

## Why Is Kashmir Seeing A Surge In Cancer Cases? Experts Weigh In

Hirra Azmat

Srinagar: The cancer rate in Kashmir is showing a concerning trend with lung, gastrointestinal, and breast cancers climbing at the fastest rates.

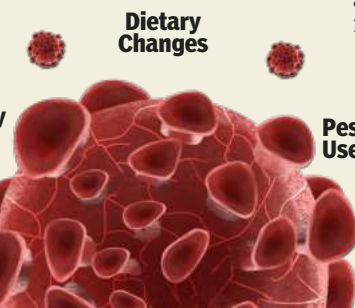
Rough estimates show that around 1,700 cancer patients have been registered across Government Medical College, Srinagar and SKIMS, Soura from January 2024 to present.

According to the official data accessed by Kashmir

Observer, the total number of cancer patients registered at the largest tertiary care hospital in the valley, SKIMS, Soura this year so far stands at 850. Data further suggests that the cancers mostly prevalent in the valley include lung, breast, ovarian, Gastro-Intestinal, and Leukemia.

However, a senior official at SKIMS said that often many patients

register at both SKIMS and GMC, Srinagar leading to duplication in records. Additionally, a few



machines at SKIMS are non-functional, so many patients are being referred to GMC for radiotherapy. "As a result, the patient numbers at GMC may appear higher due to this referral pattern," he said.

What exactly is causing a spike in cancers? Is there something we're eating, something we're ingesting, some combination of factors that are modern and

harmful— which is resulting in these increased cancers? For instance, a few weeks ago, a father of two kids in his early 40's was struck with disbelief when he was diagnosed with colon cancer. "He thought for months together that his rectal bleeding was caused by hemorrhoids (Piles). By the time he came to us, the disease had already reached an advanced stage," the oncologist treating him at Government Medical College, Srinagar said.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Samoon, Associate Professor, Department of Minimal Access and General Surgery, GMC Srinagar told Kashmir Observer that the trend of malignancies is rising worldwide, and a similar pattern is witnessed in Kashmir. Cancer happens when the body's cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body where these cells can form tumours or invade nearby tissues and organs, leading to [More on P11](#)

RELIEF FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMERS

### J&K Govt Extends Power Amnesty Scheme

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Administrative Council which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved the extension of Amnesty Scheme-2022 upto March, 2025 in favour of the domestic consumers of electricity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The scheme provides for waiving off 100% interest/surcharge on outstanding principal amounts. In J&K, the domestic consumer category comprises over 86% of JKPD consumers and around 50% of total energy consumption in the UT is from the said category of the consumers.

However, almost 30% of these Domestic consumers (Approx.5.50 lakh) in the said sector are either making staggered payments or have not made any payment towards their electricity bills primarily due to huge accumulation of outstanding power dues including late payment surcharges/interest which is leading to high commercial losses to JKPD/ Discoms.

The Amnesty Scheme has resulted in the recovery of Rs. 235.58 crore from domestic consumers. [More on P11](#)

### Govt Approves J&K Film Policy-2024

The Administrative Council (AC) which met here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy-2024. The Policy aims to position J&K as a hub of cinematic creativity and productivity. The approved policy will supersede the current Film Policy i.e. J&K Film Policy-2021. [More on P11](#)

### 'One Nation, One Election' Recommendation

## Fresh Polls In Case Of Hung Parliament, Assembly

KO WEB DESK

New Delhi: The High-Level Committee on 'One Nation One Election' led by former President Ram Nath Kovind in its report recommended that in the events of a hung Assembly or hung Parliament, or a no-confidence motion constitutes the new House, fresh elections may be held for the remainder of the five-year term.

Where fresh elections are held for the House of the People, the tenure of the House of the People will be only for the unexpired term of the immediately preceding full term of the House of the People and the expiration of this period shall



operate as a dissolution of the House, the committee recommended.

The High Committee panel also recommended that elections to the Municipalities and the

Panchayats be synchronised with the House of the People. Simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha, assemblies can be held in the first step, followed by local body polls within [More on P11](#)

### '32 Political Parties Supported, 15 Opposed'

The high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' approached 62 parties out of which 47 responded -- 32 in support of holding elections simultaneously, 15 against it. Fifteen parties did not submit a response, according to the report of the panel submitted to President [More on P11](#)

### LS Polls In J&K

## 3 Lakh New Voters To Vote For First Time

KO Web Desk

Jammu: As many as 86.9 lakh electorate including 3.4 lakh first-time voters are eligible to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Wednesday.

He said 11,629 polling stations with an

average 747 voters per polling station will be set up in the Union Territory, where 77,290 voters are above 85 years of age, including 2886 being more than 100 years.

Talking to reporters here at the end of three-day long tour of Jammu and Kashmir to review poll preparedness, he requested the voters and [More on P11](#)

- » 86.9 lakh total voters
- » 44.34 lakh men
- » 42.55 lakh women
- » 67,400 persons with disabilities
- » 158 transgenders
- » 11,629 polling stations
- » Average 747 voters per station
- » 77,290 voters above 85 yrs
- » 2,886 voters over 100 yrs

## Govt Empowers 350 Displaced Youth With Entrepreneurial Support

- LG Calls It A Momentous Day For J&K
- Says Financial Assistance Will Help Them Realise Dreams

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major step towards economic empowerment of displaced and migrant communities, J&K Government on Thursday provided financial support to 350 youth belonging to displaced families of PoJK, West Pakistan Refugees and Kashmiri migrant families, to start their own business venture.

The event was presided over by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Convention Centre.



"It is a momentous day for J&K. The financial assistance extended to displaced families of PoJK, West Pakistan Refugees and Kashmiri Migrant families today will help them to realize their dreams and ignite entrepreneurial culture in the community," the Lt Governor said.

He said, during the Special Governance camp, various government departments,

District Industry Centres, KVIB, J&K Mission Youth in collaboration with J&K Bank and Relief & Rehabilitation department conducted outreach programmes and reached out to the youth aspiring to start their own business enterprise and contribute to the society.

The LG highlighted the resolve of the UT Administration, under the guidance [More on P11](#)

### J&K Bank Has Truly Become A People's Bank Now: LG

Primary job of any government is to work for the deprived people and give them honourable and respectful place in the society. That is why we are determined to bring every one of you irrespective of social or economic position into the fold of economic prosperity. If you have will, then nothing is impossible. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha made these remarks today at the special program, organised by J&K Bank, titled 'Sewa se [More on P11](#)

## Tribunal Set Up To Review Ban On Jama'at-e-Islami

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre has constituted a tribunal, consisting of Justice Navin Chawla of the Delhi High Court, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Jama'at-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir (Jel) as a banned organisation.

On February 27, the central government had extended the ban on Jama'at-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir, for five more years for its activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5 read with sub-section (1)

of section 4 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the central government hereby constitutes the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Navin Chawla,

Judge, High Court of Delhi, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir (Jel) as an unlawful association," a home ministry notification said.

The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' on February 28, 2019.

While extending the ban for five more years, the home ministry said the Jel has been indulging in activities which are prejudicial to internal security and [More on P11](#)



## Watermelon Sales Drop By 50% As Rumors Swirl

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Abdul Rashid Parray, 45, has been selling fruits on his cart for over 15 years. Every year he procures over a ton of watermelons from fruit mandi, Parimipora in Srinagar, which he then vends along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway. However, over the past two weeks, Parray has noticed a decrease in demand for the fruit.

"This is very unusual given the fact that people would consume watermelon during the Ramadan," Parray, a resident of Parimipora told Kashmir Observer.

Not just Parray, but nearly all fruit vendors across Srinagar city and other districts in the valley are expressing concerns. They attribute a decline in business to an 'unverified' claim by a doctor suggesting that watermelons are



early-ripened fruits.

"We have been selling the watermelons for the past many years and would earn a good amount of money, but ever since rumors about watermelons being artificially ripened has spread across, consumers are hesitant in buying the fruit," said another vendor, Shakeel Ahmad.

Kashmir Observer earlier reported [More on P11](#)

## Drug Trafficking In J&K Similar To Terrorism: DGP Says Heroin, Brown Sugar Being Pushed Through Border

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The drugs trade in Jammu and Kashmir is being tackled by following the pattern adopted to deal with the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory, Director General of Police RR Swain said on Thursday.

As part of the policy adopted to deal with the drugs trade, the addict is considered a "victim", he said.

Swain noted that the drugs trade is emerging as a major challenge and the police and other security forces need to "dig the tunnel from both ends" to effectively deal with



the menace.

"The way we are acting against terrorism and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) cases at a high level and there has been a visible impact on the terror ecosystem due to this work. We acted against the [More on P11](#)

## Charity Charade? No Rules In Kashmir For Ramadan Donations Individuals Seeking Grants Will Be Duly Vetted: Police

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: As the holy month of Ramadan descends upon Kashmir, the spirit of charity fills the air. Streets and localities bustle with a noticeable increase in people seeking donations for various causes. Some carry receipt books advocating for orphanages, while others announce fundraising efforts for religious institutions, or those battling chronic illnesses.

Individuals appealing to people's emotions and religious sentiments, from vehicles fitted with public address systems have become a common way to collect money.

Residents express concerns about verifying the legitimacy of these requests, wanting to



ensure their generosity reaches those who truly need it. This concern is further amplified by the movement of donation seekers across districts. Individuals from south and north Kashmir travel to central Kashmir districts including Srinagar, while those from central Kashmir travel to the north

and southern parts of the valley to gather money for orphanages and religious seminaries.

"As soon as the pre-dawn (Fajr) prayers conclude, people begin knocking on our doors begging for money, citing chronic renal insufficiency, an orphanage, or a religious seminary," Syed Shabir, a resident of Srinagar told Kashmir Observer.

"While some donation seekers are genuine, others may not be. They collect thousands of rupees claiming to help the sick and destitute, but who verifies their credibility?"

Highlighting the lack of official regulations for soliciting donations, locals questioned if the administration even acknowledges the illegality of such practices.

A businessman from the old city's Alikadal area, Muhammad Sultan Baba claimed that one cannot turn them down as they don't leave until they are paid the amount of their choice. "But is there anybody in the administration to stop them or check their credentials as to who these people actually are," he said.

Aijaz Ahmad, a resident of Nigeen said that he has become concerned over the number of people who were still not checking the background of charitable campaigns. "Earlier today, people swayed into emotions when they learnt about the situation of a little girl from a certain hamlet, who is battling for her life since both of her [More on P11](#)

## Rain, Snow Likely From March 22-24: MeT

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The meteorological department has forecasted mainly dry weather till March 20.

From March 22-24, fresh spells of rain/snow are likely at many places in Jammu and Kashmir, the department said. Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall while the plains were lashed by [More on P11](#)

### Avalanche Warning For 8 Districts

The authorities on Thursday issued an avalanche warning for 8 districts of Jammu and Kashmir [More on P11](#)





To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Srinagar | Friday | 15-03-2024

2

## PUBLIC NOTICE

my name has been wrongly written in my passport bearing no G4041745 as Arif Ahmad while my correct name is Arif Ahmad Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the 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.

Arif Ahmad Bhat  
S/O Noor Mohammed Bhat  
R/O Gojwara Near Grave opposite Khan Masjid  
Cell no 9796353738

FKO

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/sh may file his/her objection in the office of the concerned Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mehraj U Din Parray  
DOB 03-04-1987  
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Parray  
R/o Dana Mazar Safakadal

NJ

## NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in my service records as Mokhtar Ahmad Mir while as my correct and actual name is Mukhtar Ahmad Mir R/o: Kongambara Tehsil Pattan Distt. Bramulla . Now the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if any body have any objection may convey to JAKLI C/O 56APO within a period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mukhtar Ahmad Mir  
R/o: Kongambara Tehsil Pattan  
Distt. Bramulla  
Phone No. 9797144297

NJ



## 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-72/2023-24	
Name of work :	Provision of electrical work in C/w Lowering and lifting of submersible pumps and rewinding/repairing of defective submersible pumps motors of Amritsar, Firozpur, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Pathankot Zones and provision of GSM based automation for protection of pumps control system of Firozpur division for two years.
App. Cost (in Rs.) :	Rs. 65,98,435.24
Earnest Money (in Rs.) :	Rs. 1,32,000.00
Completion Period :	24 Months
Opening of tender :	04.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.
Website Particulars :	www.irops.gov.in
Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-74/2023-24	
Name of work :	Electrical work in C/w Lowering and lifting of submersible pumps and rewinding/repairing of defective submersible pumps motors for Jammu and Udhampur Zone of Firozpur Division for 2 years.
App. Cost (in Rs.) :	Rs. 32,65,038.78
Earnest Money (in Rs.) :	Rs. 65,300.00
Completion Period :	24 Months
Opening of tender :	05.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.
Website Particulars :	www.irops.gov.in
Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-73/2023-24	
Name of work :	Electrical work in c/w Modernization of bridge workshop at Jalandhar Cantt under Dy.CE/WS/JRC
App. Cost (in Rs.) :	Rs. 1,91,07,167.02
Earnest Money (in Rs.) :	Rs. 2,45,500.00
Completion Period :	6 Months
Opening of tender :	04.04.2024 after 15:00 hrs.
Website Particulars :	www.irops.gov.in
No.: 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 56-Elect/2023-24 Dated: 13.03.2024 823/2024	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

## Office Of The District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara-193222

Email: doshkupwara@gmail.comTelefax: +911955252220

Subject: Advertisement for establishment of sheep & goat units and shearing units under Integrated Sheep Development Scheme for the financial year 2024-24

Applications on prescribed format are invited from interested beneficiaries/persons for establishment of sheep/ goat units and shearing units for below mentioned schemes under Integrated Sheep Development Scheme for the financial year 2024-25. Salient features of the schemes are enclosed in Annexure A to this notification.

- Establishment of sheep/ goat units on participatory mode (10 ewes/ does) (Fresh as well as Recycled)
- Establishment of Sheep/ goat units on subsidy mode (20 ewes/ does)
- Establishment of Shearing units.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Date of commencement of application forms= 15-03-2024
- Last date of submission of application forms= 30-03-2024 HOW TO APPLY

Application forms for applying for these sheep and goat units can be obtained from and submitted to the nearest concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS)/Sheep Development Blocks office/ Sheep Development Offices or the Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) Kupwara. Applications on the prescribed format should reach the nearest concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS)/Sheep Development Blocks office/ Sheep Development Offices or the office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) Kupwara.

### GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Selection of beneficiaries will be made through of draw of lots.
- Applicant must be within age group of 18-55 years desirably. Although unemployed youth will be given preference.
- Beneficiaries / households which have already availed benefit under any income generation scheme of Sheep Husbandry Department from last 05 years are not eligible.
- One applicant per household can apply.
- The final allotment of units shall be subject to the techno feasibility report from the concerned authorities.

### SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES:

Committee of following officers shall select beneficiaries after ascertaining the eligibility of the beneficiary:  
i. District Sheep Husbandry Officer Chairman  
ii. One member from District Administration Member  
iii. SPO/ VAS (Concerned) Member

Note: Selection process shall be made CD Block wise (At Block level).

Scheme wise tentative targets for establishment of units are given hereunder which may be altered depending upon the availability of funds.

S. NO.	Type of scheme.	Tentative Targets
1.	Units on participatory mode (10 ewes/ does)	24
2.	Units on subsidy mode (20 ewes/ does)	135
3.	Shearing units (shearing machine, Genset and accessories)	08
4.	ISDS/ RKVY Recycled Units	14

Detailed guidelines are available on the website of the Department Jksheephusbandrykashmir.nic.in. as well as from the District Sheep Husbandry Office Kupwara, SDO Office Handwara/SDO Office Karnah, nearest concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS)/Sheep Development Blocks offices.

Following documents should also be enclosed along with the application:

- Passport size photo.
- Ration Card copy
- Category Certificate Copy (BPL/EWS/AY/SC/ST) if any
- AADHAR card copy
- PAN No in case of subsidy/ shearing units.
- Bank Details in case of subsidy/ shearing units
- Techno feasibility Report with recommendations from concerned VAS.

Note: The advertisement is subjected to change in the guidelines, if any directions are issued from the Government authorities during any stage of the selection process.

No. DSHOK/Tech/203-24/4551

Dated: 13/03/2024

DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KUPWARA

Annexure-A			
S NO	Name of CSS/ UT Scheme	Salient features	Eligibility
1	<b>Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS)</b>  A. Establishment of 10 sheep / goat units under participatory mode	10 sheep/goats are provided to the beneficiary free of cost initially; and later-on from 3rd year onwards the department shall retrieve 2 ewes/does for next 5 years. The progeny to be received should be 1.5 – 2.5 Years of age within minimum Body weight of 25 kgs.	i. Any individual/ group of individuals/ self-help group / cooperative society/ farmers producer organization. (Efforts will be made to cover 20% SC/ ST and 10% women beneficiaries) ii. Beneficiary must have sufficient land holding, infrastructure, fodder/grazing and manpower resources.
	B. Establishment of sheep / goat units on 50% subsidy mode. (20 Ewes/ does)	i. Sheep/goat unit would mean a unit of 20 sheep / goat. ii. 50% subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 1.00 lac per unit whichever is less. iii. 50% subsidy for insurance, transportation & signage board with ceiling of Rs. 6000/- whichever is less. iv. The beneficiary can opt for loan facility by depositing 10 % marginal money, however the subsidy in this case shall be back-ended	The selected beneficiary will: i. Furnish an affidavit duly attested from 1 <sup>st</sup> class magistrate as per prescribed format. ii. Will insure animals from 2 <sup>nd</sup> year onwards till he / she is in contract with the department.
	C. Establishment of Shearing units	i. Shearing unit comprising of one shearing machine, Genset & shearing spares is provided to the beneficiary on 50 % subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 0.75 lacs whichever is less. ii. The beneficiary can purchase shearing machine from any registered / authorised dealer/ distributor, sole manufacturer within or outside UT of J&K iii. The beneficiary can opt for loan facility by depositing 10 % marginal money, however the subsidy in this case shall be back-ended	Any individual of district Kupwara (trained in Machine Sheep Shearing (MSS) or intending to undergo training in MSS
2	<b>ISDS/ RKVY recycled units</b>	10 sheep/goats are provided to the beneficiary free of cost initially; and later-on from 3rd year onwards the department shall retrieve 2 ewes/does for next 5 years. The progeny to be received should be 1.5 – 2.5 Years of age within minimum Body weight of 25 kgs.	i. Any individual/ group of individuals/ self-help group / cooperative society/ farmers producer organization. (Efforts will be made to cover 20% SC/ ST and 10% women beneficiaries) ii. Beneficiary must have sufficient land holding, infrastructure, fodder/grazing and manpower resources.

Sno	Type of scheme.	Tentative Targets
1.	Units on participatory mode (10 ewes/ does)	24
2.	Units on subsidy mode (20 ewes/ does)	135
3.	Shearing units (shearing machine, Genset and accessories)	08
4.	ISDS/ RKVY Recycled Units	14

Detailed guidelines are available on the website of the Department Jksheephusbandrykashmir.nic.in. as well as from the District Sheep Husbandry Office Kupwara, SDO Office Handwara/SDO Office Karnah, nearest concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS)/Sheep Development Blocks offices.

Following documents should also be enclosed along with the application:

- Passport size photo.
- Ration Card copy
- Category Certificate Copy (BPL/EWS/AY/SC/ST) if any
- AADHAR card copy
- PAN No in case of subsidy/ shearing units.
- Bank Details in case of subsidy/ shearing units
- Techno feasibility Report with recommendations from concerned VAS.

Note: The advertisement is subjected to change in the guidelines, if any directions are issued from the Government authorities during any stage of the selection process.

No. DSHOK/Tech/203-24/4551

DIPK-17921/23 Dated: 14/03/2024

DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KUPWARA

## Office Of The District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama

Ph. No. 01933-241215 Fax-phone: 01933241215 Technical section E-Mail ID: dshopulwama@gmail.com

### Advertisement Notice

Subject: Establishment of sheep/ Goat /shearing units under ISDS /RKVY for the year 2024-25 and invitation of applications thereof:

Applications on prescribed formats are invited from interested/ unemployed persons for establishment of sheep/ Goat/Shearing units under various schemes, shown in annexure A to this notification

Important dates: Date of commencement for issuance of application forms :15-03-2024

Last date for submission of application forms: 28-03-2024.

How to apply: The application forms can be obtained and then submitted on working days during office hours from office of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Shadimarg /Nawa/Kakapora/woyan/Pulwama/Padgampora/Tral and Aripal.

Candidate if found eligible shall be considered for selection by a designated selection committee through proper procedure. The selected / approved candidates shall have to establish the unit as per the guidelines of the scheme.

### General terms & conditions for all schemes:

- Any individual/group/SHG/cooperative society/FPO possessing an Eligibility criterion of basic infrastructure/ Shed and sufficient grazing land can avail the benefit of the scheme within operational jurisdiction of District Pulwama.
- Due share shall be given to EWS/ST/SC/Transgender/Women folk/ Chopans to upliftment these weaker sections of the society
- Households who have availed any benefit under the said schemes are not eligible.
- More than one application shall not be entertained from one household Under all the schemes.
- The age limit for the applicant shall be 18 years to 55 years
- No application shall be entertained after cutoff date i.e., 26/03/2024.
- The number of units mentioned under Annexure A to this advertisement is tentative and shall be subject to the availability of funds/animals retrieved during 2024-25.
- For sheep units under ISDS PP Mode (Fresh units), preference shall be given to BPL, EWS, AAY/Physically challenged /Widows/Orphans.
- The selection of the beneficiaries shall be carried out through CD Block level with the due share to all the CD Blocks/ categories.

### Annexure “A”

S. No.	Scheme	Details	Tentative No. of units
1.	Integrated Sheep development Scheme. (ISDS Fresh)	Establishment of 10 Sheep /Doe unit on participatory mode. Cost of each Ewe/Doe =Rs 10000/ Insurance premium, transportation cost and signage with the ceiling of Rs.6000/unit Total unit cost =Rs.1.06 lacs	11
2.	Integrated Sheep development Scheme. (ISDS recycled)	Establishment of 10 ewes/ Doe unit on participatory mode out of animals retrieved under such scheme	6. This is subject to number of animals retrieved
3.	Integrated Sheep development Scheme. -50% subsidy mode.	Establishment of Sheep units on 50% subsidy mode 50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with the ceiling of Rs.1.06 lacs /unit (20 Sheep/Goat) including 50% of the insurance premium for the first year and 50 % of the transportation cost and signage with a ceiling of Rs. 6000, whichever is less /unit. For livestock(20Sheep/Goat) maximum ceiling of subsidy 50% is 1 lac.	64
4.	Integrated Sheep development Scheme. – Shearing unit 50% subsidy.	Procurement of shearing units (comprising of one shearing machine, one Genset and Shearing accessories) 50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of Rs.0.75 lacs /Unit whichever is less.	7
5.	RKVY (Recycled) and District Plan (Recycled)	Establishment of 10Ewes /Does unit on participatory mode out of animals retrieved under such scheme.	17 This is subject to number of animals.

DIPK-17897/23  
dated: 14-03-2024

Sd/= District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama



## Hiring of Staff for Counselling Centre (Contractual Basis)



Valeur Fabtex Private Limited, a NSDC empanelled Training Partner, invites applications from candidates with prescribed qualification & experience for engagement in various positions in Counselling Centre in UT of Jammu and Kashmir (04 districts) Srinagar, Anantnag, Rajouri and Jammu.

S.N.	DESIGNATION	TOTAL POSITION	QUALIFICATION	SALARY
1	Clinical Counsellor/ Doctor	4	Graduate in Medical Sciences (Doctor). OR Post graduation- MSC Clinical Psychology / Psychology with at least 3 years of relevant experience.	35000
2	Counsellors	8	MSC Clinical Psychology/Psychology with at least 1 years of relevant experience. OR Masters in Sociology/Social Work/Law Graduate with 2 years of Counselling experience. OR PG in Humanities with One Year Post Graduate Diploma in Counselling and at least 1 years of relevant experience.	27000
3	Data Entry Operator	4	Any graduate with one-year experience having Computer Knowledge (Excel, power point) (Preferred B.COM/BBA/BA/BSC)	16000
4	Multi-Tasking Staff	4	Any Matriculate with one year of relevant experience.	10000

### Minimum Competency:

- Effective communication skills (Oral & Written), Basic computing skills, technical competency, soft skills, facilitation skills.
- The suggested qualification is the minimum criteria. However higher qualifications will also be acceptable.

### Pre-Requisite:

- The candidates should be domicile of J&K UT.
- The selection shall be made on district basis i.e. candidates hailing from the districts where vacancies exist shall be preferred based on merits. In case of non-availability of candidates within district, the selection for such trade will be made from other district within the same division.
- Age Limit-18-40 years (As on Jan. 01 2024) Age relaxation to be provided as per Govt. Rules.

Note: All communication for job application to be done through e-mails. All positions purely on Contractual basis. This is not a Government Job and the selection process is strictly based on merit and management reserves the right to accept/reject an application without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Last date for receipt of CV: 17th March 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for written and Personal interview. Interested Candidates can apply by filling the form from link: <https://forms.gle/69Kedepn293u6ZW7> or you can send updated CV on this.

Mail ID: [programmanageredu@valeurfabtex.com](mailto:programmanageredu@valeurfabtex.com) by mentioning the Position in subject line.

For Queries Contact: 9205765301

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the registration of Home Stay in Tourism Department. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Assistant Director Tourism Pahalgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohd Subhan Bhat fko  
R/o Pati Tuli Hallan Hirpora Shopian

## PUBLIC NOTICE

have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . As per school records my DOB is 06-07-2011. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Liyaqat Ali Najar S/O Ghulam Hassan Najar bmg  
R/o Magam

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice I have lost my 9th class certificate . 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 Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Kapran Shopian within a period of seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rohi Jan D/o Mohd Mansoor Bhat fko  
R/o Chitripora Shopian

## PUBLIC NOTICE

have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . As per school records my DOB is 10-07-2014. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Ansar Najar S/o Ghulam Hassan Najar bmg  
R/o Magam

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th, class Degree Certificate 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 JKBOSE Bemina within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shama Peer S/o Peer Mustafa bmg\_r  
R/o Walloo Kunzer

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 12th, class Degree Certificate 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 JKBOSE Bemina within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shama Peer S/o Peer Mustafa bmg\_r  
R/o Walloo Kunzer

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice. I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Zameer Hussain who was born on 21-07-2020. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Muhammad Yaseen Sufi F/O Zameer Hussain bmg  
R/o Zakir Mohamma Magam

## From the office of Advocate Muheet Yousuf

In the case of:- Jammu and Kashmir Baseball Association Through it's general secretary Sabreena Jan D/o Sonaulah R/o Nizam Colony, Saida Kadal, Srinagar.

...Caveator

Versus Public at large

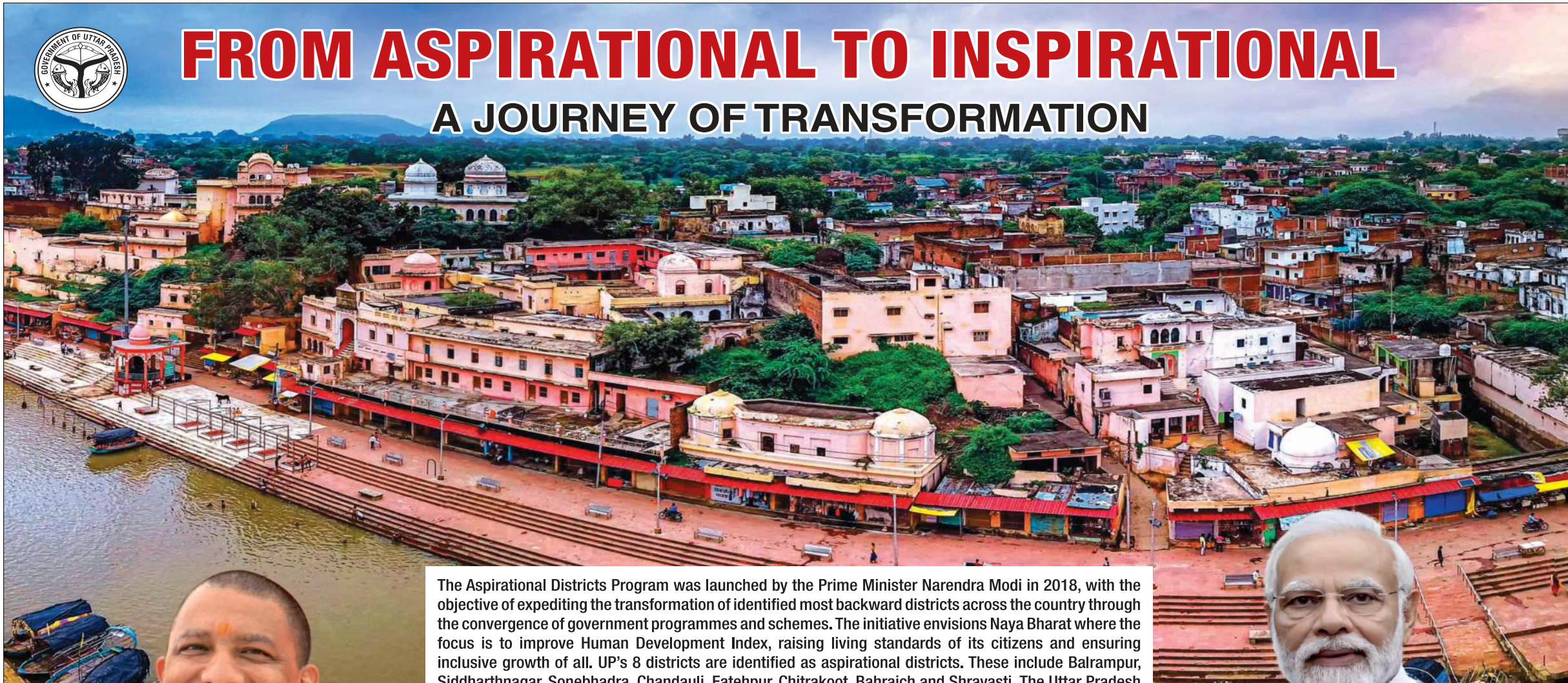
...Non-Caveators

### In the matter of:- CAVEAT PETITION

The caveator has developed reasonable apprehension that the non-caveators may file SUIT/WRIT or any other proceedings against the caveator before Hon'ble court and may obtain order in ex-parte by concealing of material facts. It would be fair and just if the caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

nj





# FROM ASPIRATIONAL TO INSPIRATIONAL

## A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION



The Aspirational Districts Program was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, with the objective of expediting the transformation of identified most backward districts across the country through the convergence of government programmes and schemes. The initiative envisions Naya Bharat where the focus is to improve Human Development Index, raising living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth of all. UP's 8 districts are identified as aspirational districts. These include Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot, Bahraich and Shravasti. The Uttar Pradesh government has made its sincere efforts through a detailed workplan and in a planned manner ensuring a holistic development of the identified districts. Moving a step further Uttar Pradesh takes the lead as the first state in the nation through identification of 100 aspirational blocks on the pattern of aspirational districts and efforts to bring about improvement on the socio-economic front. As a result of improved law and order, development of basic facilities, improved infrastructure, these districts have not only been included in the mainstream, but are also contributing big time to the economic development of the state.

Uttar Pradesh government is committed for the success of this programme. All the persons concerned have to work with a positive frame of mind. With public co-operation, the targets of the programme can be achieved and for this, there is no paucity of resources

**Yogi Adityanath**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

We are living in an era of immense possibilities which in turn creates opportunities. We need to identify existing aspirations in the districts and channelise them to create a ripple effect for transforming Aspirational Districts. The development of every village of these 115 districts is vital to our commitment to social justice

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

GBC 4.0		
Target (Rs. crore)	Acheivment (Rs. crore)	Percentage
1,53,400	1,57,651	102

OVERACHIEVED TARGET			
District	Target (Rs. crore)	Achievement (Rs. crore)	Percentage
Sonbhadra	100000	1,21,221	121
Chandauli	20000	23,458	117
Fatehpur	1,600	1,687	105
Bahraich	2,500	2,549	102

### MAJOR INVESTOR COMPANIES

**Torrent Power (Sonebhadra)**  
Rs. 22800 crore

**Greenko Group (Sonebhadra)**  
Rs. 17182 crore

**JSW PSP Six Limited (Sonebhadra)**  
Rs. 8000 crore

**India Glycol (Sonebhadra)**  
Rs. 4000 crore

**Varun Beverages Limited (Chitrakoot)**  
Rs. 496 crore

**Tusco Limited (Chitrakoot)**  
Rs. 47 crore

**ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited (Chandauli)**  
Rs. 9450 crore

#### BALRAMPUR

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
194 | 1402

##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
58 | 438

With the help of the government, a brick kiln has been set up in 60 bighas in the village. Rs. 31 crore has been invested in the project which will give a new dimension to the development of Tulsipur. Besides, 250 people will get employment opportunity.  
Brijesh Singh, Balrampur

#### SHRAVASTI

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
439 | 2422

##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
43 | 866

Our company has invested Rs. 10 crore for manufacturing e-rickshaw and agricultural equipment. There has been a lot of cooperation from the district administration and government. 200 people have got employment in both the projects.  
Shailendra Tiwari, Shravasti

#### SIDHARTH NAGAR

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
299 | 9869

##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
110 | 441

GCB 4.0 is a commendable initiative of the government. By connecting with this, we are setting up a rice mill in Siddharthnagar district. Here work will be done from paddy threshing to rice packing which will also provide employment to 80 people directly and indirectly. This will also strengthen the economic condition of the local people.  
Rohit Jaiswal, Siddharthnagar

#### SONEBHADRA

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
101 | 182338

##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
62 | 121277

A friendly investment environment has been created in Uttar Pradesh. Our company is investing Rs. 550 crore for a hydroelectric project. Electricity will be produced by setting up a power plant at location provided by the district administration. This project will provide direct and indirect employment to 600 people of the district.  
Devesh Rai, Sonebhadra

#### CHANDAULI

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
275 | 33481

##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
85 | 23662

Shivganga Industries has been established with an investment of Rs. 10 crore in phase two of the industrial area of Chandauli. There will be work of high quality flexi packaging printing etc. This will provide employment to local people of the area.  
Rakesh Jaiswal, Chandauli

#### FATEHPUR

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
147 | 2999

##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
82 | 1798

80% of the people in the district are based on agriculture. The district is suitable for enterprises related to food processing. Farmers will get direct benefits and the entire process will be completed soon.  
Manoj Gandhi, Fatehpur

#### CHITRAKOOT

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
280 | 67422

##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
88 | 7147

The state government is paying special attention to Chitrakoot. Investing Rs. 500 crore in food processing unit. There will be business of spices, dry fruits, millets, coarse grains etc. The legal process has been completed. This will boost the economy.  
Phulchandra Kushwaha, Chitrakoot

#### BAHRAICH

##### UPGIS-2023

Projects | MoUs (Rs. cr)  
254 | 5171

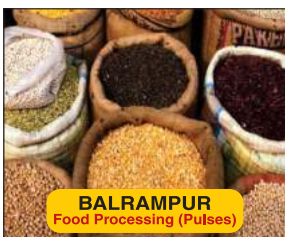
##### GBC-4.0

Projects | Investment (Rs. cr)  
159 | 2749

For the first time, an investment of Rs. 150 crore has been made to develop a housing society in Bahraich. Housing construction work is going on near Tikora turn of Bahraich - Lucknow highway. About 300 people have got employment directly and indirectly.  
Rakesh Kumar Agarwal, Bahraich

### Training under One District-One Product program 2023-24

District	Target	Achievement
Fatehpur	400	400
Sonebhadra	300	300
Shravasti	250	250
Chitrakoot	200	200
Chandauli	350	350
Bahraich	350	350
Balrampur	150	150
Siddharthnagar	200	200



**BALRAMPUR**  
Food Processing (Pulses)



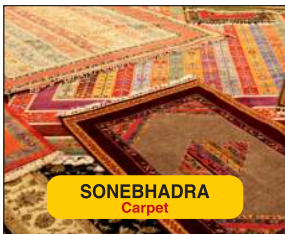
**CHANDAULI**  
Zari-Zardozi



**CHITRAKOOT**  
Wooden Toys



**BAHRAICH**  
Wheat Stalk, Handicrafts



**SONEBHADRA**  
Carpet



**SHRAVASTI**  
Tribal Craft & Furniture



**SIDHARTH NAGAR**  
Kala Namak



**FATEHPUR**  
Bedsheet & Iron Fabrication work

### One District-One Product Program Margin Money Scheme Loans sanctioned by banks 2023-24 (Rs. lakh)

District	No. of Projects	Projects Amount	Margin Money
Balrampur	23	550.47	80.97
Bahraich	65	5877.42	613.36
Chandauli	25	263.12	58.84
Chitrakoot	17	189	43.5
Fatehpur	23	607.67	120.02
Shravasti	5	53	13.25
Siddharthnagar	61	748.95	179.99
Sonebhadra	6	57	14.25



## 'One Nation, No Election'

## Congress' dig at government after Kovind panel report on simultaneous polls

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday attacked the government after a high-level committee recommended simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state



assemblies, alleging that they want to completely dismantle the Constitution with the objective of 'one nation, no election'.

In its report submitted to President Droupadi Murmu that ran into over 18,000 pages, the panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind recommended simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step

followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.

Asked about the development, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh told PTI in Nashik, "The Prime Minister's objective is very clear, he is going around asking for a clear majority, two-thirds majority, 400 seats, and the cat is out of the bag. They want to completely dismantle Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution and with what objective - 'one nation, no election' that is what they want." In its report, the panel said simultaneous polls will spur development process and social cohesion, deepen foundations of democratic rubric and help realise aspirations of "India, that is Bharat".

The panel recommended preparation of a common electoral roll and voter ID cards by the Election Commission of India in consultation with state election authorities.

BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli said this is not a political issue and is aimed at saving money and other resources.

## Yemen's Houthis have a hypersonic missile'

Agencies

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim to have a new, hypersonic missile in their arsenal, Russia's state media reported Thursday, potentially raising the stakes in their ongoing attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and surrounding waterways against the backdrop of Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The report by the state-run RIA Novosti news agency cited

the missiles they now use. Adding a hypersonic missile to their arsenal could pose a more-formidable challenge to the air defense systems employed by America and its allies, including Israel.

"The group's missile forces have successfully tested a missile that is capable of reaching speeds of up to Mach 8 and runs on solid fuel," a military official close to the Houthis said, according to the RIA report. The Houthis



an unnamed official but provided no evidence for the claim. It comes as Moscow maintains an aggressively counter-Western foreign policy amid its grinding war on Ukraine.

However, the Houthis have for weeks hinted about "surprises" they plan for the battles at sea to counter the United States and its allies, which have so far been able to down any missile or bomb-carrying drone that comes near their warships in the Red Sea.

The Houthis' main benefactor, Iran, claims to have a hypersonic missile and has widely armed the rebels with

"intend to begin manufacturing it for use during attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, as well as against targets in Israel."

Mach 8 is eight times the speed of sound.

Russia has maintained close ties with Iran, relying on Iranian bomb-carrying drones to target Ukraine. Russian state media, particularly its Arabic-language services, have closely reported on Yemen's yearslong civil war that pits the Iran-backed Houthis against forces of the internationally backed Yemeni government, supported by a Saudi-led coalition.



## 'No Compromise, CAA Will Never Be Taken Back': Amit Shah

Agencies

New Delhi: Days after the Centre notified the Citizenship Amendment Act, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the law will never be taken back and the BJP-led government will never compromise with it.

"This is our sovereign right to ensure Indian citizenship in our country. We will never compromise on it and CAA will never be taken back," he said.

Asked about the Opposition bloc INDIA, specifically a Congress leader saying that they would repeal the law when they come to power, the Home Minister said that even the Opposition is aware it has bleak chances of coming to power.

"Even the INDI alliance knows that it will not come into power. CAA has been brought by the BJP and the Narendra Modi-led government. It is impossible to repeal it. We will spread awareness about it in the whole nation so that those who want to repeal it do not get a place," Mr Shah said.

The Union Minister dismissed criticism that the "CAA is unconstitutional", stating that it does not violate the constitutional provisions.

"They always talk about Article 14. They forget that

“  
There is a clear, reasonable classification here. This is a law for those who, due to partition, remained in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh and were facing religious persecution and decided to come to India

there are two clauses in that Article. This law does not violate Article 14. There is a clear, reasonable classification here. This is a law for those who, due to partition, remained in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh and were facing religious persecution and decided to come to India," the Union Minister said.

Replying to the Opposition's claim of the timing of the notification coming ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Amit Shah said, "First of all, I will talk about the timing. All opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, and Arvind Kejriwal, are doing jhooth ki rajneeti

## 'Death trap': Israeli forces kill six in new attack on Gaza aid seekers

Agencies

Israeli forces have shot dead at least six Palestinians and wounded 83 in Gaza City as they were waiting for food and humanitarian supplies at the Kuwait Roundabout, an area where large groups of people gather for arriving aid trucks.

The attack on Thursday took place hours after at least five people were killed by an Israeli air strike on a food distribution centre in Rafah, southern Gaza, run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestin-

ian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which is the main humanitarian agency in Gaza.

There has been an uptick in fatal assaults by Israeli troops on crowds of starving civilians lining up for aid in recent weeks. On Monday night, Israeli forces killed 11 people waiting for food aid at the same roundabout.

Reporting from Rafah, Al Jazeera's Hani Mahmoud said seeking aid has become "really dangerous" in the enclave, adding that "the Kuwaiti Roundabout is now known as a death trap".

"We heard from a hun-

gry and largely traumatised population stranded in the Gaza Strip asking what is the purpose of getting those aid trucks into Gaza and its northern area if they're getting shot at," he said.

"[The Israeli aggression] also endangers the work of aid workers on the ground," he added.

The Kuwait Roundabout is between the central area of the Gaza Strip and Gaza City, linking northern Gaza to the south.

More than 400 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks on aid deliveries in recent weeks, according to authorities in Gaza.

## 'We Don't Have Money To Spend': Congress Chief Weeks Before Lok Sabha Polls

Press Trust Of India

Kalaburagi: Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday indicated that the party is facing a funds crunch alleging that bank accounts where money donated by people had been kept had been frozen by the BJP-led NDA government, while huge fines have been imposed on the party by the IncomeTax department.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, Mr Kharge also called upon the people to stand strong together and ensure his party's victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, to "save" the Constitution and democracy in the country.

Noting that everyone should have equal opportunity in an election, Mr Kharge accused the BJP of freezing Congress' bank accounts and imposing huge fines on the party through Income Tax, while "they are not ready to disclose thousands of crores of rupees they have got through electoral bonds, despite Supreme Court's directions."

"It was our party money that you the people gave as donations, they have frozen it and we don't have money to spend....while, they (BJP) are not disclosing about electoral bonds they got because their theft will come out, their wrong deeds will come out, so they asked for time till July," he said.

He also claimed that the people of Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), from where he unsuccessfully contested in 2019 elections, have decided to "rectify their mistake" and make Congress victorious in the coming polls.

Mr Kharge was defeated

by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes in the previous elections. Popularly known as "Solillada Saradara", (a leader without defeat), that was the first electoral loss in his political life spanning several decades.

Speculation is rife that Mr Kharge, who has the role of managing the party nationally and coordinating with the INDIA bloc, may not contest in the Lok Sabha polls and, instead, the party is likely to field his son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani, a businessman who also manages educational institutions

"Don't get cheated, they (BJP) are cheaters, they speak lies. They hide the truth and spread wrong information among people. Ambedkar has said people have to stay united and protect the Constitution and democracy. If there is no Constitution, freedom and unity in this country, this country will be enslaved once again and cannot stand up again," he said.

Addressing a public meeting here, he said the BJP is speaking against the Constitution these days, and called on the people to fight against it and question it.

"It is a matter of your right....they (BJP) are making an effort (to change the Constitution) BJP claims they have nothing to do with those who speak against the Constitution but does not take action against such people, it is because they (BJP and RSS) are behind people making such statements", he said, as he urged the people to stand strong together and ensure the Congress' victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

## UK Unveils New Definition Of Extremism To Counter Hate Crimes

Agencies

London: Britain unveiled a new definition of extremism on Thursday to counter a surge in hate crimes, raising some concerns it would inhibit free speech and unfairly target Muslim groups.

Why is the government doing this?

The previous definition was in a 2011 counter-terrorism strategy programme known as Prevent. The government said this needed to be updated after a surge in antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes since the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel.

Earlier this month Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said that Islamist and far-right extremists were seeking to undermine Britain's democracy.

Communities minister Michael Gove, whose department has produced the new definition, said a more precise version was needed to address the threat.

Currently, no groups have been defined as extremists.

What is the new definition?

The update defines extremism as: "the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to: negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others;

Or undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights;

Or intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2)."

What does being labelled extremist mean?

The government says a team of impartial officials will carry out a "rigorous" assessment in the next few weeks before announcing which groups will be labelled extremist.

## Sudha Murty Takes Oath As RS MP, Narayan Murthy Invited To Watch

New Delhi: Engineer-turned-philanthropist Sudha Murty today took oath as Rajya Sabha MP in the presence of her husband NR Narayana Murthy, who was invited to the ceremony too.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar administered the oath in his chamber in Parliament House. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal was also present on the occasion.

Ms Murty, 73, the former chairperson of Infosys Foundation and the author of several books, mostly for children, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha on International Women's Day last Friday.

She is also renowned for her contribution to Kannada and English literature and is a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Padma Shri (2006) and the Padma



Bhushan (2023).

Sudha Murty, who was the first woman engineer to have worked with TELCO, is famously known to have provided the seed capital of 10,000 from her emergency funds to her husband to start Infosys, which now has a market cap of over USD 80 billion.

## Who Is Mysuru King Yaduveer Wadiyar In BJP's 2nd List For Lok Sabha Polls

Bengaluru: Mysuru royal scion Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar will be making his foray into electoral politics, with the BJP fielding him as its candidate from the Mysore Lok Sabha segment, replacing sitting MP Pratap Simha.

The 31-year-old US-educated Yaduveer was crowned as the titular head of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family on May 28, 2015, making him the 27th 'King' of the Wadiyar dynasty.

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, widow of Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, the last descendant of the Wadiyar dynasty, adopted Yaduveer Gopal Raj Urs as they did



not have any children, after which he was rechristened as Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

Yaduveer, who enjoys playing the guitar and the Saraswa-

ti Veena, has completed his BA in Economics and English at University of Massachusetts, Amherst in the US. He is the grandson of Princess Gayatri Devi, the eldest daughter of the

last Maharaja, Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar.

Interested in history, Yaduveer also plays tennis and is a horse racing enthusiast.

He is married to Trishika Kumari Wadiyar, who hails from the Dungarpur Royal Family in Rajasthan. Trishika's father Harshavardhan Singh was a BJP Rajya Sabha MP.

Politics is not something new to the Mysuru royal family. The previous scion, Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, represented Mysore Parliamentary constituency four times and lost once.

Srikantadatta mostly remained with the Congress, but also had a short stint with the BJP.

NEW S M A K E R S



## 3 Shops Guttred In Lal Chowk Blaze



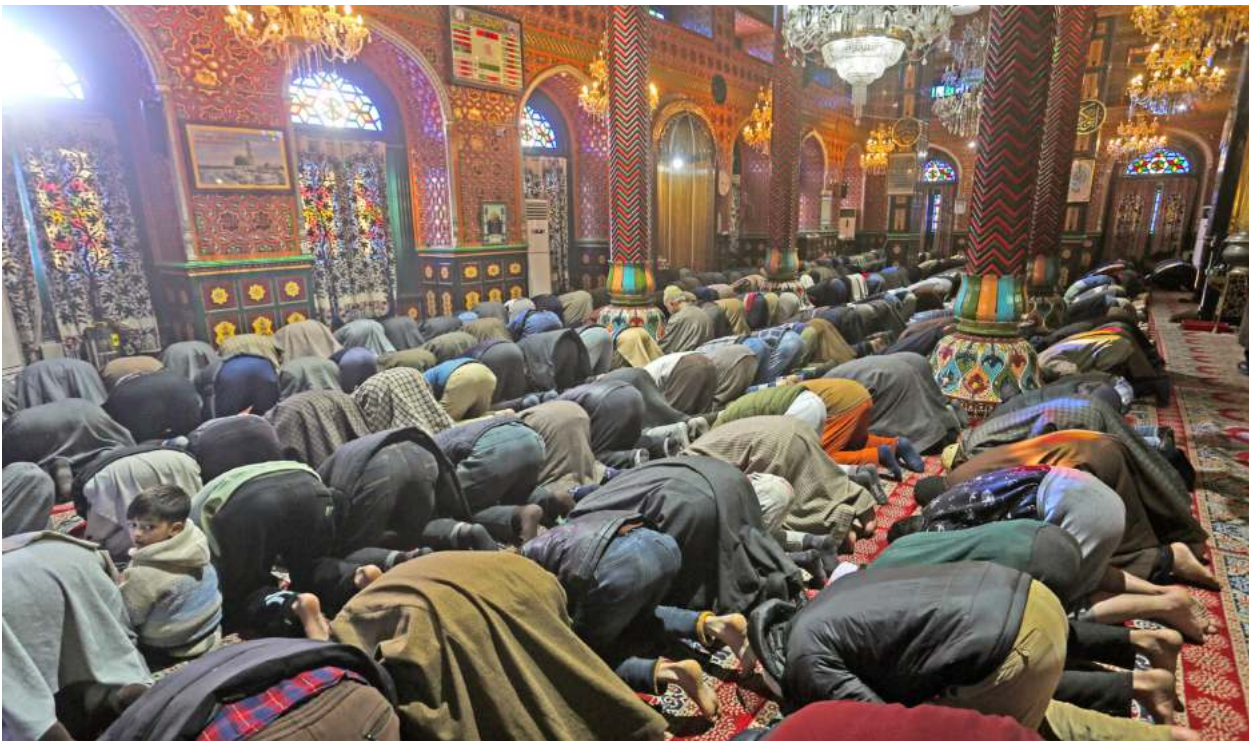
Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** At least three shops were damaged in a massive blaze that broke out in Lal Chowk area of Srinagar on Thursday.

Officials said that three shops including Islamic Gift Corner, Shahjee Shawls, Ambersari Kulcha Dhaba were gutted in the early morning fire due to an electric short circuit.

They said that roofing, wooden shelves/counters, furniture of all shops along with gift items, pashmina shawls, utensils etc were damaged in the fire.

"Besides that one shop having two shutters in the ground floor of Ashraf Arts Emporium of another adjacent four-story shopping complex sustained indirect damage due to heat and water," added the officials.



**A SIZABLE NUMBER** of devotees thronged the revered shrine of Hazrat Peer Dastgeer Sahab (R.A) at Khanyar to offer prayers on the 3rd day of the holy month of Ramazan on Thursday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Workshop On Disaster Reporting, Climate Change Begins At KUs MERC

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two-day training workshop on Reporting Climate Change and Disaster commenced at the Media Education Research Centre (MERC), University of Kashmir Thursday.

The workshop aims to equip media students and scholars with the necessary knowledge on how to cover and report these pressing issues more accurately and responsibly.

Dr. Rashid Maqbool, the lecturer at the Centre, started the session and welcomed the guest of honor, Athar Parvaiz. Dr Maqbool emphasized Athar's incredible contribution to environmental journalism and disaster reporting in the Himalayan region.

"Athar has been published in many reputed national and international publications. His reporting and research focused on crucial issues such as food security, water crisis and agricultural challenges in the Himalayan region. "Athar's work is inspiring and thought-provoking. He helps young storytellers to explore new and challenging areas of developmental reporting," Dr Maqbool said.

Professor Sabeha Mufti, Head MERC, while welcoming the guest said that Athar Parvaiz is an alumnus of the Centre and has earned a name for him in developmental reporting. He is the one who sought out a niche area for reporting,

which sets him apart from the rest, Dr Mufti said, adding, "He is an expert in disaster reporting and climate change which is really a need of hour. Nowadays, we see disasters taking place in the form of wars."

Prof. Sabeha further guided the students and scholars to make the most of this training workshop.

Prof. Malik Zahra, the Coordinator of the workshop said, "The workshop aims at capacity building among our students so that tomorrow they can speak and write about sensitive issues of climate change and disasters which is a global crisis impacting communities worldwide."

The resource person Mr. Athar Parvaiz started the workshop by delving into the history of climate change. He discussed the formation of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and its guidelines. Mr. Athar also shared with the participants the importance of understanding how to start reporting on climate change by emphasizing the need to substantiate claims with scientific evidence. While sharing his experiences he said, "You need to first do the ground research, and then pursue the story".

The workshop was attended by the MERC faculty Prof. Aaliya Ahmed, Prof. Syeda Afshana, Dr Afsana Rashid, Dr Irfan Hashim and Dr Adil Bakshi, besides scholars and students.

## Machine-Made Copperware Poses Challenge To Traditional Craftsmen

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** For generations, the artisans of Kashmir have been renowned for their exquisite craftsmanship, creating intricate copperware using age-old techniques passed down through centuries.

From delicate tea sets to ornate bowls and vases, each piece is a testament to their mastery of the craft and reflects the region's rich cultural heritage. The machine-made copperware, however, for the last few decades has emerged a new challenge for the centuries-old copperware industry of the valley.

Machine-made copperware is rapidly gaining ground, posing a formidable challenge to the traditional craftsmen who have long dominated the market.

As a result, traditional Kashmiri copper artisans are finding themselves in a tough battle to compete with their machine-made counterparts. Many are struggling to adapt to the changing market dynamics, facing declining demand for their handcrafted products.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges from machine-made copperware. Our products may be crafted with care and attention to detail, but the onslaught by machine-made copperware had brought down its worth," said Abdul Aziz Lankar, a copperware artisans and a dealer.

He said the advent of modern manufacturing techniques and the rise of machine-made copperware have begun to disrupt this age-old industry.

"With advanced machinery capable of mass production, manufacturers can churn out copperware at a fraction of the time and cost required by traditional artisans. This shift has not gone unnoticed by consumers, who are increasingly drawn to the convenience and affordability offered by machine-made copperware," Lankar said.

# Ramazan: Nearly 1200 People Breaks Fast At Srinagar's Masjid Bilal Daily

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** An estimated 1200 people break their at Srinagar's Bilal Masjid on a daily basis during the ongoing holy month of Ramadan.

An estimated 1200 people throng Srinagar's Bilal Masjid on a daily basis in the month of Ramadan for 'Iftari'.

A Masjid Committee member informed that they have been organizing this Iftar majlis since 2012, and people come here in large numbers on a daily basis.

"We don't count the devotees, but an estimated 1000 to 1200 people come here on a regular basis. We serve 'Iftar' to them. As the masjid is located in the market, a large number of people offer prayers here on daily basis and in the month of Ramadan, the committee decided to come up with some special arrangements for the Muslims during the month of Ramzan so that they will break their fast easily without facing any



difficulties," he said.

"We have established this facility specifically for those who belong to far-flung areas and cannot reach their homes on time, and with this motto, we started this iftar gathering

for all, and everyone is welcomed here," added the masjid committee member.

"We are happy with our work, and also satisfied with our services," added the Masjid authorities.

Form VI

Preliminary Notification [See sub-rule (1) of rule-25 mid Section-11 (1) of the Act-30/2013]

OFFICE OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL-MAGISTRATE-ZAINAPORA

WITH THE POWERS OF THE COLLECTOR LAND ACQUISITION,

Under section 3 (g) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

No. SDM/ZMP/LAS-32/2024/36 Dated: 13.01.2024

Whereas, it appears to the appropriate Government that land measuring 9.5 Marlas falling under Survey number 458/384 min, Khata No.161. Khewat No.43 at village Nully Poshwari, Tehsil Barbugh, District Shopian and land measuring 17 Marlas falling under survey number 538. Khewat No.02, Khata No.13 at village Turkawangam, Tehsil Chitragam, District Shopian (Total land 26.5 Marlas) is required for public purpose namely "Construction of Pump House, Tube Well SR for WSS Mugalpora"

Whereas, a Committee was constituted by this office under sub-rule (1) of rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent) Rules 2023, vide No.SDM Znp LAS/23/1258-70 dated 28.10.2023 to visit the spot along with the representatives of Requiring Body to make a preliminary enquiry.

The summary of the report submitted by the designated Committee is under:-

There has been no State/ Govt. Land available nearby the site which could have been feasible suitable for the said project & the Requiring Body (Indenting Department) has agreed accepted the proposed piece of land for Acquiring of the same which serves the public purpose. The extent of the land proposed for acquisition is absolute bare minimum needed for the purpose/ project. The acquisition of land at adjacent/ alternative place have been considered by the Requiring Body (Indenting Department) earlier and found not feasible/ suitable on ground. There is no sufficient/ suitable unutilized land which has been previously acquired in the area. There is no State/ Govt./ Common land available which would serve the public purposes and there is only option to acquire the proposed piece of land which also include instant piece of private land. There is no piece of land acquired earlier and remained unutilized which could have been used for such public purpose. The requisition is consistent with the provisions contained in section 10 and other similar provisions of the Act. By way of this acquisition there shall be no displacement, disturbance to the environment, ecological hazard or any ill effect which could prove detrimental for the general public. The Committee has recommended the case for acquisition of 9.5 Marlas of land falling under Survey number 458/384 min, Khata No.161, Khewat No.43 at village Nully Poshwari, Tehsil Barbugh, District Shopian and land measuring 17 Marlas falling under survey number 538, Khewat No.02, Khata No.13 at village Turkawangam, Tehsil Chitragam, District Shopian (Total land 26.5 Marlas). The said report was considered SIA report as envisaged in chapter III para 2 of Jammu and Kashmir Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent) Rules 2023.

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in the village Nully Poshwari, Tehsil Barbugh, District Shopian & in the village Turkawangam, Tehsil Chitragam, District Shopian, a piece of land measuring 26.5 Marlas whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition:

S. No.	Khasra No. (Survey No.)	Type of Title Private/ Govt/ Common	Type of Land Rural/ Urban	Area under Acquisition		Trees		Structures	
				Kanal	Maria	Variety	Number	Type	Clinch Area
1	458/ 382 min (at village Nully Poshwari)	Private	Rural	00	9.5	-	-	-	-
2	538 (at village Turkawangam)	Private	Rural	00	17	-	-	-	-

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector on any working day during the working hours. The Government authorizes Collector and his Revenue field staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the Act.


Under sub section (4) of section 11 of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land, i.e., sale/ purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filled by the person interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Collector.


Place: SDM office Zainapora  
Dated: 13.01.2024

DIPK-17942-23  
DT: 14/03/2024


(Collector Land Acquisition),  
Sub-Divisional-Magistrate,  
Zainapora.

- 
  - TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
  - PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
  - PDD: 0194-2450213
  - FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
  - CAPD: 18001807011
  - SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
  - Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200


**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**  


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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**  


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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

04 Ramazan

1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:19
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	4:56
Magrib	6:41
ISHA	8: 01

## This Day In History

- 221- Liu Bei, a Chinese warlord and member of the Han royal house, declares himself Emperor of Shu-Han, claiming legitimate succession to the Han Dynasty
- 351- Constantius II elevates his cousin Gallus to Caesar, and puts him in charge of the Eastern part of the Roman Empire.
- 493- Theodoric the Great, King of the Ostrogoths, murders King Odoacer of Italy with his sword at a banquet in Ravenna
- 933- Battle of Riade: German King Henry I beats Magyars
- 1311- Battle of Halmyros: The Catalan Company defeats Walter V of Brienne to take control of the Duchy of Athens, a Crusader state in Greece.
- 1493- Christopher Columbus returns to Spain after his first voyage to the New World
- 1526- French Dauphin Francis and his brother Henry exchanged as hostages for their father Francis I, beginning of four years of captivity in Spain under the Treaty of Madrid
- 1580- Spanish King Philip II puts 25,000 gold coins on head of Prince William I of Orange
- 1672- King Charles II of England enacts the Declaration of Indulgence in an unsuccessful attempt to extend religious liberty to Protestant nonconformists and Roman Catholics in his realms
- 1744- French King Louis XV declares war on Britain
- 1781- Battle of Guilford Court House; British troops under Cornwallis defeat American forces but their heavy losses led to ceding of territory and a strategic loss
- 1812 - 1st Russian settlement in California, Russian River
- 1889 - 6 US & German warships sunk bu a typhoon in harbor of Apia, Samoa, 200 die
- 1892 - 1st escalator patented by inventor Jesse W Reno (NYC)
- 1913 - 1st US presidential press conference (Woodrow Wilson)
- 1922 - France, which up until now has insisted on currency for all WWI reparation payments from Germany, now accepts raw materials as payment
- 1928 - Benito Mussolini modifies Italy electoral system (abolishes right to choose)
- 193 0 - 1st streamlined submarine of US navy, USS Nautilus, launched
- 1933 - NAACP begins coordinated attack on segregation & discrimination
- 1937 - 1st blood bank forms (Chicago IL)
- 1939 - Hitler occupies Bohemia & Moravia (Czechoslovakia); Slovakia independent
- 1943 - Allied reconnaissance flight over Java
- 1943 Red Army evacuates Kharkov
- 1946 - British Prime Minister Clement Attlee agrees with India's right to independence
- 1951 - Persia nationalizes Anglo-Iranian Oil Company
- 1955 - US Air Force unveils self-guided missile
- 1957 - Great Britain becomes the third nation to explode a nuclear bomb
- 1962 - Five research groups announce the discovery of anti-matter
- 1964 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1967 - Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT)-headquarter moves to Brunssum
- 1967 - Marshal Arturo da Costa e Silva sworn in as President of Brazil
- 1968 - Uprising in South Yemen
- 1969 - Violent Chinese-Russian border dispute leaves 100s dead
- 1972 - Danish airliner hit mountain in Sheikdom of Oman killing 112
- 1972 - NASA selects 3 part configuration for Space Shuttle
- 1976 - Failed coup in Niger
- 1977 - US House of Representatives begins 90 day test of televising its sessions



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>™</sup>

Friday | 15-03-2024

## Rising Cancer Crisis

An unspoken pandemic is silently wreaking havoc on the lives of people of Jammy and Kashmir. A startling report by the National Cancer Registry Programme reveals a grim reality—over the last six years, the Union Territory has witnessed a staggering 80,000 cancer cases, with the highest-ever recorded in the last year at 14,112 cases. The alarming surge, according to healthcare professionals, is attributed to sedentary lifestyles, obesity, and the consumption of chemical-laden food items.

The year-on-year increase in cancer cases is a cause for grave concern, indicating a deepening crisis that demands urgent attention. The analysis of data from Kashmir's two tertiary care healthcare institutions, Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, paints a somber picture. SKIMS has documented a 44,112 cancer cases from 2013 to 2023, while SMHS Hospital has reported 6,379 cases from 2017 to 2023. The numbers highlight the magnitude of the issue, with a majority of cancer patients seeking treatment in these two hospitals.

As the number of cancer cases rises, the healthcare infrastructure faces challenges in providing timely and accurate diagnostics. With only one PET scan machine available at SKIMS Soura, patients at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar encounter difficulties in accessing essential diagnostic services.

Experts stress the need for a multipronged strategy to address the crisis, focusing on promoting physical activity, healthy eating, and raising awareness about the hazards of consuming chemically contaminated food products. Cancer is a complex, multi-factorial illness, with factors such as ageing populations, cigarette use, poor diet, and air pollution contributing to its rise.

In the past, studies have attempted to identify contributing factors. A 2012 study at SKIMS attributed the rising cancer incidence to "dietary practices and lifestyle choices" as well as the intake of foods with high salt content. Suspected carcinogens like carmoisine and tartrazine, used as colorants in certain Kashmiri foods, spices, and sauces, have raised concerns about food safety. Food adulteration and contamination, highlighted by a 2014 High Court intervention, have become growing concerns, with large business companies found to produce items containing hazardous substances.

The rising trend in cancer cases demands a collaborative effort from people, healthcare professionals, and the government to implement effective preventive measures. Urgent steps are needed to address the root causes of this silent menace and alleviate the burden on the healthcare system.



## Did you know ?

Irshad Mushtaq

Did you know that an investment of Rs 4.27 lac in Titan shares in 1999 is worth Rs 38.39 cr today? This staggering growth exemplifies the potential for creating wealth through the stock market. However, it is important to note that such extraordinary returns are not achieved without careful consideration and investment strategy.

One key lesson to take from this success story is the importance of holding onto quality management and honest management. Companies with strong and ethical leadership tend to perform well over the long term, leading to greater returns for investors. It is also crucial to focus on companies that are continuing to grow and remain profitable. By investing in such businesses, one can position themselves to capitalize on their success and secure long-term gains.

The stock market is known for its volatility, and it is imperative to maintain patience and discipline during times of fluctuation. While it may be tempting to panic and sell during downturns, staying the course and remaining invested in quality companies is vital for long-term success. It is important to remember that quality will follow the business over time, and by being patient and disciplined, investors can benefit from the growth of their investments.

In conclusion, the remarkable growth of an investment in Titan shares serves as a powerful reminder of the potential for wealth creation in the stock market. By focusing on quality management, honest management, and continuing profitable companies, investors can position themselves for long-term success. While the stock market may be volatile, maintaining patience and discipline can lead to significant returns over time. This serves as a valuable lesson for anyone looking to build wealth through smart and strategic investment.

The writer is entrepreneur partner , M I Securities ,Sharekhan. Email:irshad@bp.sharekhan.com

## Mindful Fridays

# Resilience Through Setbacks

Navigating Life's Twists and Turns in Today's World



Wasim Kakroo



**It's vital to acknowledge that personal development unfolds through various phases, including periods of pause, introspection, and embracing reality. Even during instances of perceived stagnation or failure to meet self-imposed benchmarks, it's crucial to grasp that genuine growth transcends relentless advancement**

In a society fixated on constant progress and immediate achievement, it's common to experience disillusionment when our lives diverge from our envisioned paths. Yet, it's vital to acknowledge that personal development unfolds through various phases, including periods of pause, introspection, and embracing reality. Even during instances of perceived stagnation or failure to meet self-imposed benchmarks, it's crucial to grasp that genuine growth transcends relentless advancement. True evolution encompasses acknowledging the journey's nuances, finding value in stillness, and gleaning insights from setbacks. Rather than fixating solely on outcomes, it's about embracing the entirety of the process, extracting wisdom from each encounter, and cultivating resilience in the face of adversity. By recognizing that growth is a holistic voyage, comprising both progress and setbacks, individuals can foster a deeper understanding of themselves and navigate life's complexities with greater wisdom and compassion. Let us delve deeper into the idea of traversing a journey of resilience while facing setbacks and the associated opportunity for growth.

### 1. Embracing Imperfection:

It's natural to feel unsettled when our lives don't align with our expectations. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that detours and imperfections are integral parts of our journey. These unexpected paths often present us with invaluable opportunities for growth and self-discovery. By releasing our attachment to rigid expectations and embracing the uncertainties of life, we open ourselves up to new possibilities and experiences. Embracing the twists and turns of our journey allows us to cultivate resilience and adaptability, enabling us to navigate challenges with grace and emerge stronger and more fulfilled. Ultimately, it's through embracing the imperfections and detours that we find the true beauty and richness of our personal growth journey.

### 2. Learning from Setbacks:

Navigating through life often entails encountering situations where we feel we haven't reached

the milestones we set for ourselves. This can evoke feelings of unease or disappointment. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that life rarely follows a linear trajectory. Embracing the imperfections and unexpected detours along our journey is key to personal growth.

The paths we envision for ourselves may not always align with the reality we face. Yet, these unexpected deviations often lead to valuable learning experiences and personal development. By releasing the grip on rigid expectations and welcoming the uncertainties, we open ourselves up to unforeseen opportunities and insights.

Rather than resisting change or clinging to predetermined outcomes, embracing the twists and turns of life allows us to adapt and evolve. It fosters resilience and cultivates a mindset of flexibility and acceptance. Through this process, we discover new strengths, passions, and perspectives that may have remained undiscovered on a preconceived path.

### 3. The Power of Rest and Reflection:

In our modern, fast-paced society, rest is often overlooked, yet it's essential for sustainable growth and well-being. Just as plants require dormancy to thrive, humans need moments of stillness to replenish their minds, bodies, and souls. Rest offers a vital opportunity for reflection, enabling us to gain perspective and make informed decisions about our future. Without adequate rest, we become susceptible to burnout and diminished productivity, hindering our ability to achieve our goals. Prioritizing rest allows us to recharge our energy reserves, fostering creativity and maintaining overall well-being. It is during these moments of rest that our brains consolidate information, leading to enhanced problem-solving abilities and improved cognitive function. Additionally, rest promotes physical recovery, supporting muscle repair and immune function. By recognizing the importance of rest and incorporating it into our lives, we can cultivate resilience, creativity, and holistic growth, ultimately leading to a more fulfilling and balanced existence.

### 4. Cultivating Gratitude:

In the relentless pursuit of our

goals, it's common to become fixated on what we lack rather than appreciating what we already have. Cultivating gratitude offers a transformative perspective shift, allowing us to acknowledge the abundance that surrounds us. When we take the time to recognize the blessings present in our lives, we nurture a positive mindset that fuels our growth journey. Gratitude acts as a powerful catalyst, enabling us to find contentment and fulfillment in the present moment, while still striving for our aspirations. By establishing an attitude of gratitude, we cultivate resilience and optimism, which propels us forward with a sense of purpose and perspective. Ultimately, embracing gratitude allows us to navigate life's challenges with grace, fostering a deeper appreciation for both the journey and the destination.

### 5. Embracing the Process:

True growth transcends mere destination-focused achievement; it encompasses the entirety of our journey. It involves deriving satisfaction and happiness from the ongoing process of personal development. Every step we take, regardless of its direction, plays a role in shaping our character and guiding our evolution. Through embracing this journey with patience and resilience, we create an environment conducive to genuine, unforced growth. This approach allows us to cultivate authenticity and integrity, as we navigate the complexities of life's pathways. Ultimately, true growth is not solely about reaching predetermined goals but about finding fulfillment in the continuous unfolding of our individual narratives. It's about acknowledging the significance of each moment, regardless of its outcome, and recognizing that every experience contributes to our ongoing journey of self-discovery and transformation.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Gout. 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



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## Enforcing Fines for Tourists Littering in Kashmir

I write to express deep concern about the pervasive issue of littering by tourists in Kashmir. While tourism is vital to the region's economy, the unbridled littering jeopardizes its pristine beauty and ecological balance. To tackle this problem, it is imperative to implement fines for tourists found littering.

Kashmir's breathtaking landscapes and cultural heritage are its

crowning glory. However, the irresponsible behavior of some tourists who discard trash haphazardly not only spoils the environment but also disrespects local culture and harms the livelihoods of the community.

To address this issue effectively, local authorities should collaborate with environmental organizations and tourism boards to establish clear guidelines and fines for littering.

These penalties should be prominently displayed at tourist spots and enforced consistently.

Educational campaigns and local guides can play a pivotal role in raising awareness among tourists about responsible tourism. Encouraging them to respect the environment and local customs will help mitigate the problem.

In conclusion, immediate action is needed to combat tourist litter-

ing in Kashmir. Implementing fines and promoting responsible tourism will safeguard the region's natural beauty and cultural significance. Let us work together to ensure that Kashmir remains the paradise on Earth it has always been.

Sania Meer



# PENMAN’S NICHE WORD FOR OUR DEEDS



S.SARWAR.MALIK

Available in more than one hundred languages; scores in English and Urdu alone, translations or commentaries of the Holy Quran, by Sunni, Salafi, Shia or for that matter by the modernist, Scholars, that came to light during the last fourteen centuries, make it most accessible, like Bible (OT+NT).

From George Sale (1734 AD), to M.M.Pickthall (1930) & A.Yusuf Ali(1934); from Abul Ala Maududi, Ashraf Ali Thanvi to Sanaullah Amritsari; from Abd-al-Razzaq Al Kashani to Qazi Panipati (Sufi school) ; or Muhammad Husayn Tabatabai (Shiate school) to Hafiz Salahudin Yusuf (Salafi School); we hear of hundreds of scholars, not to forget the recent ones from Anwar Shah Kashmiri to Prof Muhammad Taqi ud Din al Hilali al Maghribi & Muhammad Muhsin Khan (1998; Medina) and Iranian Prof.Seyyed Hossein Nasr (- & four others; i:e intra-faith translation of 2015).

About the commentaries, written from( 300H to 900H) we have heard about the ones written by personalities of yore, like Tabari, Zamkhashri, Razi, Baidhawi, Ibn Kathir, Sayuti and Jalaalain's. From our subcontinent recent names like Shah Wali ullah Dehlvi, Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan (-and many others) too come to mind.

Abdullah Yusuf Ali gave us in 1934 AD: THE HOLY QURAN- Text, Translation and Commentary; that besides giving a short introductory commentary (-to the eight major topics that he has chosen); gives individual introduction to each surah, and verse-wise notes , besides the Arabic Text and English translation; supplementing it with an index (- in alphabetical order) at the end.

Most recent translation, that I heard in Nov 2023 is by Zafar-ul-Islam Khan (- of the Institute Of Islamic & Arab Studies,



Life provides us a chance to act here in this phenomenal existence; the actions possible by the exercise of the bestowed faculties. Birth and death are two realities, where we humans have no role, leaving only the middle stage, where we are capable of doing something.

New Delhi, an alumnus of Al-Azhar & Cairo universities, besides PhD Manchester University; son of Maulana Wahidudin Khan.)

Spread over 1235 pages THE GLORIOUS QURAN- an English Translation With Extensive Annotations & parallel Arabic Text, begins with the Notes & Introduction by the author, Z.I.Khan, and carries, besides other lesser features, a short biography of Holy Prophet, followed by Islamic Terms, and Subject Index in Appendices. Size wise

Z.I.Khan's book is nearly 50% thinner than that of A.Y.Ali.

Reading, in Khan's book, about the 'word' DEEDS (on page 1108) in the subject Index, it occurred to me how useful such indices are (-mostly in advanced age & especially to those who are not tech-savvy). Reading from Z.I.khan & A.Y.Ali, what I give below, led to the concluding thoughts.

'Whoever does righteous deeds (amle saliha) benefits his own self' and whoever does evil, it is against his own self'...

(41:46); ...the doer... will be successful... (28:67)...will be granted Viceregency on Earth as granted to The People Before Them... (24:55)...Those who repent & believe and do good deeds... they will enter paradise, yedkhaloon ul Jannah...(19:60)... reward...shall not be forfeited...( 18:30)... doer of good deeds will be in the meads of the Gardens [Janaat ] 42:22... be he male or female... will enter paradise...(4:124)... for good deeds, recompense will be even MORE...(4:173)...whose good deeds out-

weigh his bad deeds...will be successful ... (23:102)...good tidings...in lieu of loving-kinsmen-nearer (-to-me) [Qurba] will get multifold Good ...(42:23)...will be given fulfilling rewards (95:6).

In addition to these ayahs, we should remember the stress Islam lays on haqqoq ul lbaad.

Dear reader, life provides us a chance to act here in this phenomenal existence; the actions possible by the exercise of the bestowed faculties.

Birth and death are two realities, where we humans have no role, leaving only the middle stage, where we are capable of doing something.

Now actions can be positive or negative. Love is positive, hate negative but indifference - neither loving nor hating; a sort of neutrality, though amounting to no- action, undesirable- most of the time. Positive will breed positivism and negativity will cast us in the negative vortex.

Time for good deeds is NOW, this living moment. Yesterday has gone into oblivion, Future is nowhere in sight, only today is real and pulsating with life. In fact when tomorrow comes it will come in the form of today. So the best time for desirable positive actions is now, this very moment. Hence 'doing good to others now, as we would wish others to do to us', is The Scriptural Truth, dear reader.

Allow me to conclude today's write up with the opening and closing verses of a beautiful poem, written by an accomplished Urdu poet:

Holding a pencil for the first time/  
My son asks/  
"What should I write?"/  
What shall I tell You, child/  
.....[ my dream- filled child]/  
Write ALL beautiful words/  
On the page of tomorrow/  
T-R-U-T-H (-forever)/  
G-O-O-D (-unto others)/  
L-O-V-E ( one & all )/|||

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

## How to Manage Your Time During Ramadan

AMALIAH TEAM

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "Take advantage of five before five: your youth before your old age, your health before your illness, your wealth before your poverty, your free time before your pre-occupation, and your life before your death." (Saheeh al-Jaami', no. 1077)

Every year as Ramadan draws near, we find ourselves scrambling to prepare for the days ahead, hoping that this time we will have better self-discipline and a chance to experience profound spiritual rejuvenation. In an ideal scenario, we might hope to dedicate our days and nights to worship, free from worldly obligations and responsibilities. However it is important to remember that even the Sahaba, who would prepare for Ramadan six months before its arrival, did not shy away from worldly duties nor did they view it as a month to stop their normal routine or activities. For example, there were instances when they went to war while fasting. Rather, they spent more time in worship, sacrificing sleep and spending their time solely on what matters.

However the question remains, in the midst of fasting and engaging in acts of worship, how do we strike a balance between our worldly responsibilities and devotion to Allah? We asked the Amaliah Community to send in their tips on effective time management during Ramadan and they did not disappoint.

In this article, we will explore tried and tested strategies by our community members to help you manage your time effectively during Ramadan.

### 1. Utilise Annual Leave Strategically

"Save up annual leave to take off as much of the last 10 days as possible, or one day off every week"

Our favourite tip was to consider saving up annual leave to take off as much time as possible in Ramadan, particularly in the last 10 days or alternatively, take one day off every week. This can provide dedicated time for worship, reflection, and rejuvenation without the distractions of work or other commitments.

### 2. Prioritise Salah Times

"I have prayer times set in my diary first, then anything else around them."

Set prayer times as non-negotiable appointments in your diary and plan your day around them. This approach allows you to focus and pray as soon as possible after the adhan (call to prayer). Carry essentials like a portable prayer mat and water bottle for wudhu, to help facilitate prayers wherever you are. Additionally, for those who utilise digital calendars, consider syncing your calendar with prayer times. By incorporating prayer times directly into your digital calendar, you can receive reminders and notifications, ensuring that you never miss a prayer. This simple yet effective act can help you stay organised and prioritise salah throughout the day.

Here is a helpful video demonstrating how to sync prayer times with your digital calendar.

The Prophet ﷺ emphasised the importance of salah in numerous hadiths.

"Indeed the first deed by which a servant will be called to account on the Day of Resurrection is his Salat. If it is complete, he is successful and saved, but if it is defective, he has failed and lost." (Jami' at-Tirmidhi 413)

### 3. Establish Pre-Ramadan Routines

"Start getting into a routine before Ramadan starts, i.e. sleeping, eating etc."

Gradually adjusting your sleeping and eating patterns before Ramadan begins can help ease the transition into the fasting month, ensuring that you're physically and mentally prepared for the challenges ahead. Make an intention of adjusting your routine for the sake of having a spiritually fulfilling Ramadan and earn double the rewards.

### 4. Optimise Your Work Schedule

"I find it helpful to schedule work in the morning and do ibadah towards the end of the day."

The Prophet ﷺ emphasised the merit of Qiyam Al-Layl, the night prayer and said, "The best prayer after the obligatory ones is the night prayer." (Sunan an-Nasa'i)

Offering taraweeh during the night and waking up for work the next day is definitely one of the biggest challenges we face during Ramadan. Consider exploring flexible work options, such as remote work or adjusted hours, to accommodate your schedule. Have an open and honest conversation with your employer about your religious obligations to improve your work-life balance during this time.

You can find a 'Ramadan Guide for Employers' here which you can share with them and a 'Flexible Working Email Template' which you can use to request reasonable adjustments.

### 5. Structure Your Day Around Worship

"During Ramadan, I plan my day around my worship, this way I can pray promptly and have dedicated time for the Quran."

Try to organise your day into manageable chunks aligned with the ibadah you wish to fulfil. You can also allocate specific time slots for Salah, reading the Quran, making dhikr, or even taking power naps if you need them. Resting during Ramadan, with the intention of improving the quality of your worship, also brings numerous rewards and blessings.

"I've found it helpful to leave my phone in another room to stay focused."

Our favourite tip was putting your phone in a completely separate room away from the space where you will conduct your ibadah, in order to minimise distractions. Staying focused on achievable and sustainable spiritual goals also helps in staying consistent.

The Prophet ﷺ said, "The most beloved deeds to Allah are those performed consistently, even if they are small." (Sunan An-Nasa'i)

### 6. Meal Prep In Advance

"Meal prepping in advance on the weekends frees up so much time for me during weekdays and helps me focus on my ibadah post iftar."

Simplify your Ramadan routine by dedicating weekends to meal prepping. Follow the Sunnah and prioritise nutritious and wholesome foods. By preparing healthy meals and snacks in advance, you

can streamline your Ramadan routine and reduce stress. This allows you to focus more on worship and spiritual reflection during this blessed month.

### 7. Have an Accountability Buddy

"Every year my sister and I keep each other accountable for Qur'an recitations. This helps me stay on track throughout."

Reach out to your sisters, friends, or aunts to create a support network during Ramadan. Consider forming a WhatsApp group to address challenges together. Whether it's praying taraweeh, waking up for suhoor or doing a Quran khatam, having like-minded friends can offer encouragement and accountability in reaching spiritual goals.

Narrated Abu Musa, "The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, 'A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other.' The Prophet (ﷺ) then clasped his hands with the fingers interlaced (while saying that)." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

### 8. Ease the Load

"For the past two years, I've found a game-changer for Ramadan: hiring cleaners to come twice a week. It's been a lifesaver in easing the load during this blessed month."

Delegating household tasks and responsibilities can help lighten the load for everyone during Ramadan. Assign specific chores to each member of the family or if possible, outsource certain tasks like cleaning and laundry. Communicate openly about the importance of shared responsibilities before Ramadan starts to manage everyone's expectations and encourage everyone to play their part.

### 9. Manage Hydration and Nutrition:

"I drink at least 2L of water post iftar no matter what to help with my hydration."

Prioritising hydration can help in sustaining energy levels and enable optimal worship throughout the day. Incorporate hydrating foods and drinks into your suhoor and iftar meals to further support your

health and enhance your spiritual practice.

You can also read our articles below for more tips on nutrition during Ramadan:

Sunnah Ways: Mindful Eating This Ramadan

Sunnah Foods to Try and Recipe for Tharid - The Beloved Meal of Prophet (ﷺ)

### 10. Streamline Ramadan with Technology

"I use google calendar to schedule everything, from salah, to quran recitation time to meal prep, this helps take off a huge mental load."

Make use of time-saving technology tools and resources to streamline your daily routines during Ramadan. You can explore meal planning apps, productivity trackers, and digital organisers to manage tasks, stay on schedule, and make the most of your time effectively.

You can also read: 6 Islamic Apps to Help You Prepare for Ramadan

### 11. Have Sabr and Shukr:

"It helps to acknowledge that I am only human, some days will be good while others not so much."

Fostering a mindset of gratitude and patience can help navigate the challenges and blessings of Ramadan. Each day of Ramadan is a renewed opportunity to seek Allah's mercy and gain His forgiveness. Trust in Allah's guidance to help you overcome obstacles and fulfil your obligations with sincerity and devotion.

For tips to help you overcome that Ramadan slump, also read: The Last Mile, Lift Your Ramadan Slump

Allah SWT says, "By time, indeed, mankind is in loss, except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience." (Surah Al-Asr 103:1-3).

These verses serve as a reminder of the preciousness of time and the importance of utilising it wisely to fulfil our duties as Muslims. May this Ramadan be a time of growth, reflection, and connection. Ameen

The article was originally published by Amaliah







# Kashmir Witnesses 800 Fire Incidents in First Two Months of the Year

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** With over eight hundred fire incidents reported across Kashmir Valley this year till date, people are requested to be cautious and check their wiring to prevent any short-circuit that may lead to a fire incident, a top officer of the Fire & Emergency Services Department said.

He said around 180 incidents have been reported in the Srinagar district alone, and people should follow Dos and Don'ts to prevent any further fire incidents.

Speaking with the news agency, Er Aqib Hussain, Deputy Director of Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), said Srinagar



district alone has witnessed around 180 fire incidents this year, contributing much to the overall count of 800 incidents reported across the valley. He said two deaths and two

injuries were reported in these incidents. "In winter, people use many heating gadgets. We should stay cautious and follow Dos and Don'ts," he said.

The officer said many fire incidents happen with short circuits and breakage of wiring. He urged people to conduct regular electrical audits and install protective measures such as MCBs (Miniature Circuit Breakers) to safeguard against potential fire hazards.

Hussain urged people to maintain contact information for their nearest fire stations and familiarise themselves with emergency protocols. Those who don't have such contacts can use the helpline number 101—(KNO)

## Market Checking Lapse Leads To Surge In Valley's Essential Prices



## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In the ongoing holy month of Ramadhan, Kashmir is witnessing a distressing surge in the prices of essential commodities, causing multiple hardships to people.

Many residents who spoke to the news agency complained about escalating costs of mutton, chicken and vegetables.

They expressed frustration over the absence of market checking squads deployed to regulate prices during Ramadan.

Gulam Nabi, a local, while complaining about price rise demanded the authorities to take measures to control market inflation.

He said that the lack of oversight has left many vulnerable to exploitation, highlighting exorbitant prices for staple food items. Residents lament the absence of prominently displayed price lists, accusing vendors of profiteering at their expense.

Similar complaints were received from Prang and Kangan, where residents condemn the unjustifiable rates imposed by wholesalers and retailers alike. They appealed to the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs department to swiftly intervene and alleviate the financial burden on Kashmiri households during this sacred month—(KNO)

## 'Only 5-6% Of Kidney Transplant Patients Access Surgery In Kashmir'

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Among around one lakh patients requiring kidney transplants, just around five to six percent of lucky people have access to it, said Dr Salim Wani, a prominent urologist in Kashmir.

Speaking with the news agency, Dr Wani said there are limited options available once kidney failure occurs, with dialysis and transplantation being the primary treatments. However, he said that in India, only about 5,000 to 6,000 people out of the one lakh in need are able to secure a donor, leaving many without hope.

He stressed the importance of early detection in mitigating the long-term effects of kidney disease, saying diabetes and hyper-



tension are major culprits. "These conditions often go undetected as they silently contribute to kidney failure," he said, adding that people, especially those with diabetes or hypertension, must seek immediate medical attention if they experience warning signs such as swelling of the face and feet.

Regarding dietary habits, Dr Salim said high salt and carbohydrate-rich diets impact kidney health. He called for a balanced diet rich in vegetables and proteins and warned against the consumption of processed foods, which can worsen kidney issues.

Dr Wani also highlighted the importance of hydra-

tion and recommended a daily intake of 1.5-2 litres of water to prevent infections and kidney stones, which are common causes of kidney failure. "Stress and the overuse of painkillers can also contribute to chronic kidney disease," he said.

He said chronic kidney disease is a "huge burden" on all countries including India. So, there is a need for increased awareness and action to promote kidney health.

World Kidney Day is observed annually on the second Thursday of March, and this year's theme is 'Healthy Kidney for All'.

Kidney disease ranks among the leading causes of death worldwide, surpassing even breast cancer and prostate cancer—(KNO)

## Charge Electricity Bills Of Employees At Govt Quarters: PDD Pr Sec

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Power Development Department Thursday asked managing directors of JPDCL and KPDCCL to charge the electricity bills of employees residing in government quarters at Srinagar and Jammu as per meter readings.

It also asked them to implement deposition of electricity charges on flat rate basis till 14-07-2023 and as per meter reading with effect from 15-07-2023 onwards for the employees residing in government quarters at Srinagar and Jammu.

According to the news agency, Principal Secretary Power Development Department H Rajesh Prasad in a circular said that the government 2013 has been withdrawn by issuing of new orders in year 2023 regarding deposition of electricity charges on flat rate basis till 14-07-2023 and as per meter reading with effect from 15-07-2023 onwards.

"Accordingly, the Managing Director's, JPDCL and KPDCCL are request to implement the government order of 2023 in letter and spirit and charge the electricity bills as per meter readings with immediate effect from 15-07-2023 and on flat rate basis up to 14-07-2023 only," it reads—(KNO)

## Hajj Committee Issues Training Schedule For Pilgrims

## KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee on thursday issued a Training Programme about Manasik-e-Hajj and other logistics for the selected Hajj-2024 pilgrims of J&K UT.

As per an official communiqué, all selected pilgrims of district Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Srinagar, Jammu, Samba Kathua, Ramban, Poonch, Reasi, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Doda and Rajouri are being informed that a Training Programme about Manasik-e-Hajj and other logistics will be conducted in their respective districts.

## Ramazan 'Seharkhwaans' Keep Alive Centuries-Old Tradition In Digital Age

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Hundreds of men of all ages from remote areas in Kashmir have taken up the role of drum beaters to wake up Muslims for their pre-dawn 'sehri' before they start their day-long Ramadan fast.

Known as 'seharkhwaans', these men take up the job for several reasons -- poverty being the most common.

A night in the life of a seharkhwaan involves getting up at 2.30 am and waking people by beating drums from 3.00 am to

4.30 am.

"The women wake up a little earlier than the men to cook or warm the food. So there has to be ample time between waking up and the end of the sehri, which is usually around 5.20 am," Abdul Rehman Khatana, a veteran seharkhwaan in the city's Barbarah area, told PTI.

Rafiq Ahmad Khan, who hails from Uri in Baramulla district, works as a construction labourer for the rest of the year but prefers to beat the drums as a seharkhwaan during Ramzan.

"I have been doing this work for seven years. There are no wages as such but people are very generous, especially during Ramzan. I earn more during this month than the rest of the year," Khan said.

Working as a seharkhwaan in the posh Hyderpora area, Khan said the work allows him to observe the fasts as well.

"It is tough to work as a construction labourer while fasting. As a seharkhwaan, I can fast as well," he added.

Zahooruddin Shah, a resident of Kupwara, comes to

Srinagar every year during Ramazan to work as a seharkhwaan.

"I get good money for it. The best part is that I don't cook sehri for myself as the residents provide free food to me," he said.

Seventy-year-old Ghulam Rasool Payar, who has been a drum beater for five decades, said, "Everyone needs money to live but I am not doing this for money. I do it for the hereafter."

The advent of mobile phones and alarm clocks had initially diminished the seharkhwaans' relevance.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION (O&M) BIJBEHARA**

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**NIT:-EDB/e-tender/ 92 of 2023-24**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders are hereby invited from Registered Class-A Electrical Contractors for following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (Rs Lacs)	Cost of e-Bid/ tender document (Rs)	EMD
1.	Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of HT AB Cable, LT AB Cable along with other accessories within the premises of Subdistrict Hospital Bijbehara (Balance Work)	3.80	Rs. 200	Rs. 7600

4	Publishing Date & Time	13-03-2024 (1700 Hrs)
5	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	13-03-2024 (1700 Hrs)
6	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	13-03-2024 (1700 Hrs)
7	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	18-03-2024 (1300 Hrs)
8	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	13-03-2024 (1700 Hrs)
9	Bid Submission End Date & Time	20-03-2024 (1300 Hrs)
10	Bid opening date & Time	21-03-2024 (1300 Hrs)
11	Venue of opening Bids	Electric Division Bijbehara

Position of Funds: Accorded

Please Read Document Carefully

The tender document is available on website. Interested bidders 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 above. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection. In case the bid of the bidder is unbalanced, the bidder has to upload additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below failing which the tender shall be rejected.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz Quoted percentage of NIT	Additional performance security
01	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
02	>15% upto and including 20% below	05% of Advertised Cost
03	>20% upto and including 25% below	10% of Advertised Cost
04	>25% upto and including 30% below	15% of Advertised Cost
05	>30% below	20% of Advertised Cost

No:- EDB/TS/5972-79

Dated:- 13-03-2023

DIPK-NB-6042-23

DT: 14/03/2024

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

O&M Division Bijbehara

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER BUDGAM**

Email:- [budgamdsho@gmail.com](mailto:budgamdsho@gmail.com) Tel.-01951-255229

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO. 1 OF 2024 Dated:- 14-03-2024**

Applications on prescribed format are invited from interested/eligible persons of District Budgam for establishment of Sheep/Goat Units under Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS) for the financial year 2024-25:-

Name of the scheme: Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS).

The scheme has following components:

a) Establishment of 10 ewe/doe unit on participatory mode: under this component of scheme, the selected candidate shall be given 10 Ewes/does (female sheep/goat) free of cost initially and equal number of animals (female sheep/goat) shall be retrieved from 3<sup>rd</sup> year onwards in phased manner for next 5 years.

b) Establishment of 20 ewe/doe unit on subsidy mode: under this component of scheme, 50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with ceiling of Rs. 1.00 Lacs per unit for 20 sheep/goat whichever is less shall be released in favour of selected beneficiary once the beneficiary has establish the unit. The subsidy shall be released on production of invoice and physical verification of the unit constituted for the purpose.

c) Establishment of shearing unit: under this component of scheme, 50 % of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 0.75 lacs per unit shall be released in favour of beneficiary. The shearing unit would mean a unit comprising of shearing machine, genset & shearing accessories /spares. The beneficiary can purchase shearing equipments from any registered company/ authorized dealer/distributor/sole manufacturer with or outside UT of J&K.

Eligibility:-

a) Any individual/ Group of individuals/Self Help Group/Cooperative Society/ Farmer Producer Organization.

b) Applicant must have sufficient land holding, infrastructure, fodder/ grazing and manpower resources available to maintain the unit on organized pattern.

c) Efforts will be made to cover 20% SC/ST and 10% women beneficiaries.

d) Preference will be given to BPL/EWS/AAY/ physically handicapped/widows/ orphans in case of participatory mode units.

e) In case of shearing unit, any individual trained in Machine Shearing or intending to undergo training in Machine sheep shearing shall apply.

IMPORTANT DATES:

> Date of commencement of issuance of application forms: 15-03-2024

> Last date of receipt of applications: 30-03-2024

HOW TO APPLY:

> The application forms can be obtained from the following offices on all working days during office hours:

a) District Sheep Husbandry Office, Budgam.

b) All Sheep Development Block Offices of Budgam

Necessary documents to be enclosed with application:

> Passport Size photograph affixed with application form attested by Numberdar/Chowkidar.

a) Aadhaar card

b) Ration card

c) PAN card

> Applicants applying under SC/ST category will necessarily have to submit Category certificate issued by competent authority.

> Unemployed certificate from Gazetted Officer

> The application form, duly filled in all respects along with necessary documents should be submitted through the concerned Sheep Development Block Offices of the District.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. Applicant should be within the age group of 18-55 years as on 01.03.2024.

2. Mere submission of the form does not entitle the applicant to sheep unit.

3. This office/designated committee reserves the right to cancel the application form/selection at any stage of the selection process if the application details/documents submitted by the applicant are found to be fabricated or misleading.

4. Beneficiaries/households who have already availed benefit under any income generating scheme of Sheep Husbandry Department from last 5 years are not eligible.

5. Applicants/Households selected in more than one scheme can avail benefit under one scheme only.

6. More than one application under a particular scheme shall not be entertained from same house hold, which shall be verified by the copy of the ration card submitted by applicants.

7. Persons who are Govt. Employees/Semi Govt. Employees/PSU Employees/ Bank Employees are not eligible for the said schemes.

8. The Number of units (Fresh) shall be subject to availability of funds.

9. Applications of individuals who have been blacklisted by the Department in the past shall be rejected.

10. The selection of beneficiaries shall be made through "Draw of lots" in presence of committee designated for the purpose.

11. Due representation shall be given to all CD blocks in identification, selection of beneficiaries.

12. The acceptance of application for further course of action shall be subject to techno feasibility report of the concerned authorities.

13. The selected beneficiary shall have to submit an affidavit duly attested by First class Magistrate as per the prescribed format.

14. Declaration by the farmer.

For more information please visit the office of undersigned, call on 01951-255229 or Email at [budgamdsho@gmail.com](mailto:budgamdsho@gmail.com)

No.:- DSHOB/Tech/2023-24/ADV-UNIT/5707-15

Dated:- 14-03-2024

DIPK-17903-23

DT: 14/03/2024

Sd/-

District Sheep Husbandry Officer

Budgam



# Mumbai Cruise To 42nd Ranji Title With Win Over Vidarbha

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Domestic heavyweights Mumbai ended their eight-year barren run to lift a record-extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title on Thursday, beating a resolute Vidarbha by 169 runs on the fifth and final day of a thoroughly engrossing summit clash.

The fate of the final -- Mumbai's 48th in the 90 years of the tournament's history -- here at the iconic Wankhede Stadium was sealed when the hosts set a 538-run target for the visiting team.

Vidarbha captain Akshay Wadkar (102) and the unheralded Harsh Dubey (65) kept Mumbai at bay for the entire first session after Vidarbha resumed on 248 for five, needing another 290 runs to win. The team was eventually bowled out for 368.

In a contest that ebbed and flowed, Mumbai came out as the winners after Vidarbha frus-



trated them for long periods of play in the last two days.

Wadkar led the fight for his side with his first century of the year while also crossing

the 600-run mark this season. Dubey brought up only his second fifty of the first-class career.

Together, they forged the longest stand of the innings,

consuming 255 balls in 194 minutes from day four until a little after the resumption of the second session on the final day.

Wadkar fell shortly after play

resumed -- leg before off Tanush Kotian (4/95) -- and once the pair was broken, it all ended in a jiffy for the visitors who have now lost the Ranji Trophy final on the third instance after winning two titles.

Tushar Deshpande continued to employ the short ball to dismiss Dubey (65 off 128 balls, 5x4s, 2x6s) and Aditya Sarwate, who missed the majority of the game owing to a back spasm.

While Kotian cleaned up Yash Thakur (6) for his fourth wicket, Dhawal Kulkarni signed off from all forms of cricket with the final wicket of the game in the form of Umesh Yadav for a fairytale ending.

## BRIEF SCORES:

Mumbai: 224 & 418  
Vidarbha: 105 & 368 in 134.4 overs (Atharva Taide 32, Aman Mokhadde 32, Karun Nair 74, Akshay Wadkar 102; Tanush Kotian 4/95) by 169 runs.

## RCB Pre-IPL Camp Begins, Kohli To 'Join In Few Days'



Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Royal Challengers Bangalore began their pre-tournament camp without their numero uno Virat Kohli, who might take a few more days to join before the team starts its IPL campaign against reigning champions Chennai Super Kings on March 22.

Most of the domestic players joined the camp under the guidance of new head coach Andy Flower and Director of Cricket Mo Bobat and they went through the paces on the opening day of the camp on Wednesday.

While skipper Faf du Plessis was in attendance along with West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, Kohli, easily the biggest 'Box Office' in Indian cricket, is yet to hit the straps after a paternity break that ruled him out of the marquee five-Test series against England.

"Kohli is expected to join in the next few days," a BCCI source, who is tracking developments within IPL teams, told PTL.

Kohli might make his first appearance for the franchise during 'RCB Unbox', a high-profile annual event held at

the Garden City in which fans get a glimpse of their favourite stars.

As RCB started their training session, skipper Du Plessis told the team it was lucky to have Flower as its coach.

"I think he's an incredible coach. So I feel team is very lucky to have him, kind and big hearted man," Du Plessis was quoted as saying on RCB 'Bold Diaries'.

Flower, on his part, said: "New chapter to write in RCB story, we have been given the chance to write and it is a privilege, something to be very excited about".

## Shane Watson Undecided On Pakistan Head Coach Role



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Former Australian all-rounder, Shane Watson, who is in line to take over as Pakistan cricket team's head coach, is yet to make up his mind despite the PCB accepting his remuneration demands.

According to sources in the board, Watson has demanded \$2 million annually, which is approximately around 46 million rupees per month, the highest fee ever paid to a foreign coach.

Former foreign coaches of Pakistan such as Richard Pybus, Bob Woolmer, Geoff Lawson, Dav Whatmore, Grant Bradburn and Mickey Arthur were paid much less than what Watson has demanded.

"He has a young family in Australia and also has commitments in the USA Major League. So, he is weighing his options as the board wants him to spend maximum time in Pakistan helping them also discover and groom talent at domestic level," the source said.

He conceded Watson was taking time to ink the contract because of the frequent changes

within the PCB and the coaching staff.

Watson, at present, is coaching the Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) and has no prior experience of coaching an international team although he has dabbled in coaching roles in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi had made it clear that he would want a foreign coaching set-up to run the team with the full backing of the board.

Naqvi, despite being appointed as minister of interior, has also indicated he has no intention of leaving his post in the board and will do both the jobs simultaneously.

However, it will not be the first time an official heading the PCB has also held a position in the government, and the source said the International Cricket Council (ICC) had no objection to Naqvi donning the dual role.

Naqvi has already got six bureaucrats of the Punjab government to work on deputation in the board and also announced that he would be taking no salary as minister of interior.

## Short TAKES

### Ranji-Winning Mumbai Team To Receive Additional Rs 5 Crore

The triumphant Mumbai team will receive an additional Rs 5 crore for its unprecedented 42nd Ranji Trophy title after the state cricket association doubled the prize purse on Thursday.

"MCA President Amol Kale and Apex Council has decided to double the Ranji Trophy prize money. The MCA will pay additional sum of Rs 5 crore to the winning Mumbai Ranji Trophy team," a statement from MCA secretary Ajinkya Naik read.

### Grieving Brook Withdraws From IPL After Grandmother's Death

England batter Harry Brook has withdrawn from this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) following the death of his grandmother, the 25-year-old said. Brook pulled out of England's recent 4-1 series defeat in India after his grandmother, whom he described as his "rock", fell ill.

"Now that she has passed my family and I are grieving and I need to be around them," the Delhi Capitals player said in a social media post on Wednesday.

### Fouaad Mirza To Compete In Five Competitions Ahead Of Olympics

Ace Indian equestrian Fouaad Mirza will compete in five competitions as part of his preparation for the Paris Olympics after his proposal was approved by the Sports Ministry on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Fouaad, who is currently the first reserve in Olympic Group Rankings and second reserve in Olympic World Rankings for Paris, will be given financial assistance towards competing in Fédération Equestre Internationale's (FEI) Events in Kronenberg, Sopot, Marbach, Strzegom and Baborowko.

The government will cover Fouaad's airfare, accommodation costs, entry fees, and horse grooming costs among other expenditures.

### Messi, Suarez Fire Inter Miami Into CONCACAF Quarters



Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi were on target as Inter Miami marched into the last eight of the CONCACAF Champions Cup with a 3-1 (5-3 aggregate) win over Nashville on Wednesday.

Messi set up Suarez for the eighth-minute opener and then the Argentine found the target himself in the 23rd minute.

But the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner was substituted in the 50th minute before his replacement Robert Taylor made sure of the victory with a 63rd-minute header.

### Mbappé Scores As PSG Beats Nice To Reach French Cup SFs

Kylian Mbappé returned to the starting lineup and took just 14 minutes to score as Paris Saint-Germain beat Nice 3-1 to reach the French Cup semifinals on Wednesday.

He started the past two league games on the bench as part of coach Luis Enrique's rotation policy, which most observers accept involves leaving out Mbappé to prepare for next season without him.

The semifinals pit second-tier Valenciennes against Lyon on April 2. PSG will host Rennes the next day.

## Atletico, Barca Shift Focus To LaLiga Clash After European Heroics

Agencies

**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid and Barcelona will turn their attention back to LaLiga this weekend after the euphoria of qualifying for the Champions League quarter-finals when they meet on Sunday.

While Barcelona knocked out reigning Italian champions Napoli on Tuesday, a gritty Atletico side fought back from 2-0 down on aggregate to eliminate run-away Serie A leaders Inter Milan in a penalty shootout the next day. As the season enters the home stretch, progress to the last eight in Europe's elite club competition was of paramount importance to Atleti boss Diego Simeone, who has seen his side fall behind in LaLiga's title race in recent weeks.

They were also knocked out of the Copa del Rey semi-finals by Athletic Bilbao and lost 2-0 at relegation-threatened Cadiz last weekend and sit in fourth on 55 points, 14 behind leaders Real Madrid, but Simeone is hopeful they have turned a corner. "We came from a bad game in Bilbao in the semi-final, an ugly match in Cadiz... Honestly, I was trying to convey that it was not the



time to ask but to give. I had to tell the players, 'Let's give it all,'" Simeone said.

"The game in Cadiz ended and it looked like we had no chance against Inter. I said: '... it's the best thing that can happen to us'. It's when the team can have a reaction. "And it hap-

pened. They gave their all, they played a great game, we have great players."

Barca won the reverse fixture 1-0 at home where Joao Felix, on loan from Atletico, scored the winner -- a goal that stung the Madrid side who spent a club record 126 million euros

(\$137.73 million) to sign him in 2019.

## UNBEATEN RUN

Simeone's side have it all to do against Barcelona who are on a seven-match unbeaten run in the league. Barca sit third with 61 points, six ahead of Atletico,

but coach Xavi, who is stepping down at the end of the season, said they have improved from last year when they won the title.

"We are playing better than last year, despite the results. We are under construction, Barcelona will continue to be under

construction," Xavi said. Real Madrid (69 points) will have the opportunity to extend their seven-point lead over Girona when they travel to Osasuna on the back of a 22-match unbeaten streak just over two hours before the second-placed side visit Getafe.

Real, whose progress to the Champions League quarter-finals last week after scraping through against Leipzig mean there are three Spanish teams in the last eight, have not lost to Osasuna in 20 games in all competitions. However, Real's England midfielder Jude Bellingham remains suspended following his red card for remarks to the referee after their draw with Valencia.

Girona have also fallen by the wayside after leading the league, losing three of their last five games, but are still well on course for a spot in next season's Champions League. They visit mid-table Getafe who have not kept a clean sheet in seven games and suffered a hammer blow with Borja Mayoral, LaLiga's second-top scorer this season with 15 goals, set to be sidelined for the rest of the season with a knee injury.

## NOTICE

The applicant namely Abdul Majeed Dar, S/o Habib Dar, resident of Nayi Basti Shamasabad Khansahib Budgam has applied for the transfer of electricity agreement of I'd 0206010006005 from the name Sula Bhat, S/o Nabir Bhat, resident of Nayi Basti Shamasabad to new name Abdul Majeed Dar, S/o Habib Dar resident of Shamasabad. If anyone have any objection in this regard he/she may approach PDD office Budgam within seven days after publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of date given in this notice

Regards:  
Ab Majeed Dar  
S/o: Habib Dar  
Resident of Nayi Basti  
Shamasabad



Why Is Kashmir

serious health issues and these cancerous cells can divide rapidly and disrupt the body's normal function, making it difficult for the immune system to combat them effectively.

Presently, there's an increase in upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancers or stomach cancers, largely attributed to our dietary habits. While there's no definitive genetic or proven cause behind this trend, our dietary patterns play a significant role in driving the increase in malignancies, Dr. Samoon explained.

He pointed out that alongside upper GI cases, colorectal cancers are also on the rise in the valley, especially among the younger population. "It's concerning because cancers tend to be more aggressive in younger patients, affecting their prognosis adversely compared to older individuals. Likewise, in females, there's a significant rise in breast cancers, often associated with genetic factors and familial history," Dr. Samoon said.

Professor of Surgery, Government, Medical College Srinagar, Dr Iqbal Saleem said the rise in cancer cases can be attributed to changes in our food habits and lifestyle.

"Furthermore, the overuse of fertilizers and pesticides is also a major contributing factor for cancers. The indiscriminate use of these chemicals, driven by the desire for quick profits, results in them entering the food chain and ultimately reaching humans. This has led to alterations in genetic makeup, which in turn contribute to cancer-related issues," Dr. Saleem said.

Data shows that with the introduction of high-density apple crops of huge economic value, pesticide use also increased threefold in the last 12 years, especially in Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag districts of South Kashmir. "Consequently, orchardists in these regions are regularly exposed to pesticides. The majority of cancer cases in these areas are attributed to this pesticide exposure. It is plausible to speculate that there is a correlation between the use of pesticides and the incidence of cancer in these communities," the health expert said.

Moreover, Dr. Saleem emphasized that there has been a considerable improvement in diagnostics and screening processes. "Previously, individuals might not have undergone screening or investigation, but with the accessibility of medical facilities at their doorstep, patients are now being diagnosed more frequently and at earlier stages. Consequently, there has been a significant increase in the number of patients coming forward for treatment," he said.

Dr. Arshid Rashid, Associate Professor at GMC, Srinagar explained that there is a growing incidence of obesity in various parts of the world. Obesity has been linked directly to increased causes of cancers like breast cancer, ovarian cancer, colon cancer and even stomach cancer. In several studies conducted world over, it has been found that obesity increases the chances of developing cancers.

"In Kashmir region, the incidence of obesity exceeds the national average, as revealed by the latest survey conducted in 2021. Particularly concerning is the high prevalence of obesity among the most productive age group, 15 to 45 years, primarily males, reaching around 30 percent," Dr Rashid said.

The doctor stressed that Kashmir's close-knit community limits genetic diversity, leading to the amplification of cancer-causing genes within the valley over time.

"Moreover, childhood obesity rates are also increasing in the valley. They stand at approximately 15 percent, with children increasingly sedentary due to excessive screen time on mobile devices. It's important for schools and communities to implement awareness programs addressing these issues," Dr. Rashid said.

A senior oncologist at SKIMS said that there are numerous risk factors for cancer including hormonal, hereditary, metabolic, autoimmune etc. "External causes of cancer include smoking, alcohol consumption, dietary imbalance (malnourished or obese), radiation or infections like Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), H Pylori etc," he said

The health experts stressed that continued follow-ups are important for cancer patients' post-diagnosis and treatment. Regular follow-ups are necessary as cancer recurrence is common within the first or second year.

"In the initial year, follow-ups are scheduled every three months, followed by every six months in the second year. These follow-ups are just as vital as the treatment and diagnosis stages. Subsequent to completing treatment, patients are required to return for follow-ups every three weeks, four weeks, or monthly, and sometimes every three months, depending on the type of cancer. During these visits, various tests are conducted to detect any signs of cancer recurrence, enabling prompt treatment if necessary. Thus, follow-up care holds significant importance in ensuring ongoing management and timely intervention for cancer patients," Dr Wajahat Ahmad, Clinical Oncologist at the GMC, Srinagar said.

Dr. Ahmed emphasized that more workshops and awareness camps ought to be organized to educate people about the various symptoms of cancer, enabling them to seek help at an early stage. "This ensures that we can offer them optimal support and care," he said.

Talking about preventive measures, the health experts recommended that

having a balanced diet coupled with adequate exercise is the need of the hour. People need to know about the relationship between physical inactivity and cancer cell growth – because the science on the subject speaks volumes. Getting in your daily 10,000 steps isn't a bad thing, but it's not enough for cancer prevention. That requires working up a sweat for 20 minutes to half an hour about five days a week.

Besides, having a balanced diet, it is important to also stress on having a quality sleep. The chronic stress, and the hormones it creates, may decrease immune function. "If you are experiencing anxiety and stress that won't quit, don't be afraid to acknowledge it, and ask for help from a support group, counsellor, or mental health professional. And don't forget the importance of quality sleep as well as quantity. Sleep is a time for your body to clear out toxins," the experts added.

In recent times, India has emerged as a leading healthcare player in cancer care with its own innovative immunotherapy, which costs just one-tenth of the traditional treatments offered abroad. The indigenously developed chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy that genetically reengineers a patient's immune system is now a new frontier treatment for blood cancers.

One of the newest, and very promising treatments, the therapy uses the body's own immune system against cancer. Developed by IIT Bombay in collaboration with Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, the therapy was approved last year for commercial use by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

**J&K Govt Extends**

The Domestic consumers shall be benefited by waiving off the surcharge amount and payments of principal amount in affordable installments (EMIs).

The Government/DISCOMS shall be able to recover the outstanding principal amount which shall result in decreasing the ARR/ACS gap and shall have a positive effect on lowering of AT&C losses too.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, J&K; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

**Govt Approves**

The policy provides for time bound administrative assistance, setting up of Single Window Cell, facilitation for granting of permission for shooting films, package of financial assistance, promoting Government/Non-Government Organizations associated with publicity of cinema and striving to create nationally competitive infrastructure for film making.

The policy provides for bodies like Film Development Council, J&K Film Division, Script Screening Committee, Divisional Location Permission Committee, Film Development Fund and mechanism for branding and promotion of activities by means of film festivals.

To ensure that a chunk of the film shooting for a film seeking subsidy from the UT Government, the criteria of a minimum of 20 days of shooting has been provided. The criteria for claiming subsidy for Films/TV Serials/Shows/Web Series etc. has also been notified in the policy.

The maximum subsidy in the regional languages of J&K will be Rs 1.25 crores.

A Film Development Fund shall be created from fiscal year 2024-25 with allocation of Rs. 500 crores (payable in next 05 years with an annual budgetary grant of Rs. 100 crores) to be sourced from CAPEX budget for disbursement of subsidies/incentives. The minimum cost of production of the film shall be Rs.10 crores and it must be screened on minimum 25 screens across the country. For domiciles of J&K, the minimum cost of production of a film shall be Rs. 50 lacs and it must be screened on minimum 3 screens. The in-eligible categories for subsidy have also been notified in the policy. The policy will have a positive impact on the economy in terms of generating employment and growth of film tourism. The policy will be valid for 05 years.

**Govt Empowers 350**

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to create a progressive entrepreneurial ecosystem in the UT.

"Entrepreneurship is not merely a means of livelihood for youth but a potent instrument to fulfill their aspirations and dreams. J&K Government is committed to provide support for skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities to empower the future of the youth," the LG said.

The LG called upon the youth, especially the girls of the displaced and migrant communities to come forward and avail the benefits of self-employment schemes of the government.

He also commended the J&K Bank for 'Sewa Se Swabhimaan', a dedicated initiative for the economic empowerment of Kashmiri Migrants and displaced families of PoJk and West Pakistan Refugees.

Officials of various departments were also felicitated for their important contribution to the self-employment initiative.

Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Baldev Prakash, MD and CEO J&K Bank; Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), senior officers, prominent citizens and beneficiaries were present.

**J&K Bank Has**

Swabhimaan – Self Employment Initiatives for Kashmiri Migrants – WPR – POJK Refugees', in presence of Commissioner Secretary (Industries & Commerce) Vikramjit Singh, Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, General Managers, senior government functionaries, entrepreneurs and beneficiaries belonging to Kashmiri Migrant community besides refugees from West Pakistan and POJK.

LG, who was also Chief Guest on the occasion, said, "This initiative is very significant for me personally as we have come together to bring a positive change in the lives of the people who have suffered injustice and discrimination all these years. Today I am happy to see that you have embarked on a new entrepreneurship journey with the help of J&K Bank and set foot on a path of economic prosperity for which I am pleased with J&K Bank."

Recalling the recent Srinagar speech of Prime Minister, wherein he spoke at length about the J&K Bank's transformational journey in the last few years LG, amidst applauses from the gathering, said, "It was really a proud moment for all of us and J&K Bank has truly become a people's Bank now."

"Viksit Bharat and Viksit J&K will become a reality through youth and women empowerment. Let's not be job seekers but become job providers. I urge all of you - youth and women in particular- to come forward and defeat the psychological barriers and set on a journey with new desires and make honourable PM's dream and vision of 'economic prosperity for all' a reality", he added.

On the occasion, LG urged the youth to avail benefits of the employment generation schemes of Union and UT Governments while assuring that J&K Bank will provide all the requisite assistance without any limitations to bring a positive change in people's lives.

While acknowledging that the programs like Mission Youth, 'Back to Village' and 'My Town My Pride' have borne fruits with the disbursement of Rs 1373 Cr among 92000 entrepreneurs last year, LG further said, "All the stakeholders, be it J&K Govt. or the J&K Bank, will work as a team to bring positive changes in the lives of people. J&K Bank is very much active in reaching out to the masses and I can assure you this is just a beginning and we will continue to work for all sections of the society especially the marginalised."

Speaking at the event, Commissioner/Secretary Vikramjit Singh said, "I am happy to see that 350 beneficiaries have been provided employment through loans. J&K Bank has always responded positively to the Government's call. Such self-employment initiatives for Kashmiri Migrants and refugees from West Pakistan and POJK will definitely help these people in terms of achieving self-sufficiency."

Wishing all the entrepreneurs present on the occasion a great success, he hoped that they will act as brand ambassadors for their community. "Here I would also urge J&K Bank to bring in women entrepreneurs through self-employment generation schemes."

LG handed over Loan Sanction letters to some beneficiaries on the occasion in presence of other dignitaries besides felicitating some of the entrepreneurs who have successfully started their own employment ventures by availing the finance under various schemes tailored by the Bank besides those sponsored by the Government. Relief Commissioner Dr. Arvind Karwani and District Officer KViB Mohammad Sadiq were also felicitated for their support to the Bank during the ongoing drive.

A short film highlighting the Bank's special drive for Kashmiri Migrants and Refugees from WP & POJK was also screened at the event.

Earlier, in his welcome address MD & CEO said, "As a premier financial institution of J&K, we firmly believe that the key to sustainable development lies in harnessing the potential of our youth by equipping them with the resources to flourish in the fast-evolving competitive world around us. Today's event is of utmost significance as Kashmiri migrants and refugees from West Pakistan and POJK form a vital component of our society and deserve better and greater support from J&K Bank."

"During the special drive the Bank has received 1709 applications; out of which 350 cases have been sanctioned. The rest of the cases are being processed and will be disposed off on priority", he added.

Further, he assured the audience that J&K Bank will support and handhold these entrepreneurs so that their business ventures expand successfully and contribute not only to the development of J&K UT but the national economy as well.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks presented by the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, wherein he expressed his hearty gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha besides other dignitaries and guests for sparing their valuable time and insights with the participants and making the program a huge success.

**Fresh Polls**

100 days in the second step. This will require ratification by not less than one-half of the States.

Upon all-inclusive deliberations, the Committee concludes that its recommendations will significantly enhance the transparency, inclusivity, ease and confidence of the voters.

Overwhelming support for holding simultaneous elections will spur the

development process and social cohesion, deepen the foundations of our democratic rubric, and realise the aspirations of India, that is Bharat, the committee said.

Former president Kovid-led Committee earlier today called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and submitted its report on the 'One Nation One Election'.

The 18,626 pages long report is an outcome of extensive consultations with stakeholders, experts and research work over 191 days, since its constitution on September 2, 2023.

Other members of the Committee are Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, NK Singh, former Chairman, of the 15th Finance Commission, Subhash C Kashyap, former Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Harish Salve, Senior Advocate, and Sanjay Kothari, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Law and Justice was a Special Invitee and Dr Niten Chandra was the Secretary of the high level panel.

The Committee held extensive consultations to understand the views of different stakeholders. Forty-seven political parties submitted their views and suggestions, out of which 32 supported simultaneous elections. Many political parties had extensive discussions with the High level committee on this matter.

**'32 Political**

Droupadi Murmu on Thursday.

Among the national parties, the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) opposed the proposal, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and National People's Party supported it.

"Responses were received from 47 political parties. Barring 15 political parties, the remaining 32 political parties not only favoured the system of simultaneous elections, but also advocated its adoption for saving scarce resources, protecting social harmony, and stimulating economic development," the report said.

"Those who opposed simultaneous elections raised apprehensions that its adoption could violate the basic structure of the Constitution, be anti-democratic and anti-federal, marginalise regional parties, encourage the dominance of national parties, and result in a presidential form of government," it said.

The AAP, Congress and CPI(M) rejected the proposal saying it undermines democracy and the basic structure of the Constitution, said the report.

The BSP did not explicitly oppose it, but highlighted concerns regarding the large territorial extent and population of the country, which could make implementation challenging, said the report.

The Samajwadi Party in its submission said if simultaneous elections are implemented, state-level parties will not be able to compete with national parties in electoral strategy and expenditure leading to increased discord between these two sets of parties.

Among state parties, AIUDE, Trinamool Congress, AIMIM, CPI, DMK, Naga People's Front, and Samajwadi Party opposed the proposal to hold simultaneous elections.

The AIADMK, All Jharkhand Students Union, Apna Dal (Soney Lal), ASOM Gana Parishad, Biju Janata Dal, Lok Janshakti Party (R), Mizo National Front, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, Shiv Sena, Janata Dal (United), Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Shiromani Akali Dal, and United People's Party Liberal supported the proposal.

Others including Bharat Rashttra Samiti, Indian Union Muslim League, Jammu And Kashmir National Conference, Janata Dal (Secular), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Kerala Congress (M), Nationalist Congress Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, Revolutionary Socialist Party, Sikkim Democratic Front, Telugu Desam Party, and YSR Congress Party did not respond.

Among other parties, CPI(ML) Liberation, Social Democratic Party of India opposed it, while Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal, Bharatiya Samaj Party, Gorakha National Liberal Front, Hindustani Aavam Morcha, Rashtriya Lok Jan Shakti Party, Rashtrawadi Congress Party (Ajit Pawar) were among those who opposed.

The report also said that at an all-party meeting in 2019, which was attended by 19 political parties to discuss critical reforms in governance, simultaneous elections was among the issues discussed and 16 of them favoured it.

Only three parties opposed the idea, it said.

According to the report, in the 2019 meeting the parties that had supported the idea are: the BJP, Nationalist Congress Party, Janata Dal (United), YSR Congress, Biju Janata Dal, Bharat Rashttra Samithi, Lok Janshakti Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Apna Dal, All Jharkhand Students Union, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, National Democratic Progressive Party, National People's Party, People's Democratic Party, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, and Republican Party of India supported the proposal.

The CPI(M), AIMIM and the RSP were the only parties that had opposed it. PTI

**3 Lakh New Voters**

the political parties to enthusiastically take part in the "festival of democracy", assuring peaceful and inducement-free elections with "level playing field" for all the contesting parties.

"We have been visiting different parts

of the country to review poll preparedness and this was our last visit. We met leaders of various national and regional political parties, law enforcement agencies, chief secretary and DGP, and had detailed deliberations," Mr Kumar said.

He said directions were passed for ensuring peaceful and temptation-free elections and also for ensuring maximum turnout of the voters.

The CEC said there are 86.9 lakh voters including 44.34 lakh men and 42.55 lakh women registered in Jammu and Kashmir. The number also included 67,400 persons with disabilities and 158 transgenders.

The electoral gender ratio of women voters has increased from 945 in 2019 to 954 in 2024, he said, adding there are 16 assembly constituencies where the electoral gender ratio is more than 1000.

While 1.56 lakh women electors are between 18-19 years, the new female voters stand at 1.35 lakhs, he said.

Against a total of 11629 polling stations, 9307 are located in rural areas and 2322 in urban areas, Rajiv Kumar said, and added that 52 per cent of the polling stations (5814) have the facility of webcasting and 267 will be model polling stations. There will be 93 all-women-managed polling stations and 83 by persons with disabilities.

The CEC said a total of 47 interstate check posts and 385 internal police checkpoints will be set up and manned round-the-clock as part of strict vigil on inter-state and international borders. Directions have also been passed for keeping a watch on the uncharted flights.

Referring to his meeting with political parties, he said they demanded level playing field and no discrimination in providing security for campaigning.

Mr Kumar said the demands and concerns of the political parties have been taken note of and strict instructions were given to the concerned officers so that no such complaint is raised ever again.

He said the officers were told to provide adequate security to senior political leaders in accordance with their threat perception so that they can freely campaign during the ensuing elections.

The officers were warned of strict action in case they fail to perform their duties and ensure level playing field to all parties without any discrimination.

"There is no place for violence, intimidation and threat to voters," he said, directing immediate action against the culprits.

**Tribunal Set Up**

public order and have the potential to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country.

The home ministry has listed 47 cases registered against the J&J and that include an NIA case for collection of funds and used to encourage violent and secessionist activities.

The funds were also used by the active cadres and members of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist organisations through a well-established network of their cadres to organise violent protests, create public unrest and communal disharmony, thus creating a sense of fear and insecurity in Jammu and Kashmir and all over the country, the home ministry said.

**Watermelon Sales**

that the Food Safety Drugs & Food Control Organization, Kashmir Division has directed the concerned officials to undertake rigorous market inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables and other food items along with the sampling.

The reports are expected to come on Saturday, an official said.

Come summer, the people tend to favor watermelon to quench their thirst. It's also a preferred choice during the month of Ramadan.

Last year, watermelon sales here reached unprecedented levels. During the month of Ramadan, the Kashmir valley alone saw daily watermelon sales totalling Rs 50 million.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, President Fruit Mandi Parimpora srinagar confirmed to Kashmir Observer that the sales of the fruit has gone down to 50 percent and the traders and the vendors have suffered losses because of the rumors.

"But it's up to the government to verify the claim and present the factual report before the people," he said, adding, "Some government officials from the Food Safety Drugs & Food Control Organization took the samples of watermelon a few days ago and the report is awaited."

Basheer said that they would sell tons of watermelon from March to July every year.

The watermelons are being supplied to the valley from different states of India especially from Karnataka, Bangalore, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

"It takes a lot of time and effort to bring the fruit here through trucks and anything negative regarding the fruit will hit the economy to many players," Basheer said.

"However no one can compromise on health, the government should clear the air with its report."

Yameen ul Nabi, Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety in Drug & Food Control Organization also said that he witnessed a decline in fruit consumption while inspecting the market.

"In Nowhatta area of Srinagar city, out of 10 fruit vendors only one was selling watermelons," Nabi said.

He said that the department has put out mobile-vans for on spot sampling and deep analyses of the fruit.

He added that with cold stores and advanced technology all the fruits are

available in the markets throughout the year and people need not to panic.

**Drug Trafficking**

terror ecosystem around a terrorist. We identified all and acted against them," Swain told reporters.

"The same strategy is being adopted (against the drugs trade). We have the same approach. An addict is a victim for us," he added.

Swain, who inaugurated a drug de-addiction centre in Jammu, said the narco-trade has to be properly addressed.

"We have deal with it strongly. We need to dig the tunnel from both ends," he said.

The police will crack down on dealers and suppliers by seizing property under the UAPA. There is also a need to address the issue of demand, Swain said.

According to the police chief, "The way we dealt with the terror ecosystem by taking action against those providing shelter, transporting terrorists and providing other logistics, a similar strategy is needed for those involved in the narcotics business."

Swain also claimed that huge consignments of drugs such as heroin and brown sugar are being pushed into the Union Territory from Pakistan.

The only challenge was of homegrown drugs till recently, he said.

"Now, the involvement is greater as heroin and brown sugar are being pushed into this side (of the border) in large quantities. This was the case with Punjab and now it is growing here as well. But we will not allow Jammu and Kashmir to become Punjab," Swain said.

He also called for coordination with Punjab on tackling the menace.

Referring to the drug de-addiction infrastructure, Swain said the police are operating 10 such centres and a few private players are also involved.

The police will assess the infrastructure in 2025, he added.

**Charity Charade?**

kidneys have stopped working and require expensive treatment at a certain hospital. However, nobody tried to find out if the story is factual. We don't even bother to call the number shown on the receipt book," he said.

"Presenting medical prescriptions or carrying receipt books does not exclude someone from being a fraudster," he added, arguing that the threat needs to be recognized by the government before it manifests as a crime.

When approached, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, he declined to comment on the issue. However, a top district administration official claimed that there are no hard and soft rules when it comes to soliciting donations from people.

Rouf Ilahi, Chairman of the Athwas Group of Humanity, blamed the public for unfairly rewarding those whose credentials are not known, claiming that these individuals are exploiting the ones who are truly in need.

"How could we pay someone blindly, not knowing whether it's a legitimate party or we are just wasting money that we could utilize to help those in need? Since it is the responsibility of the administration and police to investigate the matter, we cannot target any specific person or group. All we can ask is that individuals should abstain from donating to strangers," Ilahi told Kashmir Observer.

Acknowledging that the issue has gotten worse over the years, the police administration vowed to step up vigilance during Ramadan. They proclaimed plans to send out police teams to double check the credentials of anyone requesting donations from the public.

Mubashir Hussain, the Superintendent of Police (SP) for East Srinagar, said that he will alert his subordinates to look into whether someone requesting contributions is legitimate or just trying to con people during this holy month of Ramadan.

Emphasizing similar actions, Superintendent of Police (SP) South Srinagar, Shabir Khan, said that anyone found soliciting donations outside of the city's mosques or shrines will be subject to a thorough investigation.

"There is a genuine reason for raising an alarm, and we should all exercise equal caution and attention. Certainly, we will send out teams to make sure that anyone found soliciting money outside mosques, shrines, or on the streets is duly vetted," SP South told Kashmir Observer.

**Rain, Snow Likely**

rains, officials said on Thursday.

The higher reaches of Kashmir, including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg received fresh snowfall during the night, the officials said.

They said Gurez and other areas in the higher reaches of Bandipora, Ganderbal and Anantnag district also received fresh snowfall.

The upper areas of Srinagar along the Zabarwan Range received light snowfall, the officials added.

The Srinagar city and other plain areas of the valley were lashed by intermittent rains throughout the night, the officials said.

**Avalanche Warning**

for the next 24 hours. An official said that an avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur in Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Baramulla. He said that people living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas.



## Private Planes, Luxury Hotels: Indian-American Man's Multi-Million Dollar Scam

Washington: An Indian-American has been indicted by a grand jury in a Ponzi scheme with the FBI urging victims of the investment adviser in Texas to come forward.

Siddharth Jawahar, 36, has been ordered imprisonment until sentencing by the court. The FBI on Wednesday said it is seeking potential Miami-area victims of Jawahar who has been accused of running a multimillion-dollar Ponzi scheme.

According to the indictment, from July 2016 through roughly December 2023, Jawahar took in more than USD 35 million from Swiftarc investors but spent about USD 10 million on investments in companies.

Jawahar used the money from new investors to repay older investors and to fuel an extravagant lifestyle that included flights on private planes, stays at luxury hotels and expensive outings at lavish restaurants, the indictment says.

In 2015, Jawahar began investing the majority of client funds in a single investment, Philip Morris Pakistan (PMP), the indictment says.



ment says, and eventually, 99 per cent of client funds were consolidated into the PMP investment.

Jawahar did not tell investors of a dramatic decline in the value of PMP, instead misled investors about the share price and their profits.

The indictment says Jawahar also did not tell investors when the Texas State Securities Board revoked Swiftarc Capital's authority to conduct investment activities on June 7, 2022, and ordered Jawahar to "cease from

engaging in fraud".

Jawahar continued to fraudulently solicit and receive investor funds, including USD 1 million from an investor weeks after the state board's order, the indictment says.

The wire fraud charges are each punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a USD 250,000 fine, or both.

The investment adviser fraud charge is punishable by up to five years in prison and a USD 10,000 fine, or both.

## Ban 23 breeds of dogs, Centre tells states amid deaths from pet attacks

The Central government has directed states to ban the sale and breeding of 23 breeds of ferocious dogs, including pitbull terrier, American bulldog, rottweiler and mastiffs, amid rising instances of people dying from pet dog attacks. The directive issued to states and Union Territories bars people from keeping as many as 23 breeds of dogs as pets.

In a letter dated 12 March to chief secretaries of all states and UTs, the department of animal husbandry and dairying also said these breeds of dogs, which have already been kept as pets, should be sterilised to prevent further breeding.

Flagging serious recent issues of human deaths from bites by some ferocious breeds of dogs kept as pets, the department said it has received representations from citizens, citizen forums and animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to ban some of the breeds of dogs from keeping them as pets and other purposes.

The department of animal husbandry and dairying had set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of the animal husbandry commissioner, with members from various stakeholder organisations and experts



in view of the representations.

The panel has identified 23 breeds of dogs, including mixed and cross breeds, as ferocious and also dangerous for human lives.

Pitbull terrier, tosa inu, American Staffordshire terrier, fila Brasileiro, dogo Argentino, American bulldog, Boerboel kangaal, Central Asian shepherd dog and Caucasian shepherd dog are among the breeds sought to be banned.

Other breeds include south Russian shepherd dog, tornjak, sarplaninac, Japanese tosa and

akita, mastiffs, terriers, Rhodesian ridgeback, wolf dogs, canario, akbash dog, Moscow guard dog, cane corso and bandog.

"...the above dog breeds, including crossbreeds, shall be prohibited for import, breedings, selling as pet dogs and other purposes," the letter said, quoting the recommendations of the expert panel.

The department has asked local bodies and state-level animal husbandry departments to not issue any license or permit for

the sale and breeding of banned dog breeds.

The Centre has also published the Prevention of Cruelty to the Animal (Dog Breeding and Marketing) rules 2017 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (pet shop) rules 2018.

In the letter, department joint secretary in the O.P. Chaudhary said implementation of the rules is vested in local bodies and state animal welfare boards as well as the department of animal husbandry.

## Slowed speech may indicate cognitive decline more accurately than forgetting words

Agenceis

Can you pass me the whatchamacallit? It's right over there next to the thing-amajig.

Many of us will experience lethologica, or difficulty finding words, in everyday life. And it usually becomes more prominent with age.

Frequent difficulty finding the right word can signal changes in the brain consistent with the early (preclinical) stages of Alzheimer's disease before more obvious symptoms emerge. However, a recent study from the University of Toronto suggests that it's the speed of speech, rather than the difficulty in finding words that is a more accurate indicator of brain health in older adults.

The researchers asked 125 healthy adults, aged 18 to 90, to describe a scene in detail. Recordings of these descriptions were subsequently analysed by artificial intelligence (AI) software to extract features such as speed of talking, duration of pauses between words, and the variety of words used.

Participants also completed a standard set of tests that measure concentration, thinking speed, and the ability to plan and carry out tasks. Age-related decline in these executive abilities was closely linked to the pace of a person's everyday speech, suggesting a broader decline than just difficulty in finding the right word.

A novel aspect of this study was the use of a picture-word interference task, a clever task designed to separate the two steps of naming an object: finding the right word and instructing the mouth on how to say it out loud.

During this task, participants were shown pictures of everyday objects (such as a broom) while being played an audio clip of a word that is either related in meaning (such as mop which makes it harder to think of the picture's name) or which sounds similar (such as groom which can make it easier).

Interestingly, the study found that the natural speech speed of older adults was related to their quickness in naming pictures. This highlights that a general slowdown in processing might underlie broader cognitive and linguistic changes with age, rather than a specific challenge in memory retrieval for words.

How to make the findings more powerful

While the findings from this study are interesting, finding words in response to picture-based cues may not reflect the complexity of vocabulary in



unconstrained everyday conversation.

Verbal fluency tasks, which require participants to generate as many words as possible from a given category (for example, animals or fruits) or starting with a specific letter within a time limit, may be used with picture-naming to better capture the tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon.

The tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon refers to the temporary inability to retrieve a word from memory, despite partial recall and the feeling that the word is known. These tasks are considered a better test of everyday conversations than the picture-word interference task because they involve the active retrieval and production of words from one's vocabulary, similar to the processes involved in natural speech.

While verbal fluency performance does not significantly decline with normal ageing (as shown in a 2022 study), poor performance on these tasks can indicate neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

The tests are useful because they account for the typical changes in word retrieval ability as people get older, allowing doctors to identify impairments beyond what is expected from normal ageing and potentially detect neurodegenerative conditions.

The verbal fluency test engages various brain regions involved in language, memory, and executive functioning, and hence can offer insights into which regions of the brain are affected by cognitive decline.

The authors of the University of Toronto study could have investigated participants' subjective experiences

of word-finding difficulties alongside objective measures like speech pauses. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the cognitive processes involved.

Personal reports of the feeling of struggling to retrieve words could offer valuable insights complementing the behavioural data, potentially leading to more powerful tools for quantifying and detecting early cognitive decline.

Opening doors

Nevertheless, this study has opened exciting doors for future research, showing that it's not just what we say but how fast we say it that can reveal cognitive changes.

By harnessing natural language processing technologies (a type of AI), which use computational techniques to analyse and understand human language data, this work advances previous studies that noticed subtle changes in the spoken and written language of public figures like Ronald Reagan and Iris Murdoch in the years before their dementia diagnoses.

While those opportunistic reports were based on looking back after a dementia diagnosis, this study provides a more systematic, data-driven and forward-looking approach.

Using rapid advancements in natural language processing will allow for automatic, detection of language changes, such as slowed speech rate.

This study underscores the potential of speech rate changes as a significant yet subtle marker of cognitive health that could aid in identifying people at risk before more severe symptoms become apparent.

## Government Blocks 18 Streaming Platforms In India Over 'Obscene' Content

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has taken action, in coordination with various intermediaries, to block 18 OTT platforms publishing "obscene," "vulgar," and, in some instances, "pornographic content".

19 websites, 10 apps (7 on the Google Play Store and 3 on the Apple App Store), and 57 social media accounts associated with these platforms have been disabled for public access in India, an official statement from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said on Thursday.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur has repeatedly emphasized the responsibility of the platforms to not propagate obscenity, vulgarity and abuse under the guise of 'creative expression'.

On March 12, Mr Thakur announced that 18 OTT platforms publishing obscene and vulgar content had been taken down, the release said.

The statement further added that the recent decision was taken under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, in consultation with other ministries of the Government of India, and domain experts specializing in media and entertainment, women's rights, and child rights.

"A significant portion of the content hosted on these platforms was found to be ob-

scene, vulgar, and portrayed women in a demeaning manner. It depicted nudity and sexual acts in various inappropriate contexts, such as relationships between teachers and students, incestuous family relationships, etc. The content included sexual innuendos and, in some instances, prolonged segments of pornographic and sexually explicit scenes devoid of any thematic or societal relevance," the statement added.

The content was determined to be prima facie in violation of Sections 67 and 67A of the IT Act, Section 292 of the IPC, and Section 4 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, the release said.

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