."

Friday Protests Erupt In Kashmir Over Nasrallah's Killing



Agencies

Srinagar: In a show of solidarity and grief, members of the Shia Muslim community across Srinagar, Baramulla and other parts of Kashmir took to the streets after Friday prayers to protest the

killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah by Israel.

The protests were marked by sorrow, with chants filling the air as men, women and children marched together in unity. A rally took place from Singhpura towards Mirgund in Pattan, | More on P6

No Criminal Cases Against Journos For Govt Criticism: SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Criminal cases should not be slapped against journalists merely because their writings are perceived as criticism of the government, the Supreme Court said on Friday.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti said in democratic nations, the freedom to express one's views is respected and the rights of journalists are protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by journalist Abhishek Upadhyay, who has sought quashing of an FIR lodged against him in Uttar Pradesh for publishing a news report on the "caste dynamics of the general administration" in the state.



"Merely because writings of a journalist are perceived as criticism of the government, criminal cases should not be slapped against the writer," the bench said. While issuing a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government seeking its response on the plea, it said, "In the meantime,

coercive steps should not be taken against the petitioner in connection with the subject article."

The bench noted in its order that the petitioner is a journalist and he published an article with a "casteist tilt" on officers deployed in responsible positions in the state.

It further noted that following the article, an FIR was registered against him.

"The counsel for the petitioner would read the contents of the FIR to say that no offence can be said to be made out by the said FIR. Yet the petitioner is being targeted and since the story was posted on X (earlier Twitter), it might result in multiple other FIRs," the bench noted in its order.

The top court posted the matter for hearing | More on P6

Three-Tier Security In Place As J&K Gears Up For Vote Counting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In preparation for the counting of votes in Jammu and Kashmir, a robust three-tier security system will be implemented at all counting centers across the Union Territory.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) PK Pole said that all necessary arrangements have been finalized to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the vote counting, scheduled for October 8.

"All arrangements are in place for the October 8 vote counting. A strong three-tier security arrangement will be deployed to guarantee smooth proceedings and public safety during the counting of votes," CEO PK Pole said.

This election was significant for Jammu and Kashmir,



as it was the first since the abrogation of Article 370 and the first Assembly election after more than a decade.

Voting was held in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1.

The overall voter turnout across all three phases was recorded at 63.88%,

with male voter turnout at 64.68% and female turnout at 63.04%.

As the eagerly awaited vote counting approaches, authorities are ensuring that the process will proceed efficiently and securely.

The Election officials provided details on the

meticulous planning involved in setting up the counting centers across Jammu and Kashmir's various constituencies.

"We have completed all the necessary arrangements for the counting process. Counting halls have been set up to accommodate the process for each constituency, and we have ensured there are enough tables to conduct round-wise counting of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). This will maintain an efficient flow during the counting," they explained.

They officials added that the randomization of counting staff is nearly complete, a key step in ensuring impartiality during the vote count. "The randomization process is crucial to maintaining fairness, and we are almost finished with it. | More on P6

LG Has No Right To Nominate 5 MLAs: NC

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The National Conference on Friday raised strong objections against the nomination of five MLAs to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly by the lieutenant governor, saying this move is "unconstitutional and undemocratic."

The National Conference said such powers lie solely with an elected government and cannot be exercised by the lieutenant governor in the absence of an elected body.

"We have raised strong objections against the nomination of five MLAs to the Jammu



and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by the LG. Any such move is unconstitutional and undemocratic," Jammu and Kashmir National Conference provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta said here. | More on P6

No Backchannel Talks with BJP: NC

The National Conference (NC) on Friday said it was not in touch with any political party other than INDIA bloc constituents for government formation in Jammu and Kashmir. The party's clarification came amid speculation that it was engaged in backchannel deliberations with the BJP for government formation | More on P6

'Resist Pressure To Disempower New Govt'

Observer News Service

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah Friday asked bureaucrats in Jammu and Kashmir to resist any pressure to "further disempower" the incoming elected government.

"The BJP has clearly accepted defeat in J&K. Why else would the chief secretary be assigned the duty to change the transaction of business rules of the government to curtail the powers of the | More on P6

and Kashmir to resist any pressure to "further disempower" the incoming elected government.

"The BJP has clearly accepted defeat in J&K. Why else would the chief secretary be assigned the duty to change the transaction of business rules of the government to curtail the powers of the | More on P6

Jaishankar To Visit Pak For SCO Summit



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India on Friday announced that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to Pakistan to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in mid-October.

It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's external affairs minister will travel to Pakistan even as the ties between the two neighbours remained frosty over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of | More on P6

BJP Leaders Meet in Delhi To Plan J&K Govt

Agencies

Srinagar: Ahead of the vote counting on October 08, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has scheduled an important meeting in the national capital to strategize for the formation of the next government in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sources informed that the BJP high command has summoned 13 top leaders from the J&K unit for a crucial meeting in Delhi tomorrow, to be chaired by party president and Union Minister J P Nadda.

Attendees will include BJP's election in-charge and Union Minister G. Krishna Reddy, Ram Madhav, J&K Prabhari Tarun Chugh, Seh Prabhari Ashish Sood, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, Working President Sat Sharma and

four General Secretaries of the J&K BJP: Ashok Koul (General Secretary Organisation), Dr Devender Manyal, Sunil Sharma and Vibodh Gupta. Two former Deputy Chief Ministers, Kavinder Gupta and Dr Nirmal Singh, as well as Darakhshan Andrabi and Devender Rana, have also been asked to attend.

The meeting will gather feedback on the Assembly elections and develop strategies for forming a government in J&K following the election results, sources said, adding that discussions will also focus on potential alliances with independent candidates who may be likely winners in certain constituencies.

Sources added that Ram Madhav has been assigned to a 'Kashmir Mission', where he is in contact with various parties to | More on P6

Delhi HC Closes Plea On Wangchuk's Detention

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday closed the proceedings by a lawyer in connection with Sonam Wangchuk's detention by the city police earlier this week and said the climate activist, who has now been released, can agitate his grievances himself.

"He does not need (another person) to agitate for his rights. He can agitate his rights if he wants to... There cannot be a PIL in this matter... He will agitate in his own way. They (Wangchuk and his associates) will do whatever they want to," a bench headed by Chief Justice Manmohan said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, argued that Wangchuk was kept in detention for almost three days by the Delhi Police in an unlawful manner without producing him before the magistrate.

Bhushan, who | More on P6



SHEEP GRAZING IN THE SCENIC meadows of Tosa Maidan. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Mirwaiz Offers Friday Prayers At Jamia

Says Polls No Means To Resolve K-Issue

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Friday said that holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir would not solve the Kashmir issue and advocated for peaceful means of outreach and dialogue to address the matter.

The religious and separatist leader, who was allowed to offer Friday congregational prayers at the Jamia Masjid in the Nowhatta area of the city after over a month, claimed that he was put under house arrest and his movements were curtailed.

Delivering the sermon, he



said election and "resolution of the Kashmir issue" were two different things. "Civic elections in a Union Territory that Jammu and Kashmir was downgraded to in 2019 is | More on P6

'Booked Thrice On Same Grounds' HC Quashes PSA Order Against Youth

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday set aside its single bench's verdict by virtue of which detention order under a Public Safety Act was upheld against a youth from Pulwama earlier this year.

A division bench of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice M. A. Chowdhary allowed the appeal filed by the detainee, Tarseem Ahmad Sheikh of Awantipora Pulwama against the single bench's verdict on May 15 this year, observing that "the third detention order

is thus, not sustainable on the same grounds."

"The detention order, impugned before the Writ Court (Single Bench), was thus, found to be based on almost same grounds, which had been used to base two earlier detention orders against the appellant-detenu (Tarseem), which had been quashed by this Court," the Division Bench said, adding, "The third detention order is thus, not sustainable on the same grounds."

Moreover, the Division Bench said | More on P6



Diabetes, Obesity Increase Risk Of Liver Cancer Relapse: Study

DIABETES

Diabetes and obesity can fuel the relapse of liver cancer — the sixth most common cancer worldwide. This has been revealed in a study led by Osaka Metropolitan University, focused on hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) — a type of liver cancer associated with hepatitis infections — known to have a high recurrence rate after cancer removal. It is also the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally. Obesity and diabetes, which are closely associated with metabolic syndrome development, are well known to induce steatotic liver diseases, potentially causing liver cirrhosis and HCC development. However, obesity and diabetes' effects on patient survival and cancer recurrence have been unclear. "Since the risk



of late recurrence is higher in hepatocellular carcinoma with comorbid obesity and diabetes, controlling obesity and diabetes is an important treatment strategy for the liver cancer," said Dr Hiroji Shinkawa's research team at the University's Graduate School of Medicine.

In the study, published in the journal Liver Cancer, the team analysed the relationship between diabetes mellitus, obesity and post-operative outcomes in 1,644 patients with hepatocellular carcinoma who underwent liver resection. The results revealed that

obesity increased the risk of recurrence two years after the operation approximately by 1.5 times, and in the case of diabetes, the risk was 1.3 times higher. In addition, the risk of recurrence after five years postoperatively was 3.8 times higher with obesity, while with diabetes, it was two times higher. The findings could contribute to the early detection of cancer recurrence and the design of appropriate treatment strategies, Dr Shinkawa said. Obesity is a common risk factor for type 2 diabetes, and the two conditions are often linked. Recent research showed that the number of adults with obesity will increase by six times in the next 40 years, while people with diabetes will soar 642 million by 2040.

Dolphins Could Be 'Smiling' When They Play, Say Researchers

Press Trust Of India

An open-mouthed expression that dolphins use for each other while playing and being reciprocated about a third of the time, could be a "smile", researchers have found. The smile was almost always used when a dolphin was in their playmate's field of view, the team, including researchers from the University of Pisa in Italy, found after analysing 80 hours of video footage of dolphins engaging in social play amongst themselves as well as with human trainers. They recorded a total of 1,288 open-mouthed smiles, 92 per cent of which occurred while the mammals were playing with each other. Further, a dolphin was more likely to smile when their face was in the field of view of their playmate, the researchers said. About 89 per cent of

the smiles were found to occur in this manner. The team also found that the chances of a playmate reciprocating the smile within a second was found to be 13 times more when they see it, compared to when they do not see it. This back-and-forth exchange of smile-like facial expressions "strikingly" matches with that seen in social primates and carnivores, they said. "We've uncovered the presence of a distinct facial display, the open mouth, in bottlenose dolphins, and we showed that dolphins are also able to mirror others' facial expression," Elisabetta Palagi, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Pisa and senior author of the study published in Cell Press journal, said. "Open-mouth signals and rapid mimicry appear repeatedly across the mammal family tree, which suggests that visual communication has played a crucial role in shaping complex social

interactions, not only in dolphins but in many species over time," Palagi said. The researchers said dolphins' "anatomical smile", along with their eyes, round heads, and tendency to play make them popular with humans. The marine creatures' play can include acrobatics, surfing, playing with objects, chasing, and playfighting. While mammals are known to use facial expressions to convey playfulness, the researchers said that marine mammals such as dolphins engaging in smiling and reciprocating had not been previously explored. "The open mouth gesture likely evolved from the biting action, breaking down the biting sequence to leave only the 'intention to bite' without contact. The relaxed open mouth, seen in social carnivores, monkeys' play faces, and even human laughter, is a universal sign of playfulness, helping animals -- and us -- signal fun and avoid conflict," Palagi said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate of my son Ayhil Hamed who was born on 23-09-2019. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Abdul hamed
F/o Ayhil hamed bmg

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Application Of Mohd Younas , Naseer Ahmad , Muzfar Ahmad Ahanger, Adil Shaban Ss/op Mohd Shaban Ahanger R/o Sultanpora Khoie for obtaining OBC certificate for the caste of Ahanger

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining OBC certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Sultanpora Khoie tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 192000 /-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Mohd Shaban Ahanger	S/o Ab Karim	68 Years	Labour
2	Farzi Begum	W/o Mohd Shaban	60 Years	HOUSE WIFE
3	Mohd Youns Ahanger	S/o Mohd Shaban	38 years	Labour
4	Nelofar Younas	W/o Mohd Youns	37 years	H/W
5	Fatima Binte Youns	D/o Mohd Youns	11 months	Minor
6	Muzfar Ahmad Ahanger	S/o Mohd Shaban	26 Years	Labour
7	Naseer Ahmad	S/o Mohd Shaban	30 years	Labour
8	Adil Shaban	--	22 years	Student

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.
 fko Naib Tehsildar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing no: M5934823 somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Mohammad Yaseen Malla
 S/o Mohammad Ibrahim Malla
 R/o Kuchaypora Magam bmg

Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer no: 020605001193 from Bashir Ahamd Najar S/o Abdul Jabar Najar to Fayaz Ahmad Najar S/o Bashir Ahamd Najar if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Division Narbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Fayaz Ahmad Najar
 S/o Late Bashir Ahamd Najar
 R/o Wudwan Budgam fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Aisha Jan D/o Abdul Majeed Pandith R/o Ningspora Mughama Tehsil Kunzer District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 14-05-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Umari Hilal Pandith S/o Hilal Ahmad Pandith R/o Shouch Palpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 01-08-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

از نیابت سبل نائب تحصیلدار عبدالقیوم آہنگر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب محمد مؤمن گنائی محمد ہاشم گنائی ورافضیا اختر اولاد ان محمد ہاشم گنائی ساکنہ مشولہ برادری جرائی RBA سرٹھیکٹ

اشتیہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرٹھیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن دھندلا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

ممبر	تاریخ	علاقہ	تعداد
محمد ہاشم گنائی	27-09-2000	ساکل	01
محمد ہاشم گنائی	19-09-2000	ساکل	01
محمد ہاشم گنائی	16-09-2000	ساکل	01
رافضیا اختر	14-09-2000	ساکل	01

ساکل مذکورہ مشولہ ساکن سرٹھیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 27000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹھیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بدوہدہ بدوہدہ شہر اخبار سارسات دن کے اندر نامہ آرنے سے عذر یا اعتراض وادالت ہذا کو دفتر اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار MDL

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب ناظم رشید عشرت رشید عشرت رشید، ہارون رشید اولاد ان عبدالرشید خاں ساکن پٹن برادری جرائی OBC بجن ساکنان

اشتیہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹھیکٹ بذمرہ نجاہ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعہ نجاہ سارسات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن پٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

ممبر	تاریخ	علاقہ	تعداد
عبدالرشید خاں	50 سال	مزدوری	01
پروینہ بیگم	48 سال	گھریلو کام	01
ناظم رشید عشرت	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	01
عشرت رشید	18 سال	--	01
عشرت رشید	24 سال	بینک ملازم	01
ہارون رشید	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	01

ساکل مذکورہ OBC سرٹھیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹھیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بدوہدہ بدوہدہ شہر اخبار سارسات دن کے اندر نامہ آرنے سے عذر یا اعتراض وادالت ہذا کو دفتر اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار FKO

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

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

Subject: Provisional Selection List of candidates for admission to B.E/B.Tech. Courses-2024 after the invitation of fresh applications w.e.f. 27-09-2024 to 02-10-2024.
 Reference: Notification No. 119-BOPEE of 2024 dated 27.09.2024.

Notification No:124 -BOPEE of 2024
 Dated: 03-10-2024

Pursuant to Notification No. 119-BOPEE of 2024 dated 27.09.2024, the Board has received the applications for filling up of seats of B.E/B.Tech. Courses-2024 which have remained unfilled or received as shortfall after the conclusion of four rounds of Counselling. The list of candidates provisionally Upgraded/Allotted seats in various Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K, is hereby notified as per Annexure-A and Annexure B to this Notification, which shall be available on the official website of the Board viz. www.jkbopee.gov.in only.

The Provisionally Selected candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/Institutions for completion of admission formalities upto 10th of October, 2024 till 04.00 p.m alongwith the following documents in original:

- Domicile Certificate.
- D.O.B Certificate (Matriculation Certificate from the Board of School Education)
- Marks Sheet of 12th Class.
- Category Certificate, wherever applicable.
- ID card to verify the identity of the candidate, &
- Any other document as may be required by the concerned College.

- Note:**
- All the Heads of the Institutions/Colleges are requested to keep their admission counters open on holidays/off days to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time.
 - The candidate(s) who would conceal any information at the time of admission, the candidature of such candidates shall be cancelled abinitio and fine/penalty shall be imposed upon him/her as may be deemed proper by the Board in accordance with the laid down rules.
 - For fee related query, candidates provisionally recommended for admission are advised to contact the concerned College/Institution.
 - The Heads of the Institutions shall keep record of admissions and send the shortfall of the candidates, if any, to the Board through e-mail viz. coejakbopee@gmail.com / helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com on 10th of October 2024 at 04:30 P.M positively.
 - The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the Information Brochure and Notifications/Notices issued by the Board in this regard from time to time.

E & OE

DIPK-NB-1621/24
 dated: 04-10-2024

No. BOPEE/Exam/16/2024(7467447)

Sd/-

(Prof. Gurrinder Raj Verma)
 Controller of Examinations
 J&K BOPEE

Dated:03-10-2024

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir Govt. Unani Medical College & Associated Hospital Nawabagh, Ganderbal Kashmir

SHORTTERM TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs. 5/-, are invited from the registered dealers/firms for supply of following items to the Govt. Unani Medical College Cum Hospital, Nawabagh, Ganderbal, Kashmir:-

S.No	Name of tools/items	Specification (Quantity
01	Combination plier	07 inch (Taperia)	01
02	Screw Driver (full set)	(01
03	Hammer	01 kg.	01
04	Cross Pean Hammer	200 gram	01
05	Wire Cutter	-	01
06	Line tester	-	01
07	Multimeter/Clampmeter	-	01
08	Electrician ladder	08 feet or 09 feet (foldable 9 step antiskid steel ladder)	01
09	Hammer Drill	1000 watt to 1500 watt	01
10	Drill Bit (Full set)	6.5 mm to 16 mm	01
11	Electrical Safety equipment	Standard quality (ISI) mark	01
12	Spanner Set	-	01
13	Inch tap	3 meter	01
14	Cold chisels	-	04
15	Tape Roll	Biocon	01 box
16	Rawal Plug	Topson	01 box
17	Fluxer	20 mm and 25 mm	10 mtr.
18	Steel Wire	15 meters	05 roll
19	Full thread screw	25 mm ad 35 mm	01 box each
20	L-Key set	Taparia/standard quality	01 No.
21	Pipe wrench	Taperia 18 inch	01
22	Pipe wrench	Taperia 14 inch	01
23	Pipe wrench	Taperia 12 inch	01
24	Pipe wrench	Taperia 10 inch	01
25	Long screwdriver	Standard quality	02
26	Mankey wrench	Taperia	01
27	Adjustable plier	Taparia/Ambica	01
28	Dieset	11/4 and 11/2inch Inder/Ambica	01

The tenders should be supported with the CDR, for r.s. 2000/- pledge to the Principal, Govt. Unani Medical College Cum Hospital, Nawabagh, Ganderbal, Kashmir and should reach to the office of the Accounts Officer, Govt. Unani Medical College cum Hospital, Nawabagh, Ganderbal, Kashmir, within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- The tenderer should possess and enclose the below mentioned certificate with the tender:-
 (I) Tax Clearance Certificate from the concerned Tax Department.
 (II) The tenders must be submitted in properly sealed envelope
 (III) The rates should be quoted inclusive of all taxes, duties, freight;
 (IV) The rates quoted should be written legible without any cutting, overwriting, interpolations, erasers, and in case only of these is found, the tender shall not be entertained.
 (V) The total amount for the supply of aforesaid items may not exceed to Rs. 25000/- (Rupees twenty five thousands only).
 (VI) The tender will be opened in the office of the Accounts Officer GUMC, Nawabagh Ganderbal on 10.10.2024 at 3.00 PM in presence of the bidders which wish to be present.

Gh. Qadir Wani
 Accounts Officer

N o:- GUMC/Admn/181/2024
 DIPK-5627/24
 Dated:-04-10-2024

SKIMS Hosts Academic Event 'Endocrine Update - 2024'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Department of Endocrinology SKIMS Soura organized a major academic event 'Endocrine Update' under the aegis of Endocrine Society of India (ESI) & MP-PCOS Society. The event featured distinguished national speakers who presented the latest breakthroughs in Endocrinology. The scientific program covered crucial areas of Endocrinology including Diabetes & Obesity, Thyroid, Adrenal & Reproductive Endocrinology, Bone & Mineral Metabolism and Pediatric Endocrinology.

The inaugural ceremony was held at SKIMS Auditorium by a distinguished panel, including Professor Sarita Bajaj (former Director-Professor and Head of Medicine at MLN Medical College, Allahabad), Professor Mohd. Ashraf Ganie (Director of SKIMS), and Professor Shariq Rashid Masoodi (Dean of the Medi-

cal Faculty SKIMS).

Dr. Sarita Bajaj, leading endocrinologist of the country was the chief guest on the occasion. She underscored the significance of these academic activities to remain abreast with latest techniques/ advances in endocrinology across the globe and emphasized that there is a need to focus beyond diabetes and stress for action to avoid complications of metabolic syndrome. She admired Director SKIMS / EOSG Prof. M Ashraf Ganie for his enormous contributions to the Endocrine Society of India and M-PCOS Society.

Director SKIMS & EOSG Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie who was present on the occasion expressed his gratitude to the chief guest Dr. Sarita Bajaj for gracing the occasion and described her as a torch bearer in the Country in the field of Endocrinology who has marked her presence through impactful work and enormous contributions.

Arrangements For Urs Dastgeer Sahab Reviewed In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with upcoming Urs of the revered saint Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jaelani (RA), the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik today visited the Shrine of Dastgeer Sahab at Khanyar to take stock of the arrangements made for smooth observance of the Urs.

During the visit, the ADC took a detailed review of the arrangements being made at the Shrine by different Departments for the annual Urs observation.

On the occasion, the ADC also interacted with the Shrine Management and sought details about the requirements for the Urs.

The Senior Officers of Police and line Departments who accompanied the ADC on the occasion briefed him about the arrangements their respective Departments are making to ensure smooth observance of the Urs.

The ADC stressed the Officers and other stakeholders to ensure all requisite facilities and arrangements are made available for devotees well in advance.

PAG J&K Organizes Essay Writing Competition In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Office of the Principal Accountant General, Jammu & Kashmir on Friday organizes the National Essay Writing Competition 2024 at its Srinagar office.

The event is part of a nationwide initiative organized by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, taking place across all states and union territories from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Keral Prasad Yadav, Principal Accountant General (Audit), highlighted the role of the CAG in identifying deficiencies in

government programs and suggesting corrective measures. "We assist in supporting the management of government departments. Today's competition aims to raise awareness about the CAG's role," he said.

The competition, according to an official statement, was simultaneously at the Head Office in Srinagar and the Branch Office in Jammu. The event saw enthusiastic participation from numerous college students who showcased their essay-writing talents. Participants were allowed to write in either Hindi or English.



Assembly Elections-2024

DEO Reviews Preparations For Vote Counting At SKICC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Counting of votes of Eight 8 Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District for General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited SKICC-Centaur to review the arrangements being made for the seamless Counting process.

The DEO also took stock of the security measures made in and around the Counting Centre's.

During the visit, the DEO along with the concerned Officer took a thorough inspection of the arrangements with regard to the preparations made in and around the counting centers for a smooth and well organized counting process.

The DEO also finalized the surveillance & security measures, seating arrangements, transporting of EVMs and the technical setup at the Counting Halls to ensure transparency, accuracy and the timely announcement of counting results.

On the occasion, the DEO gave directions to the Officers of different line Departments for ensuring unint-

rupted power supply, adequate water supply, proper Internet facility, Media management, entry passes and other necessary measures to be put in place ahead of Counting.

While interacting with the Officers at the venue, the DEO stressed on ensuring seamless arrangements and facilities in place for counting centers, strong rooms, CCTV links and training of manpower for upholding the sanctity and integrity of the democratic ethos.

The DEO emphasized that the counting process will be done as per ECI guidelines under video recording.

The EVMs are presently kept under three-layer security cordon in strong rooms at SKICC-Centaur, after the voting process was completed on September 25, 2024.

Counting of votes for all Eight Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District is scheduled on (Tuesday) October 08, 2024 at designated Counting Halls at SKICC-Centaur.

Returning Officers, various Nodal Officers, Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar and other concerned accompanied the DEO during the visit.

Trainings For Counting Staff Culminates

Srinagar: The Final Phase of Training for the Counting Staff whose services shall be utilized for counting of Electronic as well as Postal Votes in Srinagar District concluded here today.

The Trainings were conducted on the directions of District Election Officer (DEO), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat to ensure fair and hassle-free counting of Votes for General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024 in all Eight Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District.

Earlier, District Election Authority Srinagar imparted training to general Counting Staff, Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro-Observers for counting of votes in all Eight Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar District.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders (www.irops.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	251-Elect-T-39/2024-25	
Name of work	Electrical work in c/w Upgradation/Improvement of Makhui, Firozpur City, Fazilka, Guru Harsahai, Kotkapura, Goniana Bhai Jagta & Jalalabad goods shed under SSE/P/FZR	
Approx. Cost (in ₹)	1,63,94,677.75	Earnest money (in ₹) 2,32,000/-
Completion period	06 Months	
Opening of Tender	22.10.2024 after 15:00 hrs.	
Website Particulars	www.irops.gov.in	

No.: 251-Elect/T, Notice No. 32-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 01.10.2024 3047/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ghazala Masood Wafai to Ghazala Masoodi. In future I will be known as Ghazala Masoodi. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within seven days. After seven days, no objection will be accepted.

mdl

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my daughter's name from Khadijah Masood Wafai to Khadijah Wafai. In future, she will be known as Khadijah Wafai. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within seven days. After seven days, no objection will be accepted.

mdl

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

- 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
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 06
ZUHR	12:20
ASR	4: 31
Magrib	6:16
ISHA	7: 37

This Day In History

- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik 1, 1st artificial Earth satellite
- 1958 - Fifth Republic of France is established.
- 1959 - Netherlands beats Belgium 9-1
- 1959 - USSR Luna 3 sent back 1st photos of Moon's far side
- 1964 - 3 cars of a commuter train derailed in South Africa killing 81
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 7; crash lands on Moon
- 1967 - Omar Ali Saifuddin III of Brunei abdicates in favour of his son, His Majesty Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah.
- 1968 - A Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) delegation meet with the Derry March organisers and try to have the march cancelled; eventually it was decided to go ahead with the march.
- 1975 - A Cessna 310Q airplane crashes over Wilmington, North Carolina, killing the pilot and severely injuring several pro wrestlers affiliated with the NWA's Mid-Atlantic promotion. One of the survivors is the legendary Ric Flair.
- 1976 - Official launch of the Intercity 125 High Speed Train (HST).
- 1978 - Funeral services held for Pope John Paul I
- 1982 - West German parliament officially confirms Helmut Kohl as the country's new Chancellor
- 1985 - Free Software Foundation is founded in Massachusetts, USA
- 1990 - Regional elections held in East Germany
- 1993 - Troops of President Boris Yeltsin occupy Russian White House (parliament)

From KO Archives

IAS Officer, Others Face Prosecution For Fraud

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Kashmiri officialdom was never very particular about how contemptibly low it stoops to plunder public funds, but it must have required an unusual degree of meanness to cheat backward Gujjars and Bakarwaals of their paltry government compensation for losses suffered due to hailstorms and heavy rain. In this 7-year-old case, the then deputy commissioner Pulwama - incidentally, a senior IAS officer - S. D. Lone; another deputy commissioner, Muhammed Akram Hajam; the then assistant commissioner - revenue, and presently director, land records, Srinagar, Muhammed Afzal Bhat and the then tehsildar Pulwama, Habibullah Mir, along with nearly half-a-dozen petty officials of the district DCs office have been challenged by the vigilance organisation for misappropriating Rs 15 lakh which the state had sanctioned as relief to the nomads for livestock losses during natural calamities in the hilly areas of Shopny-an and Pulwama. The entire amount had been placed at the disposal of the then DC, who had been charged with the responsibility of disbursing it to the deserving members of the community after proper verification.

Vigilance investigations revealed that the officers named in the case, in collusion with four private persons (who have asked been charge sheeted had manipulated records to show that Rs 14,80,940 had been distributed among 652 members of the Gujjar and bakarwala community.

Sixty-two persons among the supposed beneficiaries selected at random by the VO, denied having received any relief, and the finger impressions on acquaintance rolls did not tally with the fingerprints. Expert established that thumb impressions supposed to be the marks of 181 different recipients were in fact the thumbprints of only a few people repeated over and over on the rolls. The VO also found that recipients who were shown belonging to the Udhampur and Rajoun districts were only fictitious names and that Rs 3,75,090 were deposited with Reshi Gas Agency rather than going to a sufferer.

Having prima-facie established the officers' involvement in the fraud; the VO has pressed charges against them under relevant laws before the special anti-corruption court in Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, October 05, 2000)

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Social Media Spotlight

"The results may be out only on the 8th but rest assured the 4D chess has commenced. Much will obviously play out far away from the media glare. Except for poplars nothing is straight in Kashmir." - Iltija Mufti on X

"Kuch toh log kahenge, logon ka kaam hai kehna, Chodo bekaar ki baaton mein, kahin beet na jaye rainaa" — Safia Abdullah Khan on X

"That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach, said Aldous Huxley" — via An-cap Quotes



Did You Know?

Stock Market fluctuations are Part and Parcel for Investing

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing is influenced by events like wars, pandemics, and scandals. Investors stay strategic. Diversification and a long-term perspective are keys to navigating volatility and seizing growth opportunities. Remember, corrections can lead to future gains. Market fluctuations are a common occurrence in the financial world, often triggered by events like international conflicts, major political shifts, or natural disasters.

Historical examples such as the Harshad Mehta and Ketan Parekh scandals, the dot-com bubble burst, the 2008 Lehman Brothers collapse, and the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic highlight how these events significantly affect stock markets, albeit usually on a short-term basis. Even events like World War II have historically impacted financial markets. It's crucial for investors to understand that while markets quickly reflect negative news, these fluctuations are typically temporary. Market corrections and crashes should be viewed as natural phenomena. For instance, if the Nifty index rises by 30% over a year and then corrects by 5-10%, the overall gain still remains substantial, showcasing how such corrections are part of the normal market cycle.

Adopting a strategic approach to investing is essential. With about 90% of stocks on exchanges not being worthwhile investments, some investors fall into the trap of making poor choices due to bad advice or misleading information. This underscores the importance of aligning investments with sound financial principles to surpass average market returns. If the Nifty gains 30%, an effective financial advisor should aim for a 40-45% gain by outperforming the market. Diversification is key to maintaining a robust portfolio. Spreading investments across different sectors and industries helps minimize risk and seize growth opportunities. Market downturns often present golden opportunities to invest more, whether through mutual funds, quality ETFs, or strong individual stocks. This reinforces the idea that a declining market can be a gateway to future gains instead of losses. In summary, while market fluctuations can be unsettling, they are an inherent part of investing. Maintaining a long-term perspective and diversifying investments are crucial. Viewing market turbulence as an opportunity, rather than a setback, can lead to substantial gains and a more resilient portfolio over time.

Conclusion

Market fluctuations are a natural part of investing, often influenced by global events like conflicts, politics, or disasters. Historical dips, from the dot-com collapse to the COVID-19 pandemic, remind us these are usually short-lived. With strategic investing, proper guidance, and diversification, downturns can turn into opportunities. Stay the course and remember: a long-term perspective is key to navigating the financial landscape.

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



Beyond Voting

Hold Your Representatives Accountable Through Right to Information



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The J&K Assembly elections concluded on October 1st. These elections were held in three phases. As per the official statement of Chief Electoral Officer of J&K, after the conclusion of the all three phases, the poll percentage was about 63.45%. Hence, the voter turnout was more than that of the Parliamentary elections held recently. Now, people eagerly await the results which are going to be announced on the 8th of October.

Hold MLAs Accountable

Many citizens are under the impression that their jobs are done now and that they have no role to play after casting their votes. Even politicians think that once elected as Members of Legislative Assembly, they can take a backseat and not held accountable.

However, the job of the citizen moves beyond choosing representatives. It is the legal right of citizens to hold their elected representatives accountable. This right extends to all citizens and not just those who voted for that particular candidate. Once elected, the MLA is accountable to all citizens who voted for him, who didn't vote for him and even those who didn't vote at all. All citizens have the right to access information about the funds allocated to MLAs by the Government under Constituency Development Funds (CDF).

Even as the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) is not a public authority but by virtue of being an elected representative, he/she/they are accountable under various transparency laws especially the Right to Information Act (RTI). An MLA also gets salary from the Government treasury – funded by the taxpayer's money – which too makes them accountable under law.

Therefore, the job of citizens of J&K has not ended but has only begun now. As aware citizens with rights guaranteed by the constitution, they must remain vigilant and continue to hold their representatives accountable.

Right to Information and MLA's accountability

Right to information, which is the most popular, reformative and progressive law in Indian political and administrative history, is a powerful tool that can be used by citizens to hold MLAs accountable.

During the Lok Sabha elections of 2004, the Indian National Congress had promised the enactment of a progressive Right to Information act in their manifesto. In 2005, The UPA-1 Govt, headed

by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, had introduced the RTI bill in parliament in 2005 when it became a law.

In J&K, the RTI was passed for the first time in 2004 by PDP-Congress coalition Govt. However, when National Conference-Congress Govt came to power after the 2008 elections, a better version of RTI law was passed by the J&K legislature on March 20th, 2009.

The National Conference had also made RTI a part of their 2008 election manifesto and this author along with other colleagues had done a lot of advocacy around this issue at the time. After abrogation of Article 370, the J&K RTI Act 2009 was repealed along with dozens of erstwhile state laws, even as J&K's RTI law was better than the central act. Yet, from October 31st 2019, the RTI Act 2005 (Central law) became applicable in J&K.

This law empowers the citizens against administrative corruption and erratic/wrong administration. This act discloses the Governmental and Administrative functions, programs and process related information to every common man.

To make an MLA accountable one has to file an RTI application before the Public Information Officer (PIO) in the office of the Secretary State Legislative Assembly. We can also seek information about MLAs and their funds from the PIO in the office of Deputy Commissioner of the district. We can seek details of the spendings of the MLAs regarding their Constituency Development Fund (CDF). This information should be made proactively available by the DC office on their website as mandated under Section 4 of RTI Act 2005. The MLA while submitting his nomination papers also makes a declaration about his property. There is, therefore, no secret in the already declared details about property, qualifications, criminal antecedents, family members and their properties etc. This information can be availed by the citizens from ECI website.



Citizen, MP, MLA have similar rights

Section 8 (1) (J) of RTI Act 2005 clearly states that information which cannot be denied to a Member of Parliament or State Legislature (MLA) cannot be denied to a citizen. The relevant section reads:

“The job of citizens of J&K has not ended but has only begun now. As aware citizens with rights guaranteed by the constitution, they must remain vigilant and continue to hold their representatives accountable

“Provided that the information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person.”

About a decade back, Govt of India through its Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), issued guidelines directing all the public authorities, Public Informa-

tion Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) at the Central and State level to implement the RTI Act 2005 in letter and spirit.

Additionally, a clear direction was given to them to follow this provision, as the RTI gives the citizens a right to information at par with the Members of Parliament (MPs) and the Members of the State Legislatures (MLAs). Unfortunately, the PIOs and FAAs continue to decline information and the matter goes to Information Commissions who often order disclosure of information.

Regime of Participatory Democracy

RTI is a tool to transform electoral democracy into Participatory Democracy. After casting votes, people in general are under the impression that their job is done but as citizens they have a great role especially when we have laws like Right to Information Act (RTI) or Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). Participatory democracy is a form of democracy in which citizens are involved in the decision-making process of aspects especially affecting their lives. Gram Sabha or Halqa Majlis under J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989 is one of the best examples of Participatory Democracy. The J&K Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA) that was enacted by NC-Congress Govt in 2010 is still intact and was not repealed post 370 abrogation but its implementation has been very bad in the last 5 years and people are deprived of different public services within stipulated time.

These acts can give our citizens a central role in the decision making through various means like public discussion, negotiations and local development. Participatory democracy strives to create opportunities for all members of a population to make meaningful contributions to public policy.

Conclusion

The Right to Information (RTI) Act of 2005 gives citizens the right to access information from public authorities. Even as central RTI is applicable in J&K for five years now, its implementation has been poor. Now, more than ever, the government needs to take steps to strengthen its implementation so citizens can hold their representatives accountable. The government has several duties under the RTI Act 2005 which includes creating public education, training the officers and making voluntary disclosure of information as mandated under section 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act 2005. Merely voting or participating in rallies of political leaders is not democracy but holding the elected representatives accountable is also our right as well as duty, and RTI is the best tool to do so.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement

BOOK REVIEW

The Impending Two-Front War

A Review of China's War Clouds

Anuraag Khaund

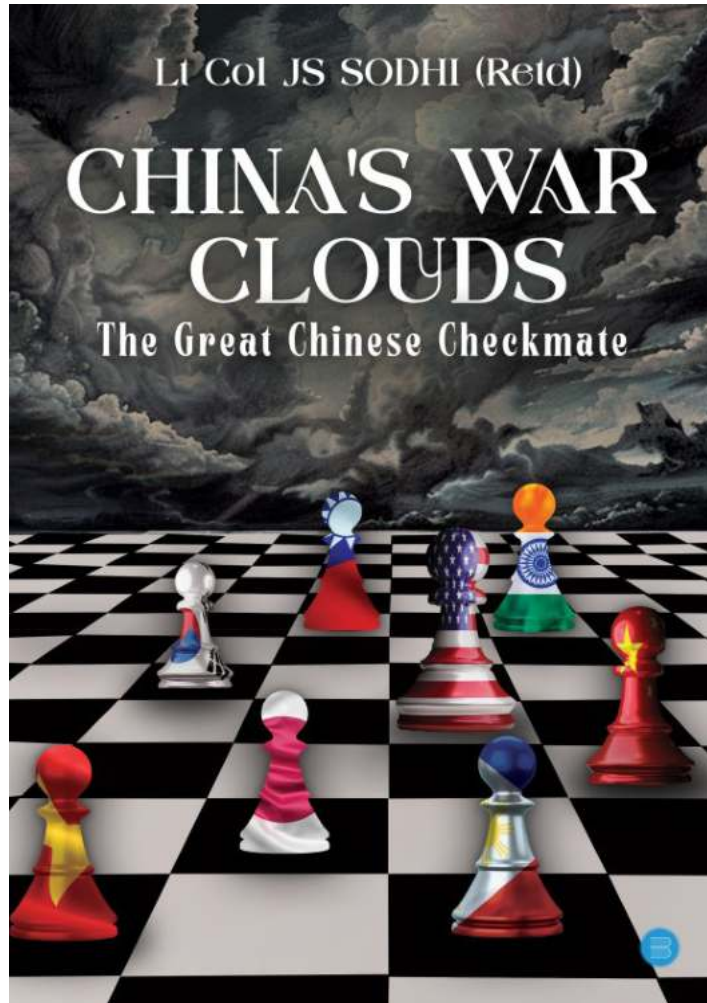
No country has grasped the current geopolitical thinking and imagination of India and the world like China. The clashes and skirmishes between the troops of the Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Galwan on June 2020 along the western sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after 53 years of relative calm have triggered a massive re-evaluation and re-examination of the whole spectrum of relationship between the two Asian powers. China's War Clouds- The Great Chinese Checkmate by Lt Col JS Sodhi (Retd) is a product of the aforementioned re-examination which focuses on the near- and long-term military threat faced by India from China in conjunction with the latter's South Asian ally Pakistan. The background of the book is set by an article published in the pro-Beijing daily Wenweipo on 8 July, 2013 which lists the six wars that China is slated to fight in the next 50 years of which three form separate chapters within the book- War for Taiwan in 2025-2030, War for Spratly Islands in 2025-2030 and the Two-Front War against India by China and Pakistan in 2035-2040.

The book begins with a brief but comprehensive description of the topography and geographical features of the territory constituting the People's Republic of China (PRC). Its diverse features such as the Gobi and the Taklamakan Deserts in its north, the Himalayas, Pamirs, Tian Shan and the Karakoram Mountain Ranges in the west, the sub-tropical forests in the south and the 14,500 km coastline in the east are explained not only in terms of their terrain but also the strategic, economic, and military advantages or vulnerabilities offered by the latter. For instance, the eastern part of China including the coastline as well as the North Plain, dubbed as the cradle of Chinese Civilization, is the economic centre and the most populous part of the country which houses the capital Beijing as well as important cities like Tianjin, Jinan, and Zhengzhou. This part is the one most vulnerable to external aggression and any attack in the coastline would cut off China from the rest of the world. Hence, the security of this region is most crucial for Beijing and also constitutes, as per Sodhi, a core reason behind Chinese interest in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as the latter's terrain allows Indian missiles to target the Chinese eastern 'critical belly'.

The next two chapters focus briefly on the trajectory of development in China during the era of Mao Tse Dong and Deng Xiaoping. The major reason behind this is to highlight the importance of economic power in the building of military power as Sodhi begins the chapter on Mao with the American scholar Jon Meacham's quote- "... No great military

power has ever remained so without great economic power." As per Sodhi, this dictum seems to have been followed in-depth by the Chinese administration as it rose from the famine and impoverished nation of the Mao era to the opening up and setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the Deng era (also known as the period of Boluan Fanzheng or 'Setting Things Right'/ economic prosperity) and onward to becoming the second-largest economy today.

The link between military and economic power is explored in the fourth chapter which focuses on the era of Xi Jinping from his ascendancy in 2012 till date. Underpinned by the economic rise and success since the Deng era and the confidence of having weathered the 2008 financial crisis with relatively little damage as compared to the West, Xi Jinping believed that the time had come to realise the China Dream or the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation to become a 'modern, prosperous, and strong socialist nation'. It was under Xi that the PLA underwent significant reforms including theaterization of the Military Commands, enhancement of the Chinese nuclear arsenal and the expansion of its PLA Navy and naval capabilities including shipbuilding capacity even surpassing the US Navy in 2023. Most importantly, it was under Xi that in 2014 the PLA declared in its military doctrine its ability to fight a war with any country in all six domains- land, sea, air, cyber, electromagnetic spectrum, and space. Given the importance of the latter three domains in today's wars, China established the PLA Strategic Support Force (PLASSF) in 2015 and invested heavily in the development of manufacturing capabilities as well as Research & Development (R&D) in fields such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), aerospace, semiconductors, 5G technology and biotechnology under programs such as the Made in China 2025 and the New Generation AI Development Plan of 2030- highlighting the linkage between R&D, economic and military power. Further buttressing the linkage between economic and military is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) announced by Xi in 2013 which envisages re-connecting the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe through mega-investment projects such as ports, roads, bridges, railway lines and dams. Supported by surplus Chinese capital and overcapacity, BRI projects such as the flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connecting the Pakistani port of Gwadar with the Xinjiang province and the development of ports along the Indian Ocean such as Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Cox Bazar in Bangladesh and Kyaukpyu in Myanmar are aimed at encircling India on both land and sea under the garb of economic investments by Beijing. The next two chapters focus on



Book- China's War Clouds- The Great Chinese Checkmate

Author- Lt Col JS Sodhi (Retd)

Publisher- Bluerose Publishers, 2024



Finally, Sodhi spells out India-specific measures for New Delhi to counter China. The first and foremost is the clarion call to not let internal fissures of the country be utilised by the dis-information and propaganda machines of China and Pakistan

the wars over Taiwan and Spratly Islands in 2027 and 2029 respectively as per Sodhi. On Taiwan, along with external strategic reasons, Sodhi opines that the attack on Taiwan would be necessitated by two major internal factors - to provide justification before the National Congress of 2028 for the amendments to the Chinese Constitution and the removal of presidential terms by Xi Jinping back in 2018 and to cement the legacy of Xi Jinping on the lines of Mao and Deng in Chinese consciousness as the latter, around 71 years of age, grows old with not much time left (the average life expect-

tancy of a Chinese male being 78 years). After having annexed Taiwan, the PLAN would next set out to turn the South China Sea (SCS) into a 'Chinese lake' which would allow Beijing greater control over its resources as well as the major Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) such as the Malacca. Here, Sodhi also opines that by this time in 2029, China would have become the largest trading partner with most of the countries and hence would be able to tide over the US sanctions over Taiwan and the Spratly.

The seventh chapter focuses on the two-front war to be waged by China and Pakistan on India which constitutes one of the most expansive chapters. As a prelude, the first sections focus on the uneasy and conflicted nature of Indo-Pakistani and Sino-Indian ties since 1947 and 1962 respectively culminating in the Galwan clashes of 2020. Here, Sodhi opines that the two major reasons behind the current Chinese aggression in Ladakh are the increasing Indo-US defence and security partnership which gained traction under PM Modi and the abrogation of Article 370 ending the special status of the erstwhile Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and its transformation into a Union Territory (UT) along with Ladakh. With reference to the Chinese suspicion of Indo-US convergence on China,

Sodhi could be said to have views similar with those of Shyam Saran whose work How China Sees India and the World published in 2022 mentions about the Chinese fear and paranoia of a possible US assault from Indian soil. The section on the two-front war against India in 2035 is laid in the backdrop of increasing military to military ties between the Pakistani Army and the PLA including posting of Pakistani officers in Western Theatre Command as well as the regular presence of PLA troops in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) including Gilgit Baltistan since 2010. Along with its control over ports such as Hambantota, Gwadar and Kyaukphu, the PLA assault on India in 2035 will be staged from both the land along with Pakistan and by the sea by the PLAN after China has compromised Indian cyber and intelligence capabilities in the cyber, space and electromagnetic spectrum in the initial stage of the war. The threat of such a two-front war has also been expressed by Ambassador Vijay Gokhale who opined of a 'strategic squeeze' against India from the land and the sea by China after the annexation of Taiwan.

The last chapter constitutes the most important part of the book providing recommendations for the world and particularly India on how to counter the Chinese checkmate. Having established the link between China's increasing military capabilities and its economic clout, Sodhi calls upon countries to curtail its economic and trade dependence on China- echoes of which can be seen in the calls for 'de-risking' as well as in initiatives such as 'China plus one'. In the case of India, while lauding the spirit behind initiatives such as Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) as well as the success achieved in critical areas such as the defence sector, Sodhi also focuses on the still continuing Indian trade dependency with China which stood at an all-time high of 136.2 billion USD in 2023. This situation is further compounded by the dependency of industries such as electronics, renewable energy and pharmaceuticals in India upon imports of components such as batteries and circuits and pharmaceutical inputs from China, thereby also compromising the 'de-risking' strategy. Here, Sodhi calls upon all sectors of the Indian economy as well as businessmen to put national security over profits and try to either import the same components from other countries or substitute them with domestic developments. The need to diversify and reduce supply chain reliance on China became urgent in the eve of the recent pager blasts in Lebanon believed to have been caused by the compromising of the pagers' supply chain allegedly by Israel. Who knows China might be tempted to do the same in India during the war in 2035?

Along with the above, Sodhi

also calls for India to increase its spending on R&D especially in the fields of AI and disruptive technologies while also calling for a hike in defence spending of all the nations, who along with India will face China in the battlefield- Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea in the hope that increased combat potentialities of the latter would prevent the war in Taiwan or Spratly Islands from ever taking place. Sodhi goes even further to call for the formation of a military alliance between these six nations along with the USA. However, it would seem far-fetched for the time being given the diverse equations or relationship existing between China and each of these countries individually which range from confrontation, competition to balancing and hedging. For instance, India itself has been called out for its hesitation to openly declare the Chinese threat within groupings such as QUAD.

Finally, Sodhi spells out India-specific measures for New Delhi to counter China. The first and foremost is the clarion call to not let internal fissures of the country be utilised by the dis-information and propaganda machines of China and Pakistan. In this regard, he also rightly calls out the politicians to reduce the tenor of their election rhetoric which might deepen the fissures of caste, race, and religion. Secondly, he calls for the adoption of a whole-of-a-nation approach to counter China by including not just the government and armed forces but even private business players and the common citizenry and to that end proposes the formal adoption of a National Security Strategy (NSS) in the public domain. Lastly, given his own experience in the Indian Army, Sodhi then focuses on the reforms to be undertaken by the Armed Forces including re-examining the pros and cons of the 2022 Agnipath recruitment scheme and the withdrawal of Army personnel from Counter-Insurgency Operations (CI Ops) in order to focus more on honing their combat potential, preparedness and skills for the impending two-front war mentioned above. In addition, Sodhi unequivocally declares that India should treat China as the main threat with Pakistan being a subset of this threat and not vice-versa as still done by certain media channels and politicians.

The easy, accessible language and the lucid explanation of complex geopolitical and military concepts makes this book a must read for every aware citizen of India, ranging from a policymaker to a college going student.

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Loss, Grief, and Resilience

Froma Walsh

In these turbulent times, families have suffered devastating losses of loved ones, from the anguish of COVID-related deaths to gun violence, drug overdose, suicide, environmental disasters, and war. More attention is urgently needed in marriage and family therapy training and practice to help the bereaved heal and forge pathways to live and love fully beyond loss.

Attending to death and loss: A shared human experience

Of all life experiences, death and loss pose the most painful challenges for surviving loved ones. Yet, with our cultural aversion to facing death, the profound impact of these losses is minimized. Many are isolated in their grief, lacking vital connection, understanding, and support. Recovery is hindered by workplace de-

mands, a lack of paid bereavement leave, financial duress, and barriers to resources that disproportionately affect racial/ethnic minorities and other marginalized communities. In our faulty notions of resilience, the bereaved are often urged to quickly gain "closure," "bounce back," and move on, and are advised to "keep strong" and count their blessings. Caring spouses, family, and friends who are uncomfortable and unsure of what to say or do may withdraw over time. Too often, grief is unacknowledged or minimized, as in pregnancy loss or the death of a cherished pet. COVID-related losses may be suppressed by understandable wishes to put the pandemic behind us (Walsh, 2020; 2023).

A hole in the heart of the family

Most grief treatment mod-



els focus on reducing individual symptoms. A systemic practice approach is vital to humanize our understanding and expand our attention to influences in family and social contexts in suffering and

healing. We address the impact of loss in couple bonds, among siblings, and in the family system, affecting all members, their relationships, and family functioning. Stressful adaptational challenges-

as with the loss of a caregiver or breadwinner—compound distress. Rippling through kinship networks, loss touches many lives with immediate and long-term ramifications. Couples and family bonds can be broken; hopes and dreams are shattered. Submerged pain of overwhelming loss can surface years later in problems with life pursuits or other relationships, which may bring people to therapy.

Resilience-oriented, systemic practice with loss and grief

Best practices in helping bereaved clients are informed by early family systems studies and a growing body of grief research:

- Mourning and adaptation are varied and complex processes over time. There is no right way to grieve, no timetable, and

- no fixed sequence of stages to complete resolution. Attention oscillates between grieving and addressing adaptive challenges.
- We heal through our grief, not by getting over it.
- People die; relationships do not. Adaptation is facilitated not by detaching but by transforming attachments into continuing bonds through spiritual connections, rituals, memories, stories, and deeds.

A resilience-oriented systemic approach applies core principles and methods of strength-based, collaborative practice (Walsh, 2023). Therapists provide a safe haven and compassionate listening and inquiry to understand the shared and unique experiences of loss. We de-pathologize and humanize grief processes and support the inherent human capacity for resilience, helping

those who are struggling to cope, adapt, and thrive. We repair connections and communication to strengthen kin and social support, mobilize community and larger systemic supports, and tap cultural and spiritual resources. In complex and traumatic loss situations, we attend to conflictual or estranged relational dynamics and deep concerns that complicate grief. Applying the research-informed Family Resilience Framework (Walsh, 2016), we strengthen key relational processes—shared beliefs and practices—that facilitate resilience. We highlight the power of connection, meaning-making, hope, and transformation for individuals, families, and their communities to heal from unbearable loss and go forward to thrive.

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CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Be Ready For

is working everywhere with a special method, but the operations room is the same and they take orders from there. If the enemy is relieved of one country, he will go to the next country," he said.

Sayed Khamenei stated that every community has the right to defend its sovereignty and self-determination against occupiers, asserting that no international law prevents Palestinians from defending their land and exercising their duty in liberating their land, and further adding that no one has the right to oppose Hezbollah for its decision to support the Palestinian people.

He urged nations from "Afghanistan to Yemen and from Iran to Gaza and Yemen" to be ready to take action against the enemy, and praised those who had died doing so.

"Our resisting people in Lebanon and Palestine, you brave fighters, you loyal and patient people, these martyrdoms and the blood that was shed shouldn't shake your determination but make you more persistent," he said.

Friday prayers followed a commemoration ceremony for Sayyed Nasrallah. Most high-ranking Iranian officials, including President Masoud Pezeshkian and top Revolutionary Guard generals, attended the ceremony.

Sayed Khamenei gave half of the speech in Arabic as he addressed his comments to Arab nations.

"Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is no longer among us physically, but his path and his resonant voice are and will continue to be with us. He was the articulate voice and brave supporter of the oppressed."

Ayatollah Khamenei described Nasrallah "my brother, my dear and my pride, the beloved face of the Islamic world, and the eloquent voice of the nations of the region, [and] the shining jewel of Lebanon".

"I felt it necessary to pay tribute to Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in the Friday prayer in Tehran, and to convey some notifications to everyone."

"The audience of this sermon is the whole Islamic world, but it is specially addressed to the dear nations of Lebanon and Palestine," he said.

"We are all saddened and mourned by the martyrdom of dear Sayyed. This is a great loss and we are deeply saddened, but our mourning does not mean depression, distress and despair.

"It is a kind of mourning for the Master of Martyrs Hussein ibn Ali. It is enlivening, instructive, motivating, and hopeful," the Leader said, referring to Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims.

Ayatollah Khamenei said though Nasrallah's body has left this world, "his true personality, his soul, his way, and his expressive voice are still among us and will be with us forever".

He added that Hezbollah and its late leader are the essence of Lebanon's Resistance, "[an essence] we came to know through the graces it offered", highlighting that Hezbollah and its martyred leader have taken a vital step for peace for the entire region through their defence of Gaza.

"He was the high flag of resistance against oppressive and predatory demons - an eloquent voice and a brave defender of the oppressed. He was a source of encouragement and valor for fighters and rights seekers. His popularity and influence had gone beyond Lebanon, Iran and Arab countries, and now his martyrdom will increase this influence."

Ayatollah Khamenei said all Muslims are bound to "pay their debt to the wounded and bloody Lebanon".

"Hezbollah and the Martyr Sayyed, by defending Gaza and Jihad for Al-Aqsa Mosque and striking the usurping and tyrannical regime, took a step in the path of vital service to the entire region and the entire Islamic world," the Leader said.

He said the adamancy of the US and its allies on protecting Israel is a "cover for the deadly policy of turning the usurping regime into their tool to take over all the resources of this region and use it in major global conflicts".

"Their policy is to turn the regime into a gateway for the export of energy from the region to the Western world and the import of goods and technology from the West to the region.

"This tells us that every attack on the regime by anyone and every group is a service to the entire region and to the entire humanity," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei last led Friday prayers in January 2020 after Iran fired missiles at a US army base in Iraq, in response to assassination of popular Iranian commander General Qassem Soleimani.

During the sermon, thousands gathered at Tehran's Mossala (Prayer Ground), where a large poster of Nasrallah was displayed. Worshipers waved Lebanese, Hezbollah and Palestinian flags, chanting slogans in support of Hezbollah.

Three-Tier Security

Our teams are well-equipped and ready for the task at hand,"

To ensure a hassle-free experience on counting day, essential infrastructure and safety measures have been put in place. "Basic facilities like washrooms and drinking water will be available for everyone involved. We've also taken precautions by implementing fire safety measures and stationing medical staff on standby for any emergencies," they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, the first since the region's reorganization, has garnered significant attention nationwide. The counting of votes, set to take place under the strict supervision of the Election Commission, is being closely monitored as the Union Territory awaits the results from its constituencies. (KINS)

Jaishankar To Visit

Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16.

The last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend

a conference on Afghanistan.

The announcement on Jaishankar's visit was made by external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

"The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit which will be held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," he said at his weekly media briefing.

The spokesperson clarified that the external affairs minister is travelling to Pakistan only to attend the SCO summit.

In August, Pakistan invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the SCO's summit. Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan assumes significance as it is seen as a major decision on New Delhi's part.

The decision to send the senior minister is seen as a display of India's commitment to the SCO which has been playing a key role in boosting regional security cooperation.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India on August 5, 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two union territories.

Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with India after New Delhi abrogated Article 370.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engagement.

Pakistan's then foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited India in May 2023 to attend an in-person meeting of the foreign ministers of SCO nations in Goa.

It was the first visit of a Pakistani foreign minister to India in almost 12 years.

The SCO council of heads of government conclave is the second-highest platform in the grouping.

The SCO heads of state summit is the top most forum in the grouping that is generally attended by the Indian prime minister.

The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

India was the chair of the SCO last year. It hosted the SCO summit in the virtual format in July last year.

India's association with the SCO began in 2005 as an observer country. It became a full member state of SCO at the Astana summit in 2017.

India has shown a keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan became its permanent member along with India in 2017.

LG Has No Right

"The power to nominate five MLAs lies solely with an elected government. These powers cannot be exercised by the lieutenant governor (LG) in the absence of an elected body," he added.

The National Conference leader said it is the prerogative of an elected government as per the Constitution to nominate the MLAs and not the lieutenant governor.

Gupta explained that all legislative powers, including the authority to nominate the MLAs, shift to the government after the elections.

"In a democratic set up, the elected government must have the authority to make these

nominations. The LG, though part of the administration, does not have the constitutional right to take such decisions in the presence of an elected government," he said.

Accusing the BJP of resorting to unethical practices, the National Conference leader said, "Having lost the assembly polls, the BJP has now turned to desperate measures, including indulging in horse-trading by approaching independent candidates."

He further said this tactic reflects the BJP's unwillingness to respect the democratic will of people and their attempts

to manipulate the political landscape in their favour.

"Instead of accepting the mandate of the electorate, the BJP is actively working behind the scenes to sway independent representatives and subvert the electoral process," Gupta said, adding such actions undermine the very foundation of democracy and erode public trust in fair governance.

He asserted the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a government that is chosen by their votes, not one cobbled together through questionable deals and backdoor alliances.

Gupta emphasized the National Conference remains committed to upholding the constitutional and democratic processes, and warned against any actions that undermine these principles in Jammu and Kashmir.

The lieutenant governor will nominate these members based on the advice of the Home Ministry. This process follows an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 which was further revised on July 26, 2023 to introduce these nominations.

In such a situation, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will expand to 95 members, increasing the majority threshold to 48 seats to form a government.

No Backchannel

in the union territory.

"The JKNC categorically denies the unfounded rumours of back channel talks with any party outside the INDIA Bloc. Those sensing their impending defeat have resorted to spreading such baseless accusations," the NC said in a statement.

A post on X by former Srinagar mayor Junaid Azim Mattu late on Thursday night claiming that "NC-BJP negotiations have clearly commenced" fanned the speculation.

"NC leadership is now speaking to authorised representatives from the BJP and an unofficial mediator is 'mediating'. Initial groundwork includes the creation of a 'larger interest' fig-leaf to justify the betrayal in Kashmir," Mattu said.

He claimed NC president Farooq Abdullah met a BJP representative in Pahalgam.

"Which BJP representative did Dr. Farooq Abdullah meet at Pahalgam not once but twice? What negotiations are being held in Pahalgam? What happened to all the stentorian rhetoric of BJP being forbidden and prohibited? The more that things change, the more they remain the same," he added.

The NC urged the public "who have placed their trust in us" to disregard these false claims and not be swayed by rumour-mongering.

NC sources said Abdullah was in Pahalgam for a golf tournament.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections were held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will take place on October 8.

'Resist Pressure

chief minister/elected government and assign the same to the LG?" Abdullah said in a post on X.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K said he has received information internally from the civil secretariat about the LG administration's move.

"Officers would be well advised to resist any pressure to further disempower the incoming elected government," Abdullah added.

BJP Leaders Meet

explore options for the BJP to establish the next government in J&K. Madhav previously played a key role in the formation of the BJP-PDP government in the region and helping to develop the 'agenda of alliance'—(KNO)

Friday Protests

where protesters raised slogans and held placards, many of which featured images of Nasrallah.

Demonstrators expressed their grief over the

loss of Nasrallah and the ongoing casualties in Palestine. Many were seen shedding tears during the rally.

Crowds gathered in various neighbourhoods of Srinagar and Baramulla, slamming Israel's actions and chanting slogans of resistance.

"We cannot remain silent while innocent lives are destroyed," a protester said.

Protests were not limited to Baramulla; key areas in Srinagar, including Pantha Chowk, Lal Chowk, Nowhatta and along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway, also witnessed demonstrations. However, the largest turnout was reported in Singhpora Pattan, Baramulla.

The ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel has been a longstanding flashpoint. Hassan Nasrallah, a Lebanese cleric and the secretary-general of Hezbollah, was reportedly killed, as stated by the group on September 28.

According to reports, the Israeli military claimed responsibility for Nasrallah's death, saying that he was killed in an airstrike on Hezbollah's central headquarters in the southern suburbs of Beirut. (KNO)

Delhi HC Closes

had on Thursday claimed that Wangchuk was not "totally free" despite Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's claim that he had been released, told the bench that there was "no restriction" on his movement "as of this morning".

Mehta said there was "never any hindrance" and factually incorrect statements were being made.

Bhushan, however, argued that issues arising from the Delhi Police's order prohibiting assembly and protests were still alive as it was passed in a cavalier manner and later withdrawn before the court hearing with the intent to prevent the activist and his group from entering the city.

"In case he is free, leave it at that then. Today, in the morning on YouTube I saw his interview with a TV journalist last night," Justice Manmohan told the petitioner's lawyer.

The bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, added that it would look into the issue of passing of prohibitory orders "in a better case" and took on record Bhushan's statement that he wished to withdraw the petition.

Around 120 people from Ladakh, including Wangchuk, were allegedly detained at the Delhi border by police on Monday night while marching to the capital to demand the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Sixth Schedule pertains to the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram as "autonomous districts and autonomous regions". Wangchuk was leading the march, 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra', which began from Leh a month ago.

Tushar Mehta on Thursday told the court that Wangchuk and his associates had been released from detention and the Delhi Police order prohibiting assembly and protests in various parts of Delhi has also been withdrawn.

According to the September 30 order issued from the Delhi Police headquarters, the police commissioner had instructed that Section 163 (earlier Section 144 of CrPC) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS) be imposed in New Delhi, North and Central districts and jurisdictions of all police stations sharing borders with other states from September 30 to October 5.

No Criminal Cases

after four weeks.

In his plea, Upadhyay has alleged that registration of the FIR against him was a clear attempt to "misuse" the law enforcement machinery of the state to "silence his voice" and it should be quashed to prevent any further harassment.

The plea, filed through advocate Anoop Prakash Awasthi, claimed that after his client did a story titled 'Yadav Raj versus Thakur Raj', he was named in the FIR registered at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on

September 20.

It said the FIR was filed under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 353 (2) (statements conducing to public mischief), 197(1)(C) (publishing imputations or assertions prejudicial to national integration), 356(2) (punishment for defamation) and 302 (uttering words etc. with deliberate intention to wound religious feelings of a person) and under the provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

The plea said the story, even when taken at its face value, did not disclose the commission of any offence.

"The reason for approaching this court is the threat of legal action by the official X handle of UP Police and the petitioner is not aware as to how many other FIRs are filed against him on the issue in the State of Uttar Pradesh or anywhere else," it said.

Mirwaiz Offers

limiting in giving any real power to its residents. In Jammu and Kashmir, it was rendered almost meaningless after further amendments were made to the Reorganisation Act, giving further sweeping executive powers to the lieutenant governor.

"Yet the kind of disempowerment and dis-possession that we have witnessed since August 2019, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have some hope that it may give them some relief and say in their daily matters," the Mirwaiz said.

The Hurriyat Conference chairman said, "We believe that civic elections for governance are no means to resolve this matter (Kashmir issue) and do not represent people's aspirations and sentiments with regard to the conflict."

He said it was "unfortunate" that at this crucial juncture, the regional political organisations and individuals could not jointly fight the great challenges before the people of the region.

"I hope that after the election results, these political parties and individuals will rise to the occasion and collectively prioritise peoples' interest and safeguard their rights, rather than personal and party interests," he added.

The separatist leader stressed that seeking peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue "is not our weakness, but our strength".

Commenting on the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Mirwaiz said the conflict is consuming the region and putting the entire world at great risk.

"The military domination of Israel and its refusal to resolve the conflict in a just and peaceful manner by accepting the natural rights of Palestinians over their land, and instead choosing force and military might, has made the whole region vulnerable leading to deaths of thousands of civilians including children which is deeply distressing," he said.

While the US is arming Israel with bombs and missiles and promoting its own arms industry, it is calling for a ceasefire, the Hurriyat leader said.

"These military powers just want an arms market, so conflicts are a great opportunity for them. We don't want such a situation in this region. That is why we repeatedly advocate peaceful means of outreach and dialogue.

"We already have the previous framework of dialogue from Vajpayee ji's and Manmohan Singh ji's time to begin with and work around," the Hurriyat chairman added.

HC Quashes

though, authorities had taken a stand against their own record, that the detainee had not filed representation against his detention, whereas, representation was stated to have been considered and rejected by the Government of J&K. "However, the same was not conveyed to the detainee (Tanseem), which vitiates the detention order impugned."

Subsequently, the court quashed the detention order dated 24 May last year passed by District Magistrate Pulwama against Tanseem and ordered his release forthwith if not required in any other case(s).



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OR SCAN



PDP Slams Nomination Of MLAs In J&K As "Humiliation To Democracy"

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday fiercely criticized the BJP's move to nominate five MLAs before government formation in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a direct affront to democracy. Dr. Mehboob Beg, senior PDP leader and former Parliamentarian, in an exclusive interview expressed serious concerns over the decision, stating that replacing elected representatives with nominated members is an assault on the already disenfranchised people of Jammu and Kashmir. Beg remarked, "Elected members represent the will of the people, and they cannot be substituted by nominees chosen by the Lieutenant Governor. This move is not just unhealthy, but it's also an insult to the democratic institution in the region. It appears the BJP is playing a dangerous game with national interests by undermining the essence of elections." He further criticized the BJP for conflating their party's interests with those of the nation. "The BJP is confusing the people. Their interests are not synonymous with national

interests. No responsible government would have taken such a step in the middle of crucial elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Comparing this to Pondicherry is demeaning. Jammu and Kashmir, once a fully empowered state, is now being reduced to a Union Territory - this was never part of the promise made to its people. It is a sheer humiliation," said Beg. Dr. Beg also pointed out the extraordinary intervention by the Supreme Court to ensure elections in J&K after a decade of stagnation. "Where else in the country does the Supreme Court have to intervene to safeguard the people's right to vote? Is holding elections in Kashmir a favor?" he questioned. On the political future of the PDP, Beg asserted that the party will play a pivotal role in the post-election landscape and is confident of securing the maximum number of seats. Addressing speculations about potential alliances, he emphasized that PDP's top priority is to prevent the BJP's "onslaught" in Kashmir. "Stopping the BJP's harmful agenda towards the people of Kashmir will be our only priority, and we will do whatever it takes to achieve that."—(KNO)

CS Reviews Convergence Action Plan For E-Shram Registered Workers



Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant initiative to enhance worker welfare, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, convened a meeting Friday to review the action plan focused on providing benefits of various schemes to workers registered on the e-Shram portal. Present in the meeting were Secretary, Labour and Employment; Principal Secretary, PDD; Commissioner, Secretary, IT; Secretary, Tribal Affairs; MD, JKRLM; Labour Commissioner; representatives from NIC and other concerned officers. The Chief Secretary enquired about saturation of ration cards among registered workers. He emphasized the need for issuance of ration cards to all eligible workers, directing the department to identify and fill existing gaps in coverage. This move is expected to bolster food security for many workers who may currently lack access to essential resources, he asserted. In a bid to enhance the efficacy of these initiatives, the Chief Secretary instructed all concerned departments to designate Nodal Officers of their department. These officers will be responsible for ensuring that the benefits of all schemes are effectively communicated and delivered to registered workers. He also emphasized

the importance of identifying eligible families for their comprehensive coverage. Dulloo called upon the departments such as Social Welfare, Health, and School Education to work in collaboration to facilitate these workers with their respective departmental schemes. He underscored the need for an integrated approach towards worker welfare, ensuring that all relevant sectors contribute to the well-being of registered workers. The Secretary informed the Chief Secretary that the department is actively collaborating with the Social Welfare Department to roll out various social security schemes for the registered workers. This partnership aims to provide a robust support system, ensuring that workers receive the benefits they are entitled to, he added. Earlier, the Secretary delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the current statistics on registered unorganised workers and their distribution across different sectors. He outlined the eligibility criteria for registration and highlighted the sectors covered under the e-Shram initiative, underscoring the government's commitment towards supporting labourers in diverse fields across different departments—(KNO)

DSEK Asks CEOs To Ensure Maximum Participation For School Innovation Marathon

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has asked CEOs of the region to put efforts in increasing the number of registrations for School Innovation Marathon. In this regard, DSEK said that it had discussed the matter earlier with the concerned officials. Joint Director of the School Education Department said that he was asked to request for the maximum participation in the School Innovation Marathon. "I am directed to request CEOs to direct all concerned to put in every effort to increase the number of registrations for the School Innovation Marathon for which the last date is 30th of November-2024," it reads. Stating the steps for immediate achievement of the targets, SED asked the CEOs to conduct

online sessions for the orientation of teachers at Cluster, Zonal and District levels involving the services of ATL incharge teachers of the respective district. The CEOs have also been asked to coordinate with 'Pi Jam Foundation team and seek support wherever required. "Involve teachers from ATL and Non-ATL schools to get the teachers, students, ideas registered and submitted on the given portal," reads the directives. SED further asked CEOs of Kashmir region to ensure maximum participation from all schools. "DNOs from districts to remain in close liaison with divisional nodal officer as the team from AIM, UNICEF and Pijam will take review sessions for the orientation of teachers and it should be ensured that all teachers participate in online session," it reads—(KNO)

Antimicrobial Resistance Biggest Health Threat: Doctors

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses one of the greatest threats to global health today, jeopardising the treatment of infectious diseases and undermining medical advancements, doctors warned on Friday. A senior doctor from GMC Srinagar, said many powerful antibiotics, once life-saving for millions, have become ineffective. He said that "superbugs" can cause severe infections for which no cures exist, with antibiotics entering the human system through the food chain. "Approximately 80 per cent of antibiotics are used in the meat industry, administered to cattle, chickens and other livestock as growth promoters. These drugs then enter the human body through meat, milk, water and soil. Think twice and seek advice before using antibiotics," he cautioned, adding that misuse puts everyone at risk. The doctor explained that the unnecessary and excessive use of antibiotics has fostered the emergence of resistant bacteria and pathogens, which has led to inadequate treatment for common infections. This escalating issue necessitates exploring various strategies to combat resistance. "The overuse of antibiotics directly threatens patient health, increasing the risk of adverse effects and the emergence of multidrug-resistant microorganisms," he said.



A report published in 'The Lancet' in January 2022 revealed that bacterial AMR caused 4.95 million deaths globally by 2019. It predicted 10 million deaths annually by 2050 without effective action. Dr Irfan, an associate professor at GMC Anantnag, called for responsible antibiotic use and the proper disposal of unused and expired medications. "Such measures can help keep these vital drugs out of the environment and reduce the risk of resistant bacteria development," he said. He said that irrational and inappropriate treatments are primary contributors to the evolution of drug-resistant microbes, which lead to hospitals being overrun with these dangerous pathogens. "Inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions contribute to the development of drug-resistant microbes," he said. While acknowledging that resistance development is a natural phenomenon, Dr Irfan expressed concern over its amplification due to certain practices. "Inappropriate use of antibiotics is resulting in

alarming levels of resistance in the Kashmir Valley," he said, adding that more than two-thirds of antibiotics prescribed are unnecessary, often for viral infections or conditions unrelated to infections. The doctor criticised the lack of regulations that allow chemists to dispense antibiotics without proper oversight. "The patients are receiving antibiotics in hospitals without appropriate testing to identify their bacterial infections," he said. He called for the establishment of a comprehensive antibiotic policy to eliminate irrational and inappropriate antibiotic use. Such a policy, he said, would rationalise antibiotic usage in both hospitals and the community and create standardised treatment protocols. Doctors called for region-specific policies, saying that the national guidelines may not adequately address local epidemiological concerns and pathogen prevalence, which vary across different areas. The antibiotic policies should be tailored to the specific antibiogram of each region, they said—(KNO)

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2024

Jammu Residents Weigh New Government Formations

Agencies

JAMMU: As the administration finalises arrangements for the counting of votes across all 90 assembly segments in Jammu & Kashmir, scheduled for October 08, residents here are abuzz with discussions about potential political outcomes. The vote count coincides with elections in Haryana, where voting is set to take place tomorrow. From Lakhnampur to Banihal, there is a palpable sense of excitement among the public, who are hopeful for the formation of a popular government after a long wait of nearly six years. Conversations are thriving in busy tea stalls, standalone restaurants, cafés, universities and markets as people engage in intense discussions about the upcoming election results. Gopal Dass, an elderly morning walker at Jammu Universi-

ty, said "We were very excited when the elections were announced, and after the successful polling process, we are now discussing the results." Sipping hot tea at Sharma Tea Stall, he said the independent candidates might play a crucial role in government formation this time around. Nitin Sharma, another morning walker, shared insights based on voting and campaign trends. He said the National Conference could secure a majority of the 47 seats in Kashmir, while the BJP might dominate the 43 seats in Jammu. "This indicates a hung assembly, where independents hold the key to government formation," he added. The lively atmosphere was mirrored at a café in the posh Channi area of Jammu, where a group of young friends calculated seat projections for each party. One member sig-

nalled to the waiter for a plain sheet of paper, while another quickly grabbed a napkin to jot down party names and their anticipated seat counts. They dissected each constituency, weighing the pros and cons of individual candidates to identify probable winners. Despite the government's restrictions on exit polls for the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections until October 05, political discussions flourished. People engaged in conversations about the elections during temple visits, while waiting for public transport or even while getting haircuts at local barber shops. Earlier, the Election Commission reported a turnout of 63.88 per cent at polling stations during the three-phase assembly election that began on September 18, surpassing the 58.58 per cent recorded in the Lok Sabha polls—(KNO)

CUK Hosts Interactive Session With Jamia Hamdard's Prof. Khan



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Central University of Kashmir's Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ) hosted an interactive session with Professor Farhat Basir Khan, a distinguished academician and media professional from Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. Prof. Khan, renowned for his contributions at AJK Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, and now associated with Jamia Hamdard, delivered a compelling address on modern academic trends and the evolving dynamics of teaching. He underscored the pivotal role of technology in shaping contemporary academic and social landscapes and highlighted the importance of cultivating sensitivity

in today's fast-paced world. "There are two ways to increase sensitivity within oneself," Prof. Khan remarked. "First, through introspection, which reintroduces inclusivity into our lives, and second, by understanding diversity and finding solutions to embrace it." He also introduced the concept of "authentic imperfection" as a pathway to realizing one's potential across various life domains. Prof. Shahid Rasool, Dean of Academic Affairs and the School of Media Studies underscored the session's significance for student and scholar development. He encouraged participants to seize the opportunity to learn from a media expert of Prof. Khan's caliber. Dr. Arif Nazir, Head of DCJ, welcomed Prof. Khan and

praised his enduring contributions to the department. "He is truly a mentor of mentors," Dr. Nazir said. "Prof. Khan was instrumental in establishing our department and has left a lasting impact on both faculty and students." The session concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Asif Khan, Senior Assistant Professor at DCJ. Dr. Khan also highlighted Prof. Khan's longstanding involvement with the department and the university, noting his service to various statutory bodies and the Board of Studies for DCJ. In addition to the interactive session, Prof. Farhat Basir Khan was also part of 12th Board of Management meeting of the Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMMRC) at the University of Kashmir.

Tral Residents Demand Proper Fruit Mandi At Nowdal Tral



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Residents of Tral hamlet in South Kashmir's Pulwama district are demanding proper fruit mandi in their area, saying they have to send their consignments to far off areas. Tral comprises about 100 villages with the majority of people owning orchards but the area is yet to have a proper fruit mandi. Waheed Ahmad, a fruit grower of Tral said that in absence of fruit mandi, the growers are sending their produce to Mandis in different districts, causing economic losses to them. He said that on a temporary basis, a mandi has been established at Nowdal Tral but that is not enough to cater the area, adding that it would have been easy for growers to take their produce to nearby mandi and hence saving their time and money. Aabid Hameed, another grower said that four years ago, the government promised

them that there would be a fruit mandi in Nowdal area of Tral sub division but it is nowhere in sight. He said that 20 kanals of land was also identified and trees were also uprooted in 2020 but the work is yet to be started on it. Locals said that currently Mandi is functioning in temporary sheds but in absence of facilities like fencing, macadamization of roads and other things, people are suffering. Despite bringing this issue into the notice of concerned authorities several times, nothing has been done as of now, they said. They urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter at an earliest. Meanwhile, an official of the Horticulture, Planning and Marketing department said that they have submitted the plan for fruit mandi at Nowdal Tral to higher ups. "We are waiting for a nod and the work will be started accordingly," he said—(KNO)

Former Judicial Officers Association Felicitates CJ Tashi Rabstan



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The members of executive body of retired Judicial Officers Association headed by Harbans Lal, former District & Sessions Judge, Friday felicitated Justice Tashi Rabstan for taking over as the 37th Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh. They discussed various issues pertaining to welfare of retired Judicial Officers and apprised the Chief Justice of the activities being carried out by the Association. They also complimented the Chief Justice for his proactive approach in upgradation of judicial apparatus in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh so as to reach the last man in the queue of justice seekers.

The Chief Justice expressed gratitude for their warm greetings. He stated that "It is an honour to step into this role, and I am deeply committed towards upholding the values of justice, fairness and integrity. He further stated that together, we can work towards a judiciary that not only meets the needs of our community but also sets a benchmark for excellence." The event concluded with a call for unity and cooperation among all members of the judicial community, highlighting the shared goal of fostering a just society. Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem and Principal Secretary to Chief Justice M.K. Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Essay Writing Competition Held To Promote Awareness Of CAG's Role

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Office of the Principal Accountant General, Jammu & Kashmir on Friday organises the National Essay Writing Competition 2024 at its Srinagar office. This event is part of a nationwide initiative organised by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, taking place across all states and union territories from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Kerala Prasad Yadav, Principal Accountant General (Audit), highlighted the role of the CAG in identifying deficiencies in government programs and suggesting corrective measures. "We assist in supporting the management of government departments. Today's competition aims to raise awareness about the CAG's role," he said. A departmental statement, a copy of which was provided to KNO, confirmed that the competition was held simultaneously at the Head Office in Srinagar and the Branch Office in Jammu. The event saw enthusiastic participation from numerous college students who showcased their essay-writing talents. Par-

ticipants were allowed to write in either Hindi or English. This competition marks the beginning of the upcoming Audit Diwas celebrations scheduled for November 16, 2024. Participants had the option to register online, and those who missed the deadline were accommodated through on-the-spot registration facilitated by a help desk at both locations. Essays will be evaluated separately in English and Hindi, with winners receiving cash prizes: First Prize - Rs 50,000, Second Prize - Rs 40,000 and Third Prize - Rs 30,000. All participants will receive digital participation certificates. Results are expected to be announced by November 5, 2024, with awards distributed during Audit Diwas. The week following Audit Diwas will be celebrated as Audit Week in the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's field offices. In Jammu & Kashmir, Audit Week will run from November 18 to November 23, 2024. It will feature various activities, including workshops, a blood donation camp and cultural programmes.

'Will Play Aggressive Cricket Against India In T20s': Shanto

Press Trust of India

GWALIOR: Bangladesh skipper Shanto Najmul Hossain on Friday promised that his new-look team will play aggressive brand of cricket in the upcoming T20 series against India, saying that the Test series defeat is now behind them.

India whitewashed Bangladesh 2-0 in the Test series, winning the Kanpur game in mere six sessions.

The Twenty20 series will begin here on Sunday at the brand new Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium.

"We are looking to win this series, to be very honest. We want to play aggressive cricket. If you look at our last World Cup, we had a very good opportunity to play in the semi-finals but we couldn't do that. But, it's a new team. So, I hope all the players will play some good cricket here," Shanto told reporters.



The skipper said he won't think about his team's struggle in the Test series.

"We all know we didn't play our best cricket (in Tests). So, we are not thinking about what we have done before. Going

forward, it's a very important series for us and we all know in T20 it's a totally different ball game. That particular day, those who are playing well, will win the match." Both India and Bangladesh

will have new-look teams taking the field with senior players making way for the youngsters. India will have an entirely new squad, led by Suryakumar Yadav while Bangladesh will have only five players in their

T20 squad who were also part of the Test squad.

Shanto said since the series-opener is at a new ground, the pitch behaviour would remain a guess work.

"We know this is a very different ground, new ground and we don't have much idea about the wickets. But, we had practice sessions last couple of days and we tried to find out how the wickets behave.

"We don't know how the surface will behave. But, as an international team, we need to adjust as early as possible."

Shanto was hopeful that his team will be able to turn it around in the T20 series.

"In T20s, you never know. It's important that on a that day, batting, bowling, fielding, those who are doing all the stuff well, that team will win. But, it's not about big names or new players or old players. So, it's important that particular day we need to play well."

Hot TAKES

Youngsters In J&K Full Of Talent: Ravi Shastri

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Former Indian cricket coach and iconic player Ravi Shastri expressed optimism about the future of cricket in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shastri, who first played in Srinagar in 1987, highlighted the significant improvements in the J&K's cricketing landscape and the enthusiasm of the local community.

Reflecting on the transformation since his last visit, Shastri emphasized the growing interest in the sport and the increasing opportunities for young talent in the region.

"There is immense potential here. The youngsters are full of talent, and with the right exposure, they can go far. The presence of legends in events like this is an inspiration for them," he told media persons on the sidelines of a Legends League Cricket game.

When asked about Umran Malik, the local fast-bowling sensation who has made a mark on the national stage, Shastri encouraged him to continue working hard amidst tough competition. "Umran has the talent, but he will need to stay dedicated and keep working hard. The competition is fierce, but with determination, he can achieve great success."

Shastri also shared his thoughts on the cricket ground, noting the improvements since his last match in the region 37 years ago. He praised the infrastructure, adding, "The ground looks good, and with some attention to the pitch and the outfield, it can be one of the best in the region."

"Watching big players was always a thrill for us as youngsters. These tournaments allow local talent to dream big and aim for greater heights," Shastri concluded, underlining the importance of such platforms in shaping the future of cricket in the region. (KNS)



GR8 Sports' Kashmir Willow Bats Take Centre Stage At Women's T20 WC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: GR8 Sports, Kashmir Valey's premier bat manufacturer and ICC-approved brand, saw the debut of its Kashmir Willow bat at the ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 being held in UAE.

In Thursday's encounter between West Indies Women and South Africa Women in Dubai, flamboyant West Indies opener Qiana Joseph took the field wielding a GR8 Sports bat.

This occasion saw the Kashmir Willow bat shining on the international stage, showcasing its craftsmanship, quality and power. Aaliyah Alleyne, Zaida James and Shamilia Connell in the playing XI of the



West Indies team also used GR8 cricket bats and equipment and will be seen in action throughout the tournament.

Kabir Brothers (Fawzul Kabir and Mohammad Niaz ul Kabir), Founders of GR8 Sports India Pvt Ltd, were elated at this proud moment,

per a press release.

"To achieve this feat, GR8's Cricket Bats for Women cricketers underwent a number of tests with the implementation of innovative techniques and methodological procedures over the last four years," the statement added.

Downtown Heroes Lose 4th-Straight To End I-League 3 Season

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC were knocked out of the 2024-25 I-League 3 Playoffs long before their Friday's game against Diamond Harbour FC at Naihati Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The Heroes entered the match against the Group A leaders with three-straight losses under their belt. The Srinagar-based football club failed the nerves test and were 1-0 down in the fourth minute of the game as William Lalgoulien found the back of the net for the West Bengal-based Diamond Harbour. Downtown recovered to keep the score 1-0 till half time. However, the second half saw striker Fahad Temuri put the Heroes on parity, scoring in the 54th minute.

The game was seemingly edging



to a draw before Shaiborlang Kharpan made 2-1 to Diamond Harbour late in the game. The 89th-minute winner would be heartbreaking for Downtown Heroes, having fought valiantly to keep the Group A run-away leaders in check.

With their final Group A I-League 3 Playoffs game done, the Heroes picked up 0 points in 4 games while conceding 13 goals and scoring 3.

UT Level Wushu Championship Concludes At Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Department of Youth Services and Sports Office Budgam wrapped up the Inter-Division UT Level Wushu Championship for Boys Under-17 and Under-19 categories on Friday at Sports Stadium, Charar-i-Sharief here. The event saw fierce competition and outstanding performances from young athletes across the region.

In a grand closing ceremony, medals were awarded to the top athletes by Shakeel ur Rehman, a member of the Activity Section, DYSSO Bud-



gam, alongside other senior officials and field staff.

The championship, organised with great enthusi-

asm, provided a platform for budding athletes to display their skills and passion for Wushu.

Legends League Cricket Reaches Jammu: Manipal Tigers Win

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Legends League Cricket 2024 saw its first game in Jammu turn out a thriller as Manipal Tigers beat Urbanisers Hyderabad in the super over at Molana Azad Stadium. Batting first, players like Phil Mustard, Manoj Tiwary, Obus Pienaar, Thisara Perera and Angelo Perera took the field as Manipal posted a total of 144/7 in 20 overs. Thisara Perera remained unbeaten on 48* from 27 balls.

For Hyderabad, Bipul Sharma (2/20) and Gurkeerat Singh (2/24) led the bowlers. Nuwan Pradeep and Isuru Udana took one wicket each.

Chasing 145, Chadwick Walton, George Worker, Shaun Marsh, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Stuart Binny



helped Hyderabad post 144/7 in 20 overs. Tying the match and sending it to super over.

Hyderabad batted first and scored 4/2 in 6 balls. Manipal Tigers easily chased down the target to win the game.

Guardiola Quiet On Future At Man City

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola remained tight-lipped about his future as Manchester City manager on Friday, amid speculation he may leave soon with his contract set to expire at the end of the season.

City, second in the Premier League table trailing leaders Liverpool by a point, will again be without midfielder Kevin De Bruyne again when they host Fulham on Saturday. "I'm not going to talk about this subject, when it's going to happen, it's going to happen," Guardiola said about leaving.

The Spaniard defended City, who are embroiled in a hearing over alleged breaches of the league's financial fair play rules which could potentially see them face points deductions, a fine and relegation if found guilty.

"I'm part of this club, deep inside of my bones and the best way to defend the club is winning games and doing my job as best as possible," Guardiola told reporters. "Of course, I am going to defend my club, I trust (them) ... all the people working here, for many, many years. The best way to defend is by doing our job the best, everyone working here have their own responsibility."

"I love this club and it will always be that way." Fans are desperate to keep the Catalan manager, some hoisting a banner at Etihad Stadium imploring him to stay.

"They have to bring me the bill, I have to pay for the banner," Guardiola said. "What can I say? Thank you so much, I fell in love since the first day I arrived here."

"Let's see," he added on his future. "When it's going to happen, it's going to happen."



PODCAST

INVESTMENT OPTIONS

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THIS TO WATCH THE PODCAST

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