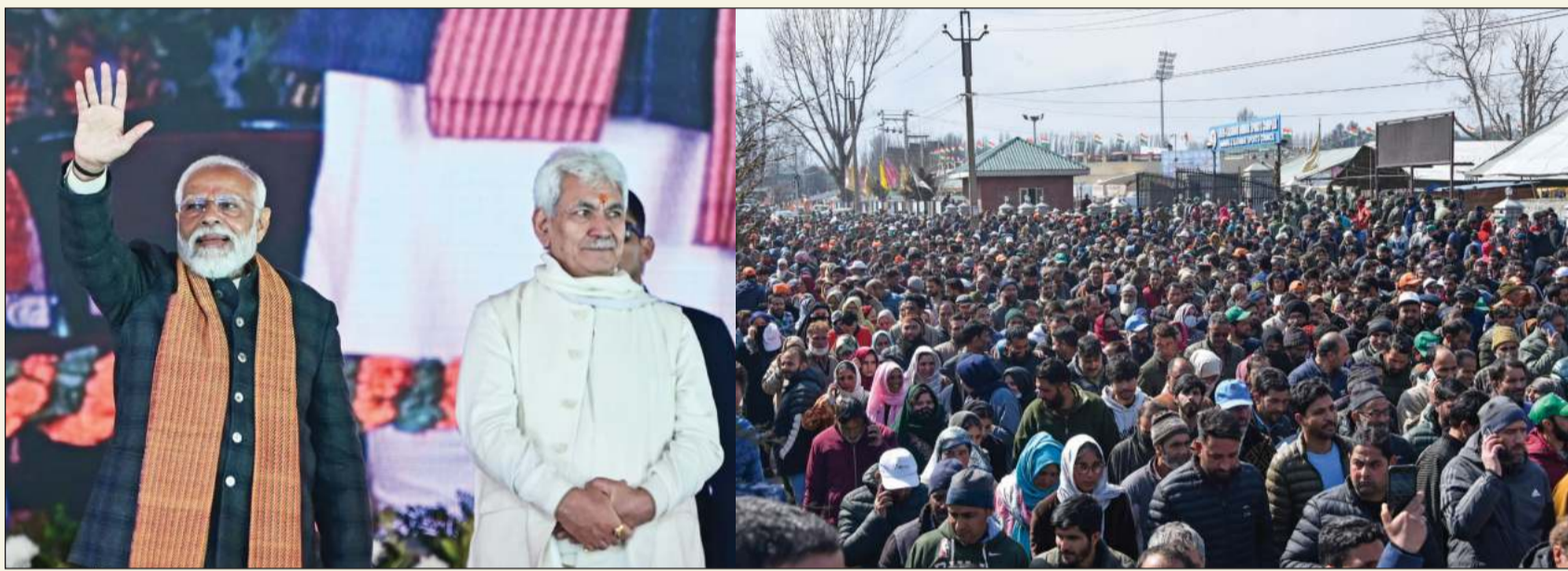


## J&K Breathing Freely After Art 370 Abrogation: PM

- » 'Dil jeetne aya hu', said Modi as he began his address
- » J&K suffered under dynasticism and corruption
- » J&K touching new heights of development
- » J&K's success story would attract the world's attention
- » J&K has a deep connection with the symbol lotus
- » J&K people my family members
- » Jammu and Kashmir is India's crown
- » In 2023 alone, J&K welcomed over two crore tourists
- » J&K Bank that was in loss, is now making profits
- » Nobody can stop J&K's train of peace and prosperity



### Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is "breathing freely" after the abrogation of Article 370 and pledged accelerated progress over the next five years.

"Modi will not leave any stone unturned to repay this debt of affection. This is Modi sanz (Kashmiri word) guarantee," he said addressing a massive rally at Srinagar's Bakshi stadium, the

first by a prime minister. Modi said the new Jammu and Kashmir has the spark for the future in its eyes and "140 crore citizens feel at peace when they see the smiling faces of the people of Jammu and Kashmir".

He also criticised dynastic politics that "plagued the region", underscoring the transformative impact of the decision to abrogate Article 370 in 2019. "Jammu and Kashmir has been the biggest victim of

dynastic politics since independence. Congress misguided the nation about Article 370 but who did it benefit? Did it benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir or a few political families?"

"Jammu and Kashmir is touching new heights of development after the abrogation of Article 370. Jammu and Kashmir is touching new heights of development today because it is breathing freely," the prime minister said at the

'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir' rally. This was Modi's first visit to Kashmir since the Centre abrogated the special status given to the erstwhile state and bifurcated it into two Union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh -- on August 5, 2019.

"Jammu and Kashmir has broken the shackles after the abrogation of Article 370," he said. The rally, the first by a prime minister | [More on P6](#)

### 'Prevented J&K Bank From Sinking'

KO WEB DESK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday alleged that the Jammu and Kashmir (JK) Bank had fallen victim to dynasty rule's nepotism, corruption and mismanagement. In the last five years, he said the "about to sink" bank was revitalised by interventions and converted into a profit-making institution.

Addressing a public gathering at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, Modi said that the Kashmiri dynasty politicians spared no effort in looting the bank and granting opportunities to their relatives, ultimately leading | [More on P6](#)

### 'Wed In India', PM's Next Mission

Promotes Destination Weddings In J&K

KO Web Desk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his desire to promote destination weddings within India during a rally in Srinagar. He encouraged people to choose Indian locations like Jammu and Kashmir for their weddings instead of spending money abroad. The PM said that his next mission is "Wed in India".

"People should host weddings in India... If people feel like coming to J&K and hosting weddings... do their booking here, stay here for three days and spend lavishly here so that people of Jammu and Kashmir also get their livelihood," PM Modi said.

"The world has seen how G20 was organised in J&K. There was a time when people | [More on P6](#)



### PM Meets Local Entrepreneurs, Craftsmen

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met several young entrepreneurs in Srinagar during his day-long visit to Kashmir valley. He later addressed a mega rally at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar where he inaugurated initiatives worth nearly Rs 5,000 crore for boosting the

agri-economy in Jammu and Kashmir. During the interaction several young entrepreneurs appraised PM Modi about the avenues being made available by the Jammu and Kashmir government after August 05, 2019. They thanked PM Modi led government at centre for extending | [More on P6](#)

### Massive Turnout Marks PM's Rally Amid Tight Security Measures

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Wearing Modi masks and chanting his name, thousands of people from across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reached Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium here to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally.

In his first visit to Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, Modi unveiled multiple development projects worth more than Rs 6,400 crore, addressed a public meeting, and participated in the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu Kashmir' programme at the stadium. Hundreds of BJP

supporters, wearing tri-coloured turbans, also reached the venue while security personnel had a tough time managing the crowd. Officials said tight security arrangements were put in place but there were no restrictions on the movement of people.

Life was normal across the Kashmir valley and most of the shops and other business establishments were open here, the officials said.

They said there were no restrictions on the movement of the people in any part of the valley, except for traffic diversions around the venue of the PM's rally. "People were | [More on P6](#)

### 'From Stones To Startups', LG Hails Transformation Of J&K

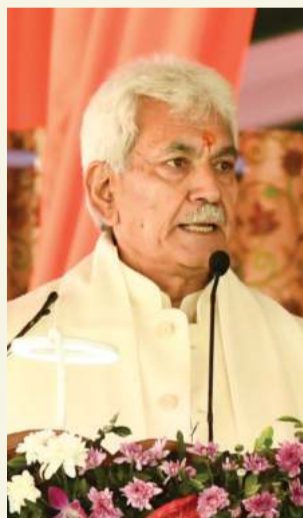
Says Development Of J&K Top Priority Of Modi Govt Since 2014

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday claimed the region has witnessed a huge transformation in the last few years with no innocent dying in violence.

Speaking at the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir' attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bakshi Stadium here, Sinha said the prime minister, by establishing a new J&K, has created a new history.

"It is because of your (PM's) efforts that people are living life on their own terms. No innocent son of a mother loses



his life, no eye is blinded by the pellet guns, no innocent is killed. This is a huge transformation," Sinha said.

He said the youth of Kashmir do not carry a stone in their hands now, but have books and laptops and build a start-up.

"Security forces have made every effort to end the ecosystem of terror and separatism. The biggest transformation is that before the people used to buy peace, but you (Modi) made it clear that we will not buy peace, but believe in establishing peace. The people of Kashmir are reaping its benefits now," he said.

"Modi ji, by | [More on P6](#)

### PM Inaugurates Projects Worth Over 6,400 Cr In Srinagar



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth more than Rs 6,400 crore at the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir' programme here during his first visit to the Kashmir valley after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The projects included holistic agriculture development programmes worth about Rs 5,000 crore and multiple projects related to the tourism sector worth more than Rs 1,400 crore under 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'PRASHAD' scheme including the project for 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine, Srinagar, officials said.

The prime minister also launched the 'Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice Tourist Destination Poll'

and 'Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign', and announced tourist destinations selected under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme, they said.

He also distributed appointment orders to about 1,000 new government recruits of Jammu and Kashmir and interacted with the beneficiaries of various government schemes including women achievers, lakhpati didis, farmers, entrepreneurs, etc.

The prime minister mentioned schemes for the welfare of the poor that could not be availed by the deprived. Highlighting the change of fortunes, he said schemes for the entire nation have been launched on Thursday from here and Jammu and Kashmir is leading the way for tourism in the country.

Therefore, | [More on P6](#)

**6 PEOPLE FROM MORE THAN 50 places in India have joined the occasion."**

### LeT Operative Designated As Terrorist

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Narendra Modi government on Thursday declared Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative Mohammad Qasim Gujjar, the mastermind of several terror attacks, a designated terrorist.

Announcing the government's decision, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said LeT operative Gujjar has caused numerous deaths and injuries with terror attacks and is involved in planning a war against India.

"Anyone found involved in activities against the unity and integrity of the nation will be dealt with ruthlessly," Shah

posted on X.

Gujjar alias Salman alias Suleman with the intention to wage war against the country has been involved in carrying out a wide-range of terrorist activities, including coordinating, supplying, identifying locations for dropping arms, ammunition, improvised explosive devices and cash, and delivering and managing consignments from across the border, according to an official notification.

He has also been involved in creating new terror modules through recruitment and radicalisation by various means, including social | [More on P6](#)

### PM UJJWALA SCHEME Rs 300 Per LPG Cylinder Subsidy Extended For FY25

Agencies

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday announced the extension of a subsidy of Rs 300 per LPG cylinder to poor women under the Prime Minister Ujjwala scheme for the financial year 2024-25. Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) to extend the PM Ujjwala subsidy into the financial year starting April 1.

The subsidy, of Rs 300 per cylinder, was scheduled to end at the end of the current financial year, which ends on March 31.

The move, set to benefit nearly 10 crore families, will cost the exchequer Rs 12,000 crore.

The Centre launched the PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in May 2016 to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women of poor households.

Initially, while the LPG connection was provided to eligible households free of cost, the beneficiaries had to purchase LPG refills at market price.

In May 2022, the government introduced a subsidy of Rs 200 per cylinder, for up to 12 refills per year, under the Ujjwala | [More on P6](#)

### NC-PDP Seat Sharing 'Dispute': Rahul Steps In As Mediator

Agencies

**Srinagar:** As tensions rise between the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) over seat sharing in the upcoming elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has intervened to facilitate dialogue between the two long standing rivals in Jammu and Kashmir's political arena.

Sources said that NC remains firm on retaining all seats it won in the previous LS polls, including the contentious Anantnag constituency, while the PDP seeks to contest from its former stronghold in South Kashmir.



Despite the PDP's willingness to support the NC in other constituencies, the deadlock persists over Anantnag.

Concerns mount within the India alliance as the NC and PDP struggle to find common ground, prompting calls for intervention from outside parties. Rahul Gandhi, informed of the impasse, has been urged to mediate between the two factions.

It was informed further that Rahul Gandhi may speak with both Omar and Mehbooba to end the impasse and finalize the candidates between the two parties for coming LS polls.

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, a leader of the CPI-M, emphasizes the urgent need for reconciliation, urging both parties to prioritize the welfare of the people over internal disputes.

"It is imperative for these parties to set aside differences and work together for the greater good of Jammu and Kashmir," Tarigami said, urging direct dialogue instead of public posturing. (KNO)



## Special Passport Adalat To Be Organized In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Passport Office Srinagar is organizing a special Passport Adalat for the passport applicants of Kashmir and Ladakh Divisions from 12 March to 14 March.

Passport Adalat is part of ongoing commitment of Passport Office Srinagar to provide efficient and citizen centric services, ensuring accessibility and transparency in passport issuance process. This event will serve as a platform for citizens

to address various concerns including delayed passports applications, verifications, and other queries related to passport services.

Applicants visiting Passport Office Srinagar during the Adalat are requested to bring all requisite original documents and photocopies thereof with them on the above mentioned dates. Applicants can attend in person and represent their cases on the mentioned dates between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

## WDC Organizes Loan Mela On Intl' Women's Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To mark the celebration of International Women's Day, Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (WDC) organized Loan Mela cum Awareness Camp in the office premises at Bemina Srinagar.

The event was sponsored by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation New Delhi.

Managing Director, (MD) Women's Development Corporation Ulfat Jabeen, who was the chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the program.

About 400 women beneficiaries including Self Help Groups from the areas of Bemina, Qamarwari, Batamalo, Noorbagh, Palpora, Rambagh, Rajbagh, Rajourikadal,

Safa Kadal, Iddgah, Budgam etc participated in the program.

Speaking on the occasion, MD emphasized upon women and Self Help Groups to come forward to work unitedly for their rights and orchestrate prosperous life.

She further added that the Government had initiated numerous schemes for making women economically self-reliant which gives them their due place in the society.

While highlighting the activities undertaken by WDC for women empowerment, she stated that under various loan schemes Corporation has disbursed an amount of Rs. 327.49 crores benefitting 23058 women beneficiaries by establishing their own income generating units.



People in large numbers lining up at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mega rally on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Traffic Cop Fined For Issuing E-Challan Against Wrong Vehicle

Court Directs SSP Traffic To 'Sensitize' Officials On E-Challaning

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A traffic policeman was fined rupees one thousand (1000) by the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate Srinagar for 'speciously' issuing an e-challan against the wrong vehicle.

The directions were passed following a complaint filed by the applicant, seeking dismissal of the challan, claiming that the traffic cop wrongly issued challan against him for riding the two-wheeler without headgear.

The petitioner claimed that he was not present on the spot on the day of occurrence.

In his plea, the applicant argued that the challan should have been sent to someone else; nonetheless, the cop issued a challan against him for riding a two-wheeler without a helmet under section 177 of the Motor Vehicle Act and imposed a fine of rupees 1000.

The petitioner, in his plea, claimed that he was made to incur losses in addition to losing money and time as a result of the mistake committed by the traffic department official.

Following arguments from the

petitioner's counsel, the Special Mobile Srinagar Magistrate Mudasar Farooq directed the traffic police official to appear in person before the court to clarify his stance.

Following the orders, the official appeared before the court, acknowledging that he had inadvertently issued a challan against the wrong vehicle. The court then

Senior Superintendent of Traffic Police Srinagar institute an e-challan against the actual violator.

"Moreover, while noting that it appeared that either the traffic cops manning the system were not fully trained to operate the e-challaning mechanism or they were not taking due care and caution at the time of initiation of e-challan,"

**The court also ordered the SSP concerned to educate traffic authorities about the e-challaning so that future challenges won't compel innocent people to cope with hardships.**

ordered him to compensate the petitioner with one thousand rupees.

The court observed that the applicant was not present on the spot on the day of the occurrence. Therefore, held the challan defective and dismissed it, with directions to the

reads the court order.

The court also ordered the SSP concerned to educate traffic authorities about the e-challaning so that future challenges won't compel innocent people to cope with hardships.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rubeeena Bano resident of Pahlharan Gulistan would like to inform all that my actual parentage is Arshad Ahmad Dar. However my parentage has been wrongly entered as AB Rashid Dar in school records.

Now I want to correct my parentage as Arshad Ahmad Dar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact the office of ZEO Fatehgarh, Baramulla within seven days.

Rubeena Bano  
D/O Arshad Ahmad Dar  
R/O Pahlharan Gulistan

JV

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**Kashmir Power Development Corporation**  
Office of Executive Engineer ED-IV Khanyar  
Email:emre.ediv@gmail.com Tel No 0194-247026

**e-tender short Abbreviated Notice**  
E-NIT No. 25/EDIV of 2023-24, dated: 06.03.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu and Kashmir UT, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-IV Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Contractors/firms **Notice for Annual Maintenance of 11 Kv/0.433 KV HT/LT network for the year 2023-24 falling within the jurisdiction of Sub Division Zakura** as under:

S. No	Particulars	Quantity	Estimated cost
1	Annual Maintenance of 11 Kv/0.433 KV HT/LT network for the year 2023-24 falling within the jurisdiction of Sub Division Zakura	1 Job	15.00

The complete tender document is available at website <http://iktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	10.03.2024; 10:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	29.03.2024 ; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ Clarifications	11.03.2024.; 11:00 Hrs to 011.03.2024 ; 13:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	12.03.2024; 10:00 to 29.03.2024; 16:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	Shall be communicated letter
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	30.03.2024 up to 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically and Hard Copy in the office of Executive Engineer, Electric Division IV, Srinagar
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.1000.00 (Rupees one thousand Only) (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 30000.00 (Rupees Thirty Thousand Only)

DIPK-NB-5964/23  
dated: 07-03-2024

Executive Engineer  
Electric Division IV, Srinagar

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
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**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

### HIJRI CALENDAR

26 Shaban  
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 30
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4: 51
Magrib	6:35
ISHA	7: 55

### This Day In History

- 1531- King Henry VIII is recognized as the supreme head of the Church in England by the Convocation of Canterbury
- 1658- Peace of Roskilde between Sweden & Denmark
- 1702- James II's daughter Anne Stuart becomes Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland following the death of William III
- 1722- Afghan monarch Mir Mahmud occupies Persia
- 1746- Duke of Cumberland's troops occupy Aberdeen
- 1754- Marquis of Ensenada becomes premier of Spain
- 1799- Napoleon Bonaparte's forces capture the city of Jaffa from the Ottoman Empire in Palestine, after a 5 day siege
- 1801- British drive French forces from Abukir, Egypt
- 1844- King Oscar I ascends to the throne of Sweden-Norway
- 1855- 1st train crosses 1st US railway suspension bridge, Niagara Falls
- 1857- British seismologist John Milne is hired by the Japanese government as a foreign adviser (oyatoi gaikokujin)
- 1861- St Augustine Florida surrenders to Union armies
- 1862- Battle of Elkhorn Tavern ends with Confederate withdrawal
- 1865- Battle of Kingston, North Carolina (Wilcox's ridge, Wise's Forks)
- 1867- British North America Act is passed in the House of Commons, serves as Canada's constitution for more than 100 years
- 1884- Susan B. Anthony addresses U.S. House Judiciary Committee arguing for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote, 16 years after legislators 1st introduced a federal women's suffrage amendment.
- 1904- Australian cricket spin bowler Hugh Trumble dismisses England batsmen Bernard Bosanquet, Plum Warner and Dick Lilley for his second Test hat-trick in 5th Test victory in Melbourne; Trumble's final Test
- 1916- US invades Cuba for 3rd time, this to end corrupt Menocal regime
- 1917- Russian "February Revolution" begins in earnest with protests celebrating International Woman's Day and riots in St Petersburg over food rations and conduct of the war
- 1920- Denmark & Cuba join the League of Nations
- 1921- Spanish Premier Eduardo Dato Iradier is assassinated while exiting the parliament building in Madrid.
- 1929- US worker union commission reports of slavery in Liberia
- 1934- Edwin Hubble photo shows as many galaxies as Milky Way has stars
- 1942- Japanese forces capture Rangoon, Burma
- 1942- KNIL, Dutch colonial army on Java, surrenders to Japanese armies
- 1943- 335 allied bombers attack German city of Nuremberg, a centre for military production
- 1945- International Women's Day is 1st observed
- 1952- Antoine Pinay forms French government
- 1957- Egypt reopens the Suez Canal after Israel withdraws from occupied Egyptian territory
- 1957- Israeli troops leave Egypt in compliance with UN resolution
- 1957- USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
- 1959- Pro-Egyptian coup fails in Mosul Iraq
- 1961- US nuclear submarine Patrick Henry arrives at Scottish naval base of Holy Loch from South Carolina in a record underseas journey of 66 days 22 hrs
- 1963 Syrian Arab Rep Revolution Day - Military coup in Syria
- 1964 - Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and is renamed Muhammad Ali
- 1965 - US begins regular bombing & strafing of N Vietnam

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>®</sup>

Friday | 08-03-2024

## PM in Kashmir

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood up to deliver his speech at Bakhshi stadium on Thursday, it marked a significant moment in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. It was the PM's first visit to the valley since then, a hiatus of about five years. And he tried to make up for this long absence by connecting with people at an emotional level and by announcing a series of development measures. In his address, the PM highlighted the transformation the region has undergone during this period, attributing it to the removal of Article 370. He proclaimed that J&K is now breathing freely, with equal opportunities and rights for all since the abrogation.

The PM expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming support received in Srinagar, acknowledging the love of the people. He vowed to leave no stone unturned in reciprocating this love and asserted his commitment to winning the hearts of the people in the region. He highlighted the multifaceted efforts to bring about positive change, including voting rights for refugees from Pakistan, recognition of the Valmiki community, and reservation of seats in the Assembly for Scheduled Tribes, and to top it all, the inclusion of Paharis among the groups under Scheduled Tribes in J&K.

However, the PM once again brought up the impact of "dynastic politics" and corruption in J&K. Without naming specific parties, he highlighted how these practices had deprived the Other Backward Classes of their right to reservation in panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

The drift of the PM's speech was to further change the narrative on Kashmir, a shift that his government has more or less successfully accomplished over the past five years. As part of his effort to take Kashmir towards peace and prosperity, the PM referred to the establishment of two AIIMS, seven new medical colleges, and cancer hospitals, and the setting up of IIT and IIM.

It is true that the PM's visit to Srinagar symbolized a turning point for J&K, breaking free from what he said were the chains of Article 370. He added for good measure that the 'naya J&K' he had envisioned was unfolding, promising a brighter and more prosperous future for the region and its people.

However, the PM conspicuously stopped short of saying anything about the restoration of democracy in J&K through simultaneous holding of Assembly elections alongside parliamentary polls, as sought by the opposition parties. Nor did he talk about the grant of statehood. But anyways, the Supreme Court in its judgment validating the repeal of Article 370 has set a deadline for the union government for both the Assembly elections and statehood. The PM instead chose to focus on development initiatives and tourism, the paths to prosperity in a region roiled by decades of turmoil.

## On International Women's Day

Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

Simple tokenism and typical signals are inadequate in tending to sexual disparities. Genuine endeavors, both at the personal and the administrative level, are basic to cultivate an environment of regard, respect, and correspondence for women

In arithmetic, each number has a confront and a put esteem. For occasion, the number alone implies nothing, and when included in any number, it yields the same result. So also, when zero goes before 2 to create 02, its esteem remains two. However, when set at the correct position of the digit 2 to form a two-digit number, its esteem changes to 20. Additionally, the regard, honor, and esteem credited to a woman shift depending on her part and position in society. Whether she expects the part of a mother, sister, close relative, cousin, companion, or wife, her noteworthiness shifts appropriately inside the family. As a mother, she helps with the continuation of her husband's heredity. As a sister, she shields her brother's insider facts and shields him from parental investigation. Within the nonattendance of a mother figure, close relatives regularly step in to direct children. In substance, ladies accept different parts vital for the food of society. Additionally, comprising 50% of the populace, they legitimately claim a break even with a share in societal undertakings.

By the by, societal substances are distant from perfect. The winning social texture is corrupted by debasement and bad form, coming about in different shapes of discipline



and mishandling coordinated towards ladies. Their opportunity is jeopardized, their rights are encroached upon, and they do not feel secure in a society represented by or for them.

This story isn't elite to a single nation; it's a worldwide wonder. Verifiably, women held limited roles in society. In any case, with the proliferation of instruction and mindfulness campaigns encouraged by universal organizations such as World Women's Day celebrations, critical changes have happened. Women presently play an important role in societal, national, and worldwide improvement. Despite experiencing obstructions and biases, they've entered male-dominated spaces and accepted administration positions over different divisions. Their commitments are commendable to look after. How-

ever, despite advancements, the information shows a bleak reality: women proceed to confront misuse and viciousness, both inside residential circles and in proficient environments.

Ensuring women's security has risen as a squeezing worldwide concern, eclipsed by political posing and maneuvering. Analyzing factual pieces of information on women's commitments to family, society, and the world uncovers commendable accomplishments. They have exceeded the expectations in different areas, extending from trade and the scholarly world to healthcare and innovation. A few nations indeed witness women at the apex of political control, serving as presidents and prime ministers.

In any case, the ground situation primarily remains unaltered, reminiscent of pre-1908

conditions. Simple tokenism and typical signals are inadequate in tending to sexual disparities. Genuine endeavors, both at the personal and the administrative level, are basic to cultivate an environment of regard, respect, and correspondence for women. Activities must adjust with rhetoric, beginning with destroying imbued sexual orientation inclinations and enabling women to make independent choices concerning their lives and careers. Organizational changes on the other hand are essential to maintain different prerequisites and give even-handed openings for women in working places.

Looking ahead, let us collectively endeavor to form a comprehensive environment where everyone's commitment, irrespective of gender, is esteemed and recognized within the headway of families, social orders, and nations. Let us endeavor to maintain the inborn worth of women, independent of the roles they play or the positions they occupy.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer  
The author is Professor at Skyline University College, Sharjah, UAE

## Celebrating Inclusion This International Women's Day

Cultivating a world where every woman feels valued, respected, and empowered

Monika Dogra

Women are underrepresented in leadership roles within governments and corporations worldwide, denying them a voice in crucial decision-making processes that shape societies and economies. Culturally ingrained norms and stereotypes frequently define the roles and opportunities available to women, resulting in their exclusion from various professions considered inappropriate for their gender

lights the grave extent of gender-based discrimination, revealing a societal mindset that still does not fully welcome the arrival of a female child. It serves as a stark reminder of the systemic biases and cultural norms that perpetuate the exclusion and marginalization of women from the earliest stages of life.

Women's access to education and healthcare in India is also compromised, particularly in rural areas, where traditional roles often prioritize men's needs and opportunities over women's.

In the workforce, while there are notable exceptions, women generally have lower participation rates, are concentrated in lower-paying jobs, and face significant hurdles in climbing professional ladders. Furthermore, the challenge of balancing work and household responsibilities, often with little support, limits their career advancements.

These examples highlight the broader issue of exclusion, which serves as a significant barrier to achieving gender equality. By focusing on exclusion, it becomes clear that efforts to inspire inclusion must address these deep-seated inequalities and systemic biases, requiring a concerted and multi-faceted approach from governments, societies, and individuals alike.

Child marriage, a deeply entrenched practice in rural India, represents a critical aspect of gender-based exclusion, often going unreported due to cultural norms, poverty, and lack of education. This practice not only violates the rights of girls but also perpetuates cycles of exclusion from educational opportunities, economic empowerment, and the ability to make autonomous life decisions.

As per a 2023 UNICEF report, India has undoubtedly achieved notable strides in curbing child marriage, yet it still hosts the highest number of child brides

globally. India is the home for one-third of the world's child brides, encompassing girls under the age of 18 who are currently married and women of various ages who were married during their childhood. Nearly one in four young women in India (23 per cent) were married or in union before their 18th birthday.

India is also facing a critical issue with a high incidence of rapes reported nationwide. In 2021, data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) revealed an alarming rate of 86 rapes daily, translating to nearly 46 offences against women each hour.

This statistic underlines the widespread problem of gender-based violence in the country, emphasizing the immediate need for actions to enhance women's safety and rights. The frequency of these crimes poses a significant challenge for both law enforcement and society to combat violence against women effectively, ensure justice for victims, and cultivate an environment of respect and equality.

Gender discrimination, according to the "India Discrimination Report 2022" released by Oxfam, highlights the diminished presence of women in India's labour force and is primarily attributed to gender dis-

crimination in wages and employment opportunities.

These examples underscore the challenges of exclusion in the pursuit of a society where both men and women are treated with equal respect and without discrimination. This context makes the call to "Inspire Inclusion" even more critical in advancing towards the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has been unanimously agreed upon by all UN member states.

India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has launched several initiatives aimed at women's empowerment, collectively known as "8 Years 8 Schemes." These include the ruling against Triple Talaq, improving legal recourse for Muslim women; the Ujjwala scheme, providing over 9 crore free LPG connections to poor women; the Nirbhaya Scheme for women's safety with enhanced budget for fast-track courts; Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to improve the sex ratio and support girl child education; PM Awaas Yojana, approving millions of homes with priority to women; Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts, offering high-interest savings for girls' futures; the Ladli Scheme for financial assistance at the birth of daughters; and opening Sainik Schools to girls, promoting their role in the Army.

These initiatives reflect a comprehensive approach to instilling gender equality and enhancing women's participation and security across societal facets.

Introduced by the Modi government in 2023, the Women's Reservation Bill represents a significant milestone in the pursuit of empowering women in India, perfectly aligning with the theme of this year's International Women's Day, "Let's Inspire Inclusion."

This legislation underpins

the celebration of International Women's Day, aiming to ensure women's significant and equitable participation in the political fabric of the nation. By proposing to reserve a substantial percentage of seats in Parliament and state legislative assemblies for women, the bill seeks to dismantle the barriers to women's full participation in governance, thereby establishing a more inclusive and balanced representation.

The Bill is poised to trigger a trickle-down effect that promises to permeate various societal spheres, addressing the shortcomings highlighted earlier, such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles.

By securing a fixed percentage of legislative seats for women, this bill not only empowers women to have a direct impact on policy-making but also sets a precedent for gender equality that is expected to extend into the workplace, education, and beyond.

As more women take on leadership roles within the government, it's anticipated that there will be a stronger emphasis on policies that address the unique challenges faced by women, thereby gradually eradicating gender disparities.

As we wrap up our celebration of International Women's Day, the theme "Let's Inspire Inclusion" serves as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to cultivate an environment where women from all walks of life feel valued, respected, and empowered.

As we move forward, let us carry the spirit of inclusion in our actions and interactions, ensuring that every woman has the opportunity to thrive, contribute, and lead. The celebration of International Women's Day is not just a moment to acknowledge the achievements of women but also a call to action for all individuals and communities to work together towards a more equitable and inclusive world.

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

Monika Dogra, an academic officer at SCERT, Jammu, can be reached at monika.scertjd@gmail.com

Mindful Fridays

# Embracing Uncertainty The Key to Living a Productive Life

Wasim Kakroo

In a world fixated on guarantees and stability, the relentless pursuit of certainty can overshadow the deeper quest for personal fulfillment. Challenging this prevalent belief is paramount. Life's productivity isn't tethered to an illusion of unwavering certainty. Rather, it thrives in the embrace of uncertainty. When we release the grip on the need for absolute assurance, we open ourselves to a realm of possibilities. It's within the ambiguity of life that growth, resilience, and genuine satisfaction emerge. By challenging the prevailing narrative that productivity hinges on certainty, we liberate ourselves to explore the richness of existence and embark on a journey of self-discovery and fulfillment. In this article, we talk of this aspect in detail.

## THE HUMAN URGE FOR CERTAINTY

Human nature's inclination towards certainty is deeply ingrained. We naturally seek solace in the known, the predictable, and the familiar. This inclination arises from our primal instinct for security and stability, fundamental to our survival. Certainty provides a sense of control and reassurance in an otherwise unpredictable world, offering a refuge from the uncertainties that accompany existence. Whether it's in our relationships, careers, or daily routines, the desire for certainty drives us to establish routines, set goals, and seek patterns that offer a sense of stability. However, while certainty may provide temporary comfort, it also carries the risk of complacency and stagnation. Striking a balance between the comfort of certainty and the growth that comes from embracing uncertainty is essential for navigating the complexities of life effectively.

## THE PITFALLS OF CLINGING TO CERTAINTY

Attempting to cling to certainty in an uncertain world is akin



to trying to hold onto water - it slips through our fingers, leaving us frustrated and disillusioned. The very nature of life is fluid and unpredictable, rendering our attempts to grasp onto certainties futile. Moreover, the pursuit of certainty often leads to rigidity and closed-mindedness. When we are fixated on maintaining a sense of absolute certainty, we become resistant to change and new perspectives. Our minds become closed off to the richness of diverse experiences and ideas, hindering our personal growth and development. Instead of embracing the inherent uncertainty of life and welcoming the opportunities it presents, we find ourselves trapped in a cycle of fear and stagnation.

## EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY: A PATH TO GROWTH

Embracing uncertainty is akin to opening a door to boundless possibilities. It frees us from the

shackles of rigid thinking, enabling us to navigate life's twists and turns with a sense of curiosity and openness. Rather than being paralyzed by anxiety or fear, we can embrace uncertainty as an opportunity for growth and exploration. By viewing uncertainty as a catalyst for innovation, we open ourselves up to new experiences and perspectives. It encourages us to step outside our comfort zones, challenge our assumptions, and embrace the unknown with a sense of wonder. In doing so, we cultivate resilience and adaptability, learning to thrive in the face of uncertainty rather than being hindered by it.

## TWO CHOICES: CERTAINTY VS. UNCERTAINTY

Life's uncertainties confront us with a pivotal choice: to either grasp onto the façade of certainty or to welcome the inherent unpredictability of our existence. Opting for the former may

When we embrace uncertainty, we free ourselves from the constraints of rigid thinking and fixed expectations. Instead, we become open-minded adventurers, ready to explore new horizons and challenge our preconceptions.

provide fleeting solace, yet it ultimately deprives us of life's vibrant tapestry and serendipitous moments. Embracing uncertainty, on the other hand, allows us to navigate life with fluidity and

openness, embracing the beauty of spontaneity and the richness of unexpected encounters. It beckons us to relinquish the illusion of control and to revel in the dynamic nature of our journey, fostering resilience and a profound appreciation for the ever-unfolding mysteries of life.

## THE BENEFITS OF LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY

Living with uncertainty liberates us from the relentless pursuit of perfection, granting permission to embrace imperfection, vulnerability, and the unexpected joys of serendipity. In this state, we cultivate resilience, learning to bend rather than break when faced with life's unpredictable twists and turns. Adapting becomes second nature, empowering us to navigate challenges with grace and courage. Instead of fearing the unknown, we welcome it as an opportunity for growth and discovery. By relinquishing the need for absolute control, we find freedom in accepting the beauty of life's uncertainties, allowing us to live more fully and authentically.

## EMBRACING THE BEAUTY OF UNCERTAINTY

Life's profound moments often surprise us, emerging from the depths of uncertainty and ambiguity. In these unscripted moments, we find ourselves truly alive, experiencing the raw essence of existence. Embracing uncertainty becomes a gateway to embracing spontaneity, serendipity, and discovery. It's in the unpredictability of life that we unearth our deepest truths and forge our most meaningful connections. Whether it's stumbling upon unexpected opportunities, forming unlikely friendships, or discovering newfound passions, these instances shape the fabric of our lives. By relinquishing our need for control and surrendering to the ebb and flow of life, we allow ourselves to be swept away by its wonders. In the midst of

uncertainty, we discover that life's most precious moments are often found in the unlikeliest of places, reminding us to embrace the beauty of the unknown.

## CULTIVATING CURIOSITY AND WONDER

Embracing uncertainty is akin to embarking on an exhilarating journey into the unknown. Rather than fearing the ambiguous and the unforeseen, we can view uncertainty as an invitation to curiosity and wonder. It beckons us to question, to probe, and to seek understanding beyond the confines of what we already know. In doing so, we open ourselves to a world of possibilities, where each moment holds the potential for discovery and growth.

When we embrace uncertainty, we free ourselves from the constraints of rigid thinking and fixed expectations. Instead, we become open-minded adventurers, ready to explore new horizons and challenge our preconceptions. This mindset encourages us to step out of our comfort zones, to push the boundaries of what we believe to be possible, and to engage with the world with a sense of enthusiasm and gusto.

Moreover, embracing uncertainty cultivates resilience and adaptability, equipping us with the tools we need to navigate life's twists and turns with grace and courage. Rather than being paralyzed by fear of the unknown, we learn to embrace the inherent uncertainty of existence and to find joy in the journey itself. In this way, uncertainty becomes not something to be feared, but something to be embraced—a catalyst for growth, discovery, and transformation.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196*

# How To Make The Internet More Civil

Samuel T. Wilkinson

Since its invention by Al Gore, the Internet has revolutionized the way we interact. In some ways, this has been a huge benefit to society. Skype and Zoom technologies allow us to communicate face-to-face with family, friends, and colleagues on the other side of the world with a convenience that past generations could not have conceived was possible. But, as we all know, there have been serious drawbacks with this technology. With mounting evidence of its potential for harm, many state legislatures are attempting to legally limit social media's influence on young people. Virtual communication has also contributed to a drastic decline in civic dialogue (something that we're in desperate need of as we ramp up for another acrimonious presidential election). People routinely say things to others on the Internet that they wouldn't dare say in person.

Is there anything we can do to reverse this trend? Are there feasible ways to limit the Internet's facilitation of toxic communication? To answer this question, it's worth thinking about what contexts lead us to cooperate. What are the roots of human civility? Scientists who study human evolution posit that one likely way we developed the ability to cooperate is through what is called indirect reciprocity. Sometimes called 'third-party altruism,' indirect reciprocity is a sort of game based on the rule, 'you scratch my back, and I'll scratch someone else's, and then he'll scratch yours.' Underlying this

rule is the importance of reputation. Whether we are aware of it or not, we all strategically maintain our reputation, putting forward our best behavior when we are being observed.

In other words, if I develop a reputation as someone who is altruistic, I am more likely to be the recipient of someone else's altruism, because others will see me as likely to return the favor. If we think of altruistic acts as a form of social currency, we can consider people who are altruistic as having higher "credit scores" than people who are selfish. In times of need, those who have developed a reputation of giving may be more likely to be helped than those who have earned a reputation as a miser. Through the long course of evolution, this game of indirect reciprocity helped altruism and cooperation develop among human societies.

One source of evidence for this comes from finding that when our behavior is observed, we tend to act in more civil ways. Think back to grade school to confirm this. If a teacher is present in the room, the class bully generally keeps his behavior in check. But once the teacher leaves, the behavior of children can quickly become problematic.

Fascinatingly, the observer does not even have to be human, or even an animate object (but it probably has to resemble a human). In one ingenious experiment, researchers showed that a coffee mug with a picture of eyes on it could do a fair job as a watchdog of prosocial behavior. They measured contributions to a



IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO REVERSE THIS TREND? Are there feasible ways to limit the Internet's facilitation of toxic communication? To answer this question, it's worth thinking about what contexts lead us to cooperate

box used to collect money for coffee that was shared in the commons area of a university dormitory. The coffee mug was situated at eye level, near the area where coffee drinkers are supposed to give to the collective fund. Every week, the picture on the coffee mug would alternate. On the odd weeks, there was a picture of human eyes, looking in the direction that a would-be coffee drinker would be positioned. On the even weeks, it was a mug with a picture of flowers. During the

weeks when eyes were watching, students gave three times the amount to the collective coffee fund compared to when the mug displayed a picture of flowers. Another intriguing experiment: If you put a picture of eyes near a bus stop, people will pick up more litter than when there are pictures of flowers.

So how can we use this information to help us behave better in our Internet communications? One of the take-aways here is that anonymity

can contribute to toxic virtual communications. There's very little credible threat to our reputation when we create a username or X handle that has no relationship with our true identities. People thus feel more unencumbered by traditional social norms of civility that generally govern social interaction. The natural result is that they behave in less civil ways.

Related to this, when we interact with others via the Internet, the subconscious parts of our minds sometimes forget

that, behind the username or X handle, there are actually people. This is the principle behind road rage. We sometimes forget that, inside that large metal box on wheels, is a person. Of course, we don't consciously forget, but our subconsciousness dehumanizes them a bit, and we are more likely to slip into less civil—and sometimes even dangerous—behavior. This is why 'road rage' is a phenomenon, but 'pedestrian rage' is not. (To be fair, a Wall Street Journal article from 2011 re-

ported on researchers studying the pedestrian equivalent of 'road rage,' but it rarely makes headlines; unfortunately, someone is shot or seriously injured as a result of road rage every 16 hours.) As pedestrians, we see each other's faces and—in both conscious and subconscious ways—acknowledge our shared humanity; not so as motorists.

How could we apply these principles to help improve Internet civility? Online anonymity needs to be reduced and humanity should be enhanced. (Estimates suggest that 26 percent of X/Twitter users are anonymous.) X and other social media should require that usernames and face photos correspond to people's actual identities. Newspapers should get rid of anonymous commentary sections at the end of their articles. If someone wants to comment, their username ought to be linked to their verified real name and a picture of their face. Based on principles of human psychology and how we evolved, this structural change to Internet platforms would subtly but powerfully remind us that, even in a virtual world, we are interacting with other people. On a more personal level, take a moment to look at someone's face before you send that snarky email or post a crude X comment. This won't solve all the problems of the Internet, but it will be a step in the right direction at a time when we desperately need more civility.

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Glimpses Of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Kashmir Visit

Abid Bhat/KO

