

Societal Shifts & Marital Strains

Understanding The Surge In Divorce Cases In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Aisha (name changed) nervously adjusts the dupatta that covers her head, the once vibrant fabric now mirroring the dull ache in her heart. Across the sterile courtroom table sits Aqib (name changed), her soon-to-be-ex-husband. The air hangs heavy with unspoken accusations and a profound sense of loss. Their fairytale romance, celebrated in a extravaganza wedding ceremony back in 2020, is on the verge of a

Extramarital affairs

bitter ending. What went wrong for Aisha and Aqib? Perhaps the love simply faded over time, or maybe the initial spark couldn't withstand the realities of adjusting to a joint family dynamic. The truth is likely more complex, however, theirs isn't an isolated story. Divorce cases in Kashmir are surging, echoing a society in flux. This rise in families falling apart begs a multitude of questions. What are the forces driving this trend? Is

Infertility

it a sign of growing empowerment among women, or a breakdown of traditional family structures? Has modernity, with its emphasis on individualism and changing gender roles, chipped away at the values that once held marriages together? Are economic pressures playing a role? Or has the very definition of love and marriage undergone a shift in this rapidly changing world? Advocate Abrar Hussain Shah,

Family interference

who practices law at the District court Srinagar told Kashmir Observer that the number of matrimonial litigations at the family court is on the rise. Asserting that the modern era has its implications on marriages, Shah said, "It has been seen that misogynistic and misandrist attitudes cause problems among educated and working spouses. For a small issue, a wife resorts to filing a domestic violence case, while for a

Unrealistic expectations

small issue, a husband hurls abuses and has suspicions, which causes more problems in the relationship." According to Shah, several factors contribute to rising divorce rates. These include difficulty for wives to adjust to their husband's families, unrealistic expectations of nuclear families from the start of marriage, and interference from extended family members, all of which can widen the gap in a couple's relationship and increase the

Economic pressures

likelihood of divorce. "When relatives, Mohalla committees, and neighbors get involved, they may pursue their alleged vested interests rather than solving the problem." Additionally, Shah pointed to extramarital affairs as a significant factor that can erode trust between spouses. Echoing his views, Haseena Akhtar, a lawyer who has handled many matrimonial cases at District Court Srinagar, said, "One of the major reasons | More on P6

North India's Winters Vanishing?

Abrupt Shift To Summer-like Conditions: Study

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: An analysis of temperature data since 1970 shows that winters are quickly transitioning to summer-like conditions in north India, shortening the spring season.

Researchers at the US-based Climate Central, an independent group of scientists, conducted this analysis to place India within the context of global warming trends, focusing on the winter months (December-February).

The analysis revealed abrupt changes in temperature occurring in late winter across north India.

The average temperatures in states in north India showed either a cooling trend or slight warming in January, followed by strong warming in February.

This indicates that these regions are now experiencing abrupt transitions from cool winter-like temperatures to much warmer conditions traditionally observed in March, the researchers said. To show this change, the researchers calculated the difference between the warming rates in January and February, expressed as the change in average temperature since 1970. | More on P6



Spring Clashing With Winter Rains, Snow Likely On March 21, 22

Observer News Service

Weatherman on Monday forecast generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain/snow at many places with thunder, lightning and gusty winds over plains of Jammu and Kashmir on March 21 and 22. A meteorological department official said that | More on P6

THE COOLING IN THE CENTRAL AND NORTHERN INDIAN STATES DURING JANUARY followed by very strong warming in February creates the potential for a quick jump from winter to spring-like conditions."

J&K Gets Charged Up

NexGen Energia to Invest 1,000 Cr In EV Manufacturing

Press Trust Of India

Noida: Sustainable energy solutions firm NexGen Energia on Monday said it will invest Rs 1,000 crore in setting up a manufacturing unit for electric vehicles (EVs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Noida-based company said it is currently in talks with the authorities in the Union Territory and scouting for 100-acre land either in the Kathua industrial area or in the Kashmir Valley.

The move comes soon after the company announced Rs 3,000 crore investment for setting up a Compress Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Gujarat.

"Along with 'Make in India', we are on the way to fulfil the dream of self-reliant India. We will establish an EV plant in Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with the government in



which we will invest Rs 1,000 crore," NexGen Energia chairman Piyush Dwivedi told PTI.

"The manufacturing unit will provide direct and indirect employment to about 1 lakh people and we aim to launch NGE's most affordable electric two-wheeler on April 15 next month for just Rs 36,900 from our Noida unit," Dwivedi said.

The NexGen Energia chairman said last week he met with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at his Delhi office where the company | More on P6



A woman artisan weaving Kani shawl in Sumbul area of North Kashmir's Bandipora. KO Photo Abid Bhat

PM Sees Srinagar Leading Motorsports In India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- India offers great opportunities for motorsports to thrive and Srinagar is right on top of the places

where it can happen, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday. Modi's remarks came in response to a post on X on the first-ever Formula 4 car show | More on P6



J&K's Grand Mufti Fixes Sadaqat-Ul-Fitr At Rs 70

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Grand Mufti Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Nasir-ul Islam Farooqi on Monday announced the Sadq-e-Fitr (Zakaat-ul-Fitr) as rupees seventy per person this holy Ramadan.

The Grand Mufti while highlighting the essence of the charity under the (Sadq-e-Fitr) heading said that after reaching upon a consensus with the scholars of different schools of

thought, the amount has been fixed as rupees seventy per person. The special kind of charity has also to be paid on behalf of the infants', emphasized Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam.

Notably, Sadq-e-Fitr is a religious charity paid by Muslims across the world before Eid-ul-Fitr prayers. This is in addition to the charity called Zakat, which is also paid every year as per the economic capability of a person.

Govt To Fill Over 12,000 Vacancies In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: To address the long-standing issue of unemployment, the Jammu and Kashmir government is going to initiate the recruitment process to fill more than 12,000 vacant positions across various government departments.

As per an official document, the Jammu and Kashmir administration will fill 12,264 positions that have been lying vacant in various government departments for many years.

The document said that the government since 2019, has filled as many as 31,830 vacancies in various government departments through multiple recruitment drives.

"These 31,830 selections have been made in a fair, transparent, and expeditious manner. Interviews have been dispensed for the posts upto the pay level-5," it said.

Official sources said that the vacancies are to be filled in departments including health, Jal Shakti, social welfare department, rural development department and others.

"The government has already enlisted the number of vacancies in various departments. We have a large number of vacant posts in the health department. Multiple recruitment drives shall follow this year and all the vacant posts will be filled in a speedy manner," they said.

Officials said the recruitment drive will prioritize transparency and efficiency, adhering to established guidelines and procedures.

The selection process is expected to be conducted rigorously, ensuring merit-based appointments to maintain the integrity of the civil services.

"By filling these | More on P6

In 5 years, Centre Bans 9 Separatist Groups In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: In the past five years, the Government of India has banned 10 separatist groups in Jammu & Kashmir.

Details reveal that the Union Home Ministry has declared nine separatist groups in J&K as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-1967, since 2019.

On February 18, 2019, the Union Home Ministry banned Jamaat-e-Islami, a cadre-based organisation with pan-Kashmir presence. The MHA said that the outfit was involved in activities aimed at disrupting India's integrity.

Nearly a month later, on March 22, 2019, the MHA declared Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) as an unlawful association for "supporting extremism and militancy" and indulging in

"anti-national activity".

On October 5, 2023, the Union Home Ministry banned jailed separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah's Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) for its "anti-India" and "pro-Pakistan" activities.

Two months later, on December 28, 2023, the Union Home Ministry banned the Masarat Alam-led Muslim League,

a separatist organisation, for "anti-national and secessionist" activities in J&K.

On December 31, 2023, the MHA banned Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) which was earlier headed by deceased separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

On February 28, 2024, the MHA first banned the Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Sumji faction) and Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Bhat faction) | More on P6

'Ban On Muslim

Conference Factions'

Centre Forms

Tribunal To

Review Legality

The Centre on

Monday constituted

two tribunals under

Justice Neena Bansal

Krishna of the Delhi

High Court to adjudicate

whether there are sufficient grounds for

declaring the Muslim

Conference Jammu and

Kashmir (Bhat faction)

and the Muslim

Conference Jammu and

Kashmir (Sumji faction)

as banned groups.

Both the organisations

were declared banned groups by

the government on February

28 under the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention)

Act, 1967 for five years

for their anti-India and

pro-Pakistan propaganda

and for asking | More on P6

Printing Of Election Material

J&K Election Office Issues Guidelines

Observer News Service

Jammu: In view of the ensuing elections to Lok Sabha, the Jammu and Kashmir Election Office has issued guidelines with regard to printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters and related material across the Union Territory.

The Chief Electoral Officer today issued a public notice to all the registered printers and publishers of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, informing that the printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters etcetera is being governed by the provisions of section 127-A of Representation of

Peoples Act, 1951.

As per "127-A Restrictions on printing of pamphlets, posters etcetera; no person shall print or publish, or cause to be printed or published, any election pamphlet or poster which does not bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher thereof. No person shall print or cause to be printed any election pamphlet or poster; unless a declaration as to the identity of the publisher thereof, signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he is personally known, is delivered by him to the printer in duplicate and unless, | More on P6



Enforces Pre-Certification Of Political Advertisements

As per the Supreme Court Order dated 13-04-2004 and Election Commission of India's guidelines, all political advertisements by any registered political party or any group of organizations/associations or any contesting candidate/individual shall be pre-certified by Media Certification and Monitoring | More on P6



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Obesity, Depression Link Found In Middle-Aged, Older Adults; Stronger In Less Active Younger Women

Press Trust Of India

New research has found a significant association between obesity and depression among middle- and older-aged adults in Ireland, with severe depressive symptoms likely among younger women having type 2 diabetes or less physical activity.

Researchers said that a possible reason behind the link could be poorer self-esteem, self-image and body satisfaction, all known risk factors for depression, and could be exacerbated socially through prejudice, discrimination and stigma.

Chronic pain conditions as a direct effect of obesity, such as joint and back pain, and fibromyalgia, too are known to result in depressive symptoms, they said.

Further, the researchers from Uni-



versity College Cork, Ireland, also said that biologically, obesity and depression share similar pathways, primarily through neurotransmitter imbalances, inflammation abnormalities and disturbances in energy production. Other factors include genetics

and hormonal imbalances.

The positive relationship between obesity and depression is independent of lifestyle factors and disease conditions, they said, and that targeted interventions to address depression should include weight management measures.

For the study, the researchers included more than 1,800 Caucasian-European individuals in the 46-73 years age bracket from urban and rural settings.

The participants were asked to respond to general health and lifestyle questionnaires. Their depression and well-being were assessed using the Centre for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) and the World Health Organization-Five (WHO-5) Well-Being Index, respectively.

The researchers used two indices for measuring obesity - Body Mass Index and waist-height ratio. BMI was calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in metres and physical activity among them was measured through the International Physical Activity Questionnaire. All the data were statistically analysed.

Study Indicates Turmeric's Potential In Improving Gut Microbiota

Press Trust Of India

A solution containing curcumin, the main ingredient in turmeric, was linked with enhancing beneficial bacteria in the guts of mice in a new study.

Researchers at the University of Western São Paulo (UNOESTE) and São Paulo State University found that Lactobacillus bacteria, one of the most common probiotics found in foods such as yogurt, were about 25 per cent more abundant in the mice treated with curcumin solution than in the control group.

The solution was an emulsion containing nanometric particles, or a nanoemulsion, of curcumin, known to have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. The researchers said they developed this nanoemulsion to enhance the efficacy of curcumin in treating patients with inflammation of the digestive tract and gut.

While curcumin has gained prominence in treatments to combat inflammatory intestinal disorders, its bioavailability - amount reaching the site of physiological activity - is low when administered orally and even lower in patients with inflammatory conditions such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and others, they said.

"The research comprised two stages. The first entailed producing a nanoemulsion to deliver the cur-

cumin. In the second, we evaluated its stability, morphology and physicochemical properties," said Lizziane Kretli Winkelströter Eller, a professor at UNOESTE and the last author of the study published in the International Journal of Pharmaceutics.

The researchers induced intestinal inflammation in mice using the drug indomethacin and administered the curcumin nanoemulsion orally for 14 days.

Analysing intestinal inflammation at the end of this period, the team found that after the drug caused damage, the nanoemulsion changed the gut microbiota of mice by enhancing the presence of beneficial bacteria along with "effectively" improving the bioavailability of curcumin.

"The nanoemulsion didn't lead to a significant improvement in the intestinal inflammation but the relative abundance of Lactobacillus bacteria was about 25 per cent higher in the mice treated with curcumin nanoemulsion than in the control group," said Eller.

The study authors stressed the importance of developing novel formulations to enhance the efficacy of curcumin in preventing and treating inflammatory bowel disease, given that the compound has proved as a valid alternative to existing treatments which are expensive and produce significant side effects.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is informed to general public that I want to change my daughter's name from simran mushtaq to falak mushtaq in school records. If any body has any objection in this regard he/she may contact to the office of Alnoor model school turk Batpora kunzer within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mushtaq Ahmad malik
S/o Ghulam Hassan malik
R/o mehmoodpora kunzer bla

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK05F 5044. 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 ARTO Sopore Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Ganaie
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie
R/o Agrikalan Magam

bmg

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Usman showket S/o Showket Ahmad Bhat R/o Reban Sopore Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 30-05-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ruwa Altaf D/o Altaf Ahmad Shah W/o Moonis ul Islam Mattoo grand daughter of Syed Ali Shah Geelani R/o Haji Bagh Mam Road Buchpora do hereby solemnly declare that, 1. I do not have any connection or affiliation with Hurriyat Conference (G) run by my grandfather Syed Ali Shah Geelani. 2. I don't have any inclination or sympathy towards the ideology of the organization. 3. Any use of my name for this organization shall be liable to legal action from my side. 4. That I am a loyal citizen of India not affiliated with any Organization or Association which have agenda against Union of India and I owe allegiance to the constitution of my country (India).

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my service book as Irshad Aziz Ganie S/O Mohd Dilawar Ganie R/O Wanigam Payeen while my correct name is Arshid Aziz Ganie S/O Mohd Delawar Ganie R/O Wanigam payeen 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 SSP Office Leh within period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arshid Aziz Ganie
S/O Mohd Delawar Ganie
R/O Wanigam Payeen

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Gh Nabi Dar S/o Gafar Dar R/o Meriporah was affiliated with Jamati Islami Since 2000 as Member. I have Already Resigned from JEl Membership. Now I once again want to make it clear that I have no affiliation with JEl directly or indirectly.

I Gh Nabi Dar
S/o Gafar Dar R/o Meriporah
600544364

bmg

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار تلہ گام
درخواست منجانب با درخواستیہ عبدالرحمان گنائی ساکنہ موضع شیر پورہ باگل تحصیل چٹن
بغرض حصول DOB سرٹیفکیٹ چٹن
اشہدار برادرہ گنائی ہرخاص و عام۔
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض DOD سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر میں زیرکروائی ہے اس بارے میں منجانب رپورٹ چیکیدار علاقہ سے عیاں ہے کہ سال کی دفتر چیکیدار برہمہ رتنزی میں اندراج نہیں ہے البتہ سال کے نبوت کے طور پر Immunization card پیش کیا ہے جس کے مطابق ساکن کے اولاد کے تاریخ پیدائش یوں ہے
اطہر رفیق راتھر 07-04-2012
امان رفیق راتھر 15-03-2014
واہان رفیق راتھر 11-04-2020
لہذا اگر زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی تعذیر یا اعتراض ہو تو دو ماہہ یوم کے اندر پیش کر کے معیاد گزارنے بعد کوئی بھی تعذیر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار fko



Grand Bagh

Rajpora Road Harwan
FOR BOOKING OF

1. Balcony Delux Room Double (Free Break Fast)
2. Delux Room Double (Free Breakfast)

CONTACT

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance DOB certificate in favour of my daughter Arshima Mashooq who was born on 04-03-2021. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his / her objection in the Concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mashooq Ahmad Wani
F/o Arshima Mashooq
R/o Banderpora Kakapora Pulwama

nj

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Farhad Ahmad Marazi S/o Nazir Ahmad Marazi R/o Hartharh Sinpora Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 29-7-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my address from Wanigam Payeen Patten Baramulla to New Colony Palpora Pattan Baramulla if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Arshid Aziz Ganie
S/O: Mohd Delawar Ganie
R/O: New Colony Palpora Pattan Baramulla

fko

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چٹن

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب با درخواستیہ عبدالرحمان گنائی ساکنہ موضع شیر پورہ باگل تحصیل چٹن
بغرض حصول DOB سرٹیفکیٹ چٹن

اشہدار ہرخاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر میں زیرکروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالہ کا خوشہ روزہ 20-2-2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے ساتھی کا کنبہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

باجرہ بیگم	65 سال	عمر رسیدہ	بیوہ	موتنی	بیوہ
خورشید احمد گنائی	46 سال	گورنمنٹ ملازم	پرموتنی	شادی شدہ	بیوہ
مشتاق احمد گنائی	51 سال	مزدوری	پرموتنی	--	--
منظور احمد گنائی	37 سال	مزدوری	پرموتنی	--	--
عائشہ سنین گنائی	41 سال	مزدوری	پرموتنی	--	--
معراج الدین گنائی	37 سال	مزدوری	پرموتنی	غیر شادی شدہ	بیوہ

کے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی تعذیر یا اعتراض ہو تو دو ماہہ بعد مشہد اشہدار سے دن کے اندر اندر اپنے تعذیر یا اعتراض وادعت حد کو کوئی یا اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرسے معاذ کوئی تعذیر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

از نایب پٹان

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب فاضلہ فاروق دختر فاروق احمد ہنگر ساکنہ پٹان تحصیل چٹن
برادرہ اجرائی OBC سرٹیفکیٹ

اشہدار ہرخاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ ہنگر پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیرکروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالہ واقعی ہنگر ذات سے تعلق رکھتے ہیں اور سالہ پٹان تحصیل چٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سالہ کا کنبہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے جن کی تفصیل یوں ہے

فاروق احمد ہنگر ولد عبدالستار ہنگر	58 سال	کاروبار	کاروبار	بیوہ	بیوہ
شہید فاروق ذبیحہ فاروق احمد ہنگر	48 سال	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام	بیوہ	بیوہ
فاضلہ فاروق دختر فاروق احمد ہنگر	19 سال	زیر تعلیم	زیر تعلیم	بیوہ	بیوہ
عمر فاروق ولد فاروق احمد ہنگر	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	زیر تعلیم	بیوہ	بیوہ
عیدہ فاروق دختر فاروق احمد ہنگر	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	زیر تعلیم	بیوہ	بیوہ

سالہ کو OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 1992000- روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی تعذیر یا اعتراض ہو تو دو ماہہ بعد مشہد اشہدار سے دن کے اندر اندر اپنے تعذیر یا اعتراض وادعت حد کو کوئی یا اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرسے معاذ کوئی تعذیر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO



98.3 Mirchi Culminates Cyber Awareness Campaign With Nukkad Naatak

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Nukkad Naatak on cybercrime awareness was held by 98.3 Radio Mirchi at Polo view here today. This event was the culmination of the month-long campaign, "Digidakku".

Radio Mirchi collaborated with Shehjar Children Theatre Group. They performed under the guidance of the theatre veteran, Hakeem Javed. It was a kashmiri nukkad Naatak , spreading awareness on the increase in digital scams.

"While the 59-crore scam rocked Kashmir, the truth is that the increase in cybercrime cases has become a grim reality. In fact, in an online poll that I conducted on my social media page, 80 percent participants shared that they had either been victims or knew people who had fallen prey to cyber-crimes", said RJ Mehak.

RJ Mehak and RJ Vijdan have been breaking down the most common scams on radio for the past month to make sure that people don't get scammed.

"In the past month, I have interviewed various cyber crime experts, including bankers, lawyers and digital experts to not only tell people how to be cyber safe but also share relevant laws and reminders to immediately get in touch with cyber police in

case an incident occurs", said Mehak.

While we are embracing the digital world, it is very important to understand how strong passwords, not sharing otp and never clicking on unknown links is crucial to protect our accounts.

KYC update calls, threats of disconnection, mobile services, electricity and other SMS scams are being used to skim people.

Mehak spoke about how new times also meant new crimes, while our elderly have embraced digital payments, they are unaware of the frauds that are being committed, on my show I received many calls from people sharing their stories, including several retired people who have just started using phones to make payment and often become soft targets.

98.3 Radio Mirchi has used several quirky jingles and songs to grab attention and tell people how to be cyber safe. To spread awareness on the ground, the Kashmiri term "waas e gagur" was used to describe the new age thieves and connect with everyone and especially the elderly.

"In Ramzan and especially around Eid, transactions multiply, we wanted to use this opportunity to remind people of the new age criminals, so that our hard-earned money can be safe," said Mehak.

Srinagar Siblings Blend Technology, Tradition In Sheep Farming

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the outskirts of Srinagar's HMT Zainakote area, two brothers, Uzair and Umair Shafi Dar, are crafting a unique blend of technology with sheep farming.

Uzair, a software engineer with a fervent passion for innovation, and Umair, a dedicated student and part-time electrician, have embarked on an inspiring journey of sheep farming.

Uzair said, "What started as a modest venture with just a handful of sheep has now blossomed into a thriving farm boasting over 40 sheep of diverse breeds."

We started with just a few sheep and today without any governmental support, we have managed and nurtured the farm with a range of diverse sheep breeds, he said.

At the heart of Uzair's vision along with his younger brother lies an ambition to tap technology

with traditional farming practices. He said that with his expertise in software development, he is diligently crafting specialised software aimed at streamlining sheep farming.

Uzair claimed his novel innovative tool will revolutionise record-keeping by tracking the birth cycles and lineage of each sheep, providing invaluable insights for efficient management.

"I have already begun laying the groundwork for the software, focusing on developing robust algorithms and sophisticated analytics," he said.

Beyond technological prowess lies his brother Umair's hands-on approach to farm management, from monitoring fodder supplies to ensuring timely vaccinations.

Umar said, "Our sheep are exclusively farm-raised, receiving top-tier care and attention. We prioritise their nutrition and health, ensuring they thrive in their natural habitat."

NIT Srinagar Conducts Awareness Program For MSMEs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An awareness program rally aimed at sensitizing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on the Design Innovation scheme, a sub-component of MSME, concluded on Saturday.

The program was organized by the IIED Centre of NIT Srinagar and sponsored by the Ministry of MSME, New Delhi. It took place across various Industrial Clusters in Kashmir, including Bari Bharamana of Samba Industrial Estate, Katra cluster, and Jammu cluster.

Velladurai Jt., Director MSME, J&K and Dr Saad Parvez Head, IIEDC are the Chairman, Saheel Alagband Assistant Director MSME, Srinagar and

Dr Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Assistant Professor Mechanical is the Nodal Officer for MSME Design & IPR Scheme are the convener of the program and Dr Noor Zaman Khan and Dr Ved Parkash are the coordinator of the event.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said MSMEs are the major sources of employment having a 30% GDP contribution of the Indian economy, particularly in developing countries where large-scale industries are limited.

"There is a need for such industries in the region and NIT Srinagar is committed to use its resources for the benefit of the Indian Economy," they said.



Children performing football acrobatics in an open space on a sunny Tuesday afternoon in Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Ramadan Sees Surge In Street Begging In Srinagar, Elsewhere

Observer News Service

Srinagar: During the ongoing month of Ramazan, there is a noticeable rise in the number of beggars on the streets around important religious sites in Kashmir, such as Sarai Bala, Dastgeer Sahab shrine at Khanyar, Syed Yaqoob Sahab Sonwar, Jamia Masjid, Dargah Hazratbal, Makdoom Sahab, and others.

Among the bustling crowds, individuals of various ages and backgrounds can be seen soliciting alms, often approaching devotees before and after their prayers.

The locals from these areas, said despite efforts to curb begging, the surge persists, drawing attention to the need for more effective measures.

Sahil, a local from Nowhatta, said as a regular visitor to Jamia Masjid during Ramadan,

"I've noticed a significant rise in the number of beggars outside the mosque".

He added that it's disheartening to see them exploiting the sanctity of this sacred month for their

"The authorities and religious leaders should acknowledge the issue as it's a matter of concern," added another local, adding that the presence of beggars outside religious sites is a longstanding

“Ramadan should be a time of reflection and generosity, but the prevalence of beggars outside the shrine diminishes the spiritual experience

own gain.

"Ramadan should be a time of reflection and generosity, but the prevalence of beggars outside the shrine diminishes the spiritual experience," lamented Umer, another resident.

"We need more sustainable solutions to address poverty and homelessness in our society."

problem that requires a comprehensive approach.

Meanwhile, locals from not only Srinagar, but different districts of the Kashmir valley, are requesting the authorities to kindly keep a check on the beginning menace, to either register them so the hard-earned money from localities doesn't go into wrong hands.

Office Of The District Election Officer

(Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla

entbaramula@gmail.com. entbaramulla@nic.in
Phone 01952-234210 Fax: 01952-234005

"Greater Participation For A Stronger (Democracy"

Subject: - Restrictions on the printing of Pamphlets Posters etc.

ORDER

The printing & publication of Election Pamphlets and Posters etc is governed by the provisions of Section 127A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The said Section provides as under: -

1. No person shall print or publish or cause to be printed or published, any election pamphlet or poster which does not bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher thereof.

2. No person shall print or cause to be printed any election pamphlet or poster.

a. Unless a declaration as to the identity of the publisher thereof, signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he is presently known, is delivered by him to the printer in duplicate, and

b. Unless within a reasonable time after time printing of the document, any copy of the declaration is sent by the printer, together with one copy of the document.

i. Where it is printed in the Capital of the State, to the Chief Electoral Officer.

ii. In any other case, to the District Magistrate of the District in which it is printed.

3. For the purpose of this Section: -

a. Any process for multiplying copies of a document, other than copying it by hand, shall be deemed to be printed and the expression "Printer" shall be construed accordingly, and

b. "Election Pamphlet or Poster" means any printed pamphlet, and bill or any other document distributed for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of an candidate or group of candidates or any placard or poster having reference to an election, but does not include any handbill placard or poster merely announcing the date, time, place and other particular of an election meeting or routine instructions to election agents or workers.

4. Any person whom contravenes any of the provisions of Sub section (1) or subsection (2) Shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand Rupees, or with both.

5. The above restrictions on the printing of election pamphlets, posters, etc. have been imposed under the law with a view to establishing the identity of publisher and printers of such documents, so that if any such so that if any such document contains any matter or material which is illegal, offending or objectionable like appeal on ground of religion, race, caste, community or language or character assassination or on opponent etc. necessary punitive or preventive action shall be taken against the persons concerned. These instructions also subserv the purpose of placing a check on the incurring of unauthorized election expenditure by Political parties, candidates and their supporters on the printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters etc.

6. The Commission has noticed that the above provisions of law relating to printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters etc. are being followed more in their breach than in their observance. At the time of elections, a large number of such documents are printed, published, circulated and pasted on the walls of a private and Govt, buildings in respect of which the above mentioned requirements of law have not been complied with the printing presses rarely send the printed documents to the Chief Electoral Officers or as the case may be, the District Magistrates concerned along-with the declaration obtained from the publisher thereof in violation bear on the face the names and addresses of the printer and / or publisher thereof in violation of section 127(A)(1).

In view of the above instructions/ directions from the election commission of India, it is hereby ordered as under

1. All the printing press in the District shall ensure complying with provisions of Section 17A of Representation of People's Act 1951

2. The names and addresses of the printer and publisher of any election pamphlets or posters or such other material printed by them, be furnished to the District Magistrate within three days of printing.

3. Four copies of such printed material along-with declaration of the publisher shall be furnished by Printer to the District Magistrate within three days of the printing.

4. List of all the election pamphlets, posters etc shall be exhibited on the notice Board of District Magistrate.

5. Surrogate advertisements in print media for / against a Political party / candidate, expenditure involved in such advertisement has to be added to account of election expenditure involved in such advertisement has to be added to account of election expenses u/s 77(1), hence required to be maintained.

6. Before undertaking the printing of any election pamphlets or posters etc. the printer shall obtain from the publisher a declaration in terms of Section 127(2) in the proforma prescribed by the Commission. This declaration shall be duly signed by the publisher and attested by two persons to whom the publisher is personally known. It should also be authenticated by the Printer before forwarding the same to District Magistrate.

7. The printer shall furnish four copies of the printed material, along-with the declaration of the Publisher, within three days of the printing thereof. Alongwith such printed material and the declaration, the printer shall also furnish the information regarding number of copies of documents printed and the price charged for such printing job, in the proforma prescribed by the Commission Such information shall be furnished by the Printer, not collectively but separately in respect of each election pamphlets, posters etc. printed by him within three days of the printing of each document.

8. If any case of publication of election pamphlets, posters etc. in violation of the above mentioned provisions of section 127A and Commissions instructions comes or is brought to notice, in such cases prosecutions shall be launched against the offenders.

The afore-quoted directions / instructions may be adhered to in letter and spirit by all the concerned.

No-DEOB/2024/15930-40

DIPK-1812/23

DATED: 18-03-2024

District Election Officer/ District Magistrate,
Baramulla

- 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

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

	PRAYERS
HIJRI CALENDAR	FAJR 5: 14
08 Ramzan	ZUHR 12:40
1445	ASR 4: 59
	Magrib 6:44
	ISHA 8: 05

This Day In History

- 1984 - STS 41-C vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1991 - Gorbachev says the Soviet Union will cut its oil exports by nearly half
- 2002 - U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda ends (started on March 2) after killing 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters with 11 allied troop fatalities
- IraqInvasion of Iraq
- 2003 - Airstrikes by an American and British-led coalition signal the beginning of the invasion of Iraq, without United Nations support and in defiance of world opinion
- 2012 Wendy's overtakes Burger King to become the second best-selling hamburger chain
- 2013 - 27 people are killed and 14 are injured in a bus crash in Maharashtra, India
- 2013 - 16 people are killed by mudslides in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2013 - NASA's Mars rover Curiosity discovers further evidence of water-bearing minerals
- 2014 - Russia captures the Ukrainian naval base in Sevastopol

From KO Archives

Peace Road Carries Hopes Of Millions

Sheikh Mushtaq

KAMANPOST - The automatic rifles have given way to spades and shovels, heavy artillery to earth movers and soldiers to construction workers. Troops in divided Kashmir are working frantically to convert what was a mine-infested dirt track on one of the world's most heavily militarized frontiers into a peace road connecting the Indian and Pakistani sectors by bus.

The hopes of millions of Kashmiris are riding on the success of the project, one of the most tangible signs of a fledgling peace after decades of enmity.

Agreement to launch the bus service has stoked huge anticipation on both sides, with people separated from their families for decades lining up in their hundreds for travel permits to make 105-mile journey.

"I am really very excited," said Ghulam Mohammad Lolabi, 83, flashing a victory sign in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistani Kashmir, after grabbing an application form for the permit.

"Many of my relatives' living there (in Indian Kashmir) have died," he said. "But I hope I can see those who are alive."

Construction of the road began after nuclear-armed India and Pakistan agreed in February to launch an historic bus service between the two Kashmirs, divided by a half-century-old military cease-fire line. The service "it is hoped, will bolster the peace process between the South Asian rivals, whose competing claims over Kashmir have led to two of their three wars since independence in 1947. They went to the brink of another war in 2002.

The 15-year insurgency in which tens of thousands of people have died in Kashmir has also held back peace efforts. India accuses Pakistan of aiding the Guerrillas but Islamabad says the insurgency is an indigenous movement

RECONNECTING THE PAST

This month, Indian and Pakistani soldiers removed all land mines on the track, which was last used by a bus in 1948, ahead of the launch of the bus service on April 7.

"The entire road has been demined. It is now safe for journey," Lieutenant-General Hari Prasad, who heads the Indian army's northern command, said at Kaman Post, the last border post on the Indian side.

"We look at it as a very good step toward normalization of relations between India and Pakistan," he said. This is going to be the biggest confidence-building measure so far. Buses will man between Muzaffarabad and Srinagar restoring a service cut after the first war over Kashmir in 1947-48. A heavily mined 460-mile cease-fire line has I divided the scenic region ever since.

The bus service is the latest in a series of gestures between the neighbors to build trust since they embarked on a fresh peace drive in 2003. A cease-fire has largely held since that year.

This week, visiting journalists saw hundreds of Indian m Pakistani workers laying stones and rebuilding the last stretches of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road.

The cease-fire line at Kaman Post is marked by a small stream surrounded by towering mountains. A wooden bridge over the stream was blown up during the 1947-48 war and the remaining four piers are a symbol of the regions lustal of division -- two piers belong to India and two to Pakistan

Laborers of the two countries were strengthening the lira pillar on their respective sides ahead of building a new bridge. As workers raced to finish the job, Indian and Pakistani soldiers stood relaxed around the area, a far cry from the daily artillery and gunfire exchanges prior to the cease-fire.

"Everything will be ready before March 31, even before that," Sardar Mohammad Rahim, a senior government official in Muzaffarabad told Reuters.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 March, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 19-03-2024

Mirage of Assembly polls

The Election Commission's announcement of the schedule for Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, slated to be held in five phases, doesn't include assembly polls in the Union Territory. The region has been without an elected government since June 19, 2018, creating a prolonged political vacuum, and the last Assembly polls were held in 2014.

While the Commission's decision to conduct Lok Sabha elections is a significant step towards ensuring democratic representation, it falls short of addressing the pressing need for a comprehensive electoral process in the union territory. The failure to synchronize parliamentary and assembly elections in the region not only hampers the democratic process but also perpetuates a sense of political uncertainty and disenfranchisement among the population.

The demand for simultaneous polls in J&K is not merely about procedural convenience, it is about restoration of democracy after a decade of its absence. As emphasized by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the absence of assembly elections in J&K alongside the Lok Sabha polls raises legitimate concerns about the equitable representation of various political parties and the impartial conduct of elections.

When in December last year, the Supreme Court urged the Election Commission to facilitate assembly polls in J&K by September 30, 2024, it stressed the constitutional imperative to uphold the democratic rights of the people in the region. However, the union government is yet to show any urgency on this score. And it is time the centre does.

The need for synchronized parliamentary and assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir assumes greater significance against the backdrop of the region's historical complexities. Timely and inclusive electoral processes are indispensable for fostering a conducive environment for political dialogue, reconciliation, and the promotion of good governance.

In light of these considerations, it is important for the Election Commission and relevant stakeholders to expedite the necessary measures to facilitate simultaneous parliamentary and assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. This entails a concerted effort to address logistical challenges, enhance institutional capacities, and uphold the principles of transparency, fairness, and inclusivity throughout the electoral cycle.

As India embarks on the world's largest democratic exercise, the importance of upholding the integrity and credibility of the electoral process cannot be overstated. By ensuring the simultaneous conduct of parliamentary and assembly polls in J&K, India reaffirms its commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy and strengthening the foundations of inclusive governance. Here's hoping that the union government helps pave way for the democracy in the region. The government can either hold both Assembly and parliament elections simultaneously or let the succeeding government at the centre hold one, immediately after its takeover. As of now, there is no certainty if either of the scenarios will materialize.



Did You Know?

Irshad Mushtaq

Mutual funds have long been a popular choice for investors looking to build wealth over the long term. Offering a unique combination of safety, high returns, transparency, and liquidity, mutual funds have become a favored investment option for both new and experienced investors.

One of the key reasons why mutual funds are considered safe is due to their diversification. By pooling money from various investors and investing in a wide range of securities, mutual funds spread out the risk and minimize the impact of any single investment loss. This provides a level of safety and stability that is not always present in individual stocks or bonds.

Additionally, mutual funds are managed by professional portfolio managers who have the expertise and experience to make informed investment decisions. These experts monitor the performance of the fund and make necessary adjustments to ensure that the fund continues to generate high returns for its investors.

Moreover, mutual funds offer a level of transparency that is unmatched by other investment options. Investors have access to detailed information about the fund's holdings, performance, fees, and expenses, allowing for a clear understanding of where their money is being invested. This transparency provides peace of mind and builds trust between the investor and the fund manager.

Furthermore, mutual funds are known for their high returns. While past performance is not indicative of future results, mutual funds have historically generated solid returns over the long term, outperforming many other investment options.

Another critical aspect of mutual funds is their liquidity. Unlike other investments, such as real estate or certain types of bonds, mutual funds can be easily bought and sold, providing investors with the flexibility to access their money when needed.

Moreover, mutual funds provide a hedge against inflation. As the fund's assets grow over time, they have the potential to outpace the rate of inflation, preserving the purchasing power of the investor's money.

In addition to their financial benefits, mutual funds offer convenience and affordability. With low minimum investment requirements and automatic investment options, mutual funds are accessible to a wide range of investors.

In conclusion, mutual funds are an attractive investment option due to their safety, high returns, transparency, liquidity, and ability to manage inflation. With diversification, expertise, convenience, and economical advantages, mutual funds provide a compelling opportunity for investors to build and grow their wealth over the long term.

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

Class Consciousness in Kashmiri Language

Khawar Khan Achakzai

Language is deeply imbricated in the flesh of civilisation. Chomsky beautifully explains the relation between language and freedom and how "language, in its essential properties and in a manner of its use provides a basic criterion for determining that an organism is a being with a human mind". Therefore, the will to express is the basis of language, it is not a static concept that is free from social transformation. Antonio Gramsci powerfully formulates the principle that language does not merely produce other languages by reacting solely upon itself: on the contrary, innovations occur through the interference of different cultures.

The language is a prime playground for communicative, social and political identities: where power-language dynamics play a major role: manoeuvred, augmented or controlled to convert one power into another.

Kashmir language and literature has not undergone parthenogenesis. It has come to evolve through numerous terse interactions with social and political order over hundreds of years, one constant theme in that order being "Social inequality".

Around two millennia back Sanskrit was the language of the ruling class. Grierson confirms that for upwards of two thousand years Kashmir had been a home of Sanskrit learning and from this valley were issued Sanskrit masterpieces of poetry, history, philosophy and fiction. However, its usage remained largely limited to the elite circles and the common masses used Kashmiri as the medium of expression. Use of Kashmiri back then can be substantiated by many verses in Rajtarangini where Kalhana uses vernacular Kashmiri proverbs e.g "nov sheen chou gallon preanis sheenas" (Book 5, verse 401) or "rangas helu dyun" (Book 7, verse 441-443). The elites considered it the language of the unlettered, the "apabhramsa", synonymous with poverty. Why would Jonaraja otherwise reprimand his beloved Jaina (Zaina-ul-Abdeen) from using this "vulgar language"?

With change in the ruling class and Persian becoming the court language, a new brand of functionaries was brought to the fore who chose Persian over Kashmiri and Sanskrit to stay in the echelons of power. To the peasant it mattered the least, he still held Kashmiri close to heart and Kashmiri literature enshrined home traditions and emotions.

The class consciousness in Kashmir languages becomes visible in the writings of Lal Ded and Noor-ud-din Rishi. Lal Ded was born when Kashmir came under the attack of the Mongol invader Dhulchu. She witnessed the conversion of the Tibetan ruler, Rinchana to Islam and establishment of the Muslim Sultanate in Kashmir under Sultan Shamsuddin. Far removed from the proclivities of the courtly writers she was able to capture the change in the social landscape via her simple Kashmiri verse. Lal Ded's writings are full of questioning the elite cultures, presenting society in a state of flux, where religious and regional identities were in a state of redefinition.

She was vehemently critical of orthodoxy, its dogmas and rituals, its hy-

pocrisy and exclusiveness, its division and particularism. She came from a Brahmin family herself but was highly critical of ceremonial pieties of religion as is seen in her vaakhs:

*O fool, right action does not lie,
In fasting and other ceremonial rites.*

Many of her 'vaakhs' are rife with tirades against the proponents of the prevalent order based on 'superiority by birth'. She believed that only work, kindness and compassion towards fellow beings can make one superior; everything else being corruption of the elite.

*No word, silence, dynasty, or 'low birth' is there,
Even silent gesture finds no entry,
Shiva and Shakti too vanish,
What abides is the 'One', that is the hint.*

Lalla's poetry created micro-culture which drew its essential vitality from a conflict and struggle created in individual psyche by the challenges posed to the social order by her universalism. Her writings are immanent with a tussle against religious ethnocentrism and economic monopolies and asserting rights of the underprivileged through universal egalitarianism.

Sheikh Noor-ud-din's poetry is replete with the sense of identity and place. As Mohammad Ishaq Khan rightly points out regarding his role on Kashmiris and their language, "Kashmiri, in the ultimate analysis, is the verbal correlative of people's genius; it symbolises A way of life". There is a deep sense of class consciousness in his writings, his protracted battle against the clergy, the feudal lords, bureaucracy and the despotic ruling elite, an aspect which has largely been ignored by the people of literature.

*Phal Daer Travith Mal Daer Wou-
wum
Kal Boudh Khieneam Din Kyah Rath
Soun Rouf Travith Sartali Rouuum
Kartal Featrim The Gari Meas Dreat*

(I left the fertile seeds and sowed the infertile ones

I spent whole days and nights looking after them

I left the gold and silver and cried for brass

Breaking my sword I chose to turn it into a sickle)

He extensively uses the metaphor that his country men are well acquainted with, to convey his message of worldly escape. The first important aspect of this metaphor is found, undoubtedly, in the strength of their domestic attachments. In his poetry, we find scenes that are typical of the home life of the majority of the peasants of his day.

*Kith sahibas mengiv arzun
chhu soante phalas varshun vaav*

(How can you expect good crops from your God

When spring sowing is spoiled by windy rain)

The peasant would start and end his day on the soil. It was his means of sustenance, his only worldly belonging which he understood better than anything else. Noor-ud-din attaches a great deal of significance to it and uses it as tool for the dialogue

of knowledge.

*buanas karinas tsiyati baav
mual chhuy muahran te sunnas
adi kam buanas koar sani aav*

(Let's think the value of earth
Precious are coins and all gold coins
All originate from earth)

His poetry is highly critical of the exploitative practices of the high caste Hindus and Muslims, that deprived the poor of their hard earned living.

*kyaliky trukyis dyienthim toashaan
shaant karun chhum bushun vaav
suazzinyan aasi ne sabyi batte
poashan
Kua zanyan dyonthum maaz pilaw*

(The swindlers are there to loot the wise

The astute wild wind of their greed;
The pious do not get a morsel even in group feasts

The evil enjoy meat-pulao to their full)

*Kyaliky mali saalas pakey
Yithi viivify mukey pakki pann
(The masquerading Mulla walks to the feast,*

As weavers reed moves to carry the thread)

His activities earned Noor-ud-din many enemies. There were numerous attempts on his life. One incident that is particularly famous is when he converted Bhum Saad to Baamuddin Rishi and a mob of over 1200 men who tried to burn down his dwelling place. His criticism of the state as Vander Raaj also earned him foes within the royalty. His teachings were considered outside the purview of the state and the ruler Ali Shah ordered his incarceration.

In "The Defence of Poetry" 1821, Shelley claimed that "poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world". Walt Whitman called "poetic lore ... a conversation overheard in the dusk, from speakers far or hid, of which we get only a few broken murmurs."

This class consciousness was not only the character of medieval Kashmiri writers but continued to form a major theme in poetry of more contemporary writers.

Abdul Ahad Azad was born into a peasant household of Raanger, Budgam in 1903. He grew up to witness the condition of his countrymen under the heavy taxation system of Dogra rule which imbibed a deep sense of class in him. He is often considered as the first revolutionary poet of Kashmir who, for the first time, infused the progressive ideas into the Kashmiri poem. He was full of revolutionary zeal and called unto his brethren to muster courage against centuries of oppression and slavery.

*kadam tul, kamar gand, yi daddem
chhui ganeemat
safar zyoot chué woth sakhar
naw jawan*

(Get on your feet and rise, this is the moment,

The road to emancipation is long, get going O young man)

Azad's poetry main theme was emancipation of Kashmiri youth from the centuries old oppressive hierarchies prevalent in society.

wothe paane panun sanz kar, bann

*paane panun rehbar
autaar te peagamber aes iwan path kaaley*

(Get up and be your your own light and leader

Prophets and Sages don't come anymore)

He was a great critic of capitalism and considered it the worst form of inhumanity meted out by a man on a man.

*haai bandhe cze shoobi ne gulami
te gadai
sarmai deari phand te fareeb
chha ye khodai*

(O slave this slavery doesn't behave you

The oppression is but a trick of Capitalism on you.)

The poetry of Azad went a long way in rousing nationalist tendencies in Kashmir which was only acknowledged after he left this world.

*Aalam haa karri yaad Azad Azad
Kuni saat'e wich'te yaad paavai madno*

(The world shall remember Azad Azad
I shall remind you of my beloved)

Kashmiri poetry and literature, unlike Persian and Sanskrit, had roots in folk songs and ballads. Songs of harvest, surplus, scarcity and famine carried forward the deeply ingrained tradition of mysticism intrinsic to the meadows and mountains.

A notable folk poet, Sabir Tilwony, in one of his poems titled Yargand anaoan zeinaan, sings of the valour of Kashmiri labourers who participated in the construction of the Gilgit Road under the begar or forced labour system. The poem presents the worship of tyranny that the gullible peasants had to project and endure.

Maqbool Kralwari's Mathnavi gries naamah also gives insight into the prevalent socio-political conditions of his time. In this social satire, Maqbool goes on to criticise the clergy for looting ignorant peasantry and extorting money from them by keeping them submerged in the mire of superstition. Kralwari employed local tirades, proverbs and even cuss words to convey to the reader the nervous urgency with which he wanted to address the predicament of the labourers.

When the document of 'Naya Kashmir' was drafted it recognised Urdu, with Persian (Nastaliq) script, as the official language of Kashmir. The document in its section 48 dealt with the state languages and section 37 clearly mentioned that Urdu shall be the language of courts. After 1947, various political necessities asserted that Urdu shall be the official language, but English language shall continue to be the language of choice for official purposes. However, Kashmiri continues to be the language of the artisan, the fisherman and the farmer. It continues to reverberate the household and the countryside culture of the proletariat Kashmir.

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

Dr Khawar Khan Achakzai is a cardiologist and a published author based in Kashmir with interest in history, literature and politics



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Summer Beverage Health Risks

The onset of the summer season brings about a surge in the sale of unhygienic and substandard cool drinks, fruit juices, and ice creams in most of the cities, posing significant health risks. Wayside vendors, eager to capitalize on the scorching sun, have encroached upon public spaces across busy areas, disregarding hygiene standards.

These vendors, operating without proper oversight, often sell juices made from rotten fruits and serve cool drinks in reused glasses without adequate cleaning. Food safety officers, has to initiate operations to address this issue by shutting down unauthorised juice shops which has found to be operating in unhygienic conditions.

They should warn vendors

against selling artificially colored fruits like watermelons, mangoes etc., and emphasize the necessity of obtaining licenses for operating such shops. Most public health activists, underscores the health risks associated with consuming beverages prepared in unhygienic conditions, especially for children who are more susceptible to seasonal diseases during summer.

Overall, it's evident that unregulated vendors selling unhygienic beverages pose a significant health hazard to the public, and concerted efforts from both authorities and consumers are essential to address this issue effectively.

Vijay Kumar HK

RAMAZAN

An Opportunity to Spiritually Reconnect

Ikcz Ikbal

As the blessed month of Ramadan has already arrived, hearts are filled with gratitude for the divine gift of this holy time. It is the month when the gates of the heavens are opened. This month is an invitation to begin a profound journey to connect with Allah SWT through the guiding light of the Qur'an and Dua. This is the month of Qur'an. This is the month of mercy, forgiveness and self introspection.

The story begins when Adam and Hawwa A.S were put in Jannah by Allah SWT. It was a reward for them from Allah SWT. They were so close to Allah SWT that they could talk to Him directly. But then Adam A.S made a silly mistake, influenced by the whispers of Iblis, he was sent on the earth along with Hawwa A.S.

According to common Christian belief, the descent of Adam and Hawwa A.S on this earth was a punishment from Allah SWT. But Islam and the Qur'an hold a different perspective. Allah SWT describes life on Earth as a purposeful journey, an opportunity to appreciate and reflect upon the beauty of His creation. Adam A.S was very close to Allah SWT but because of that slip up he was sent on the earth. Add to that he had to share the life on this earth with the Shaitan and his lineage. Which could have proven humiliating but Allah SWT mentions in this Qur'an:

"We said, "Go down from it, all of you. And when guidance comes to you from Me, whoever follows My guidance - there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve." (Translation, AlQura'n, 02:38)

Allah SWT has assured all humanity through this beautiful ayah that if you follow the guidance he sent to you from time to time, then you need not fear and you are indeed very close to Him.

Allah SWT sent His guidance to humanity from time to time through His Messengers, Prophets and His books. And the final and comprehensive guidance



The shift in perception of time from childhood to adulthood has both psychological and practical implications. Psychologically, the awareness of time passing can lead to feelings of anxiety, stress, and a sense of urgency. Adults may experience a constant pressure to make the most of their time and accomplish their goals before it's too late. On a practical level, this shift in perception influences how we organize our lives, plan for the future, and prioritize our daily activities

was sent through the Qur'an, delivered by the last Messenger, Prophet Muhammad SAW.

The Qur'an is the extended rope of Allah SWT which extends from the sky to the earth. It is an unbreakable, unyielding lifeline, ensuring a connection to Allah for those willing to grasp it.

Prophet Muhammad SAW beautifully described the Qur'an as, "The extended rope of Allah from the sky to the earth." This Qur'an connects Humanity with their creator and connects them

together as well.

Allah SWT has sent this Qur'an in the month of Ramadan. Allah SWT mentions in the Qur'an,

"The Month of Ramadhan is the one, in which Qur'an was sent down, the guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion." (Translation, AlQura'n, 02:185)

Ramazan is the month of Qur'an. This month is a celebration of the fulfillment of divine commitment, an invitation for humanity to draw near to Allah

and reclaim the closeness that may have waned over time. This is the ultimate gift of Allah SWT to all humanity so they can make their way back to home (Jannah).

Ramazan is the month of Hope. The Qur'an is Allah's promise that no matter how far we have gone, no matter how many mistakes we make, no matter how lost we feel, we can always reconnect with Allah SWT.

Ramazan beckons us to return to Allah. In this sacred month, Iblis, the deceiver who led Adam

A.S astray, is chained up, ensuring that distractions are minimized. This is the month of divine gifts. Ramadan is the month of dua. We should make more and more dua this month. Dua is the art of direct communication with Allah SWT.

Allah swt says, "And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that

they may be [rightly] guided." (Al Qura'n, 2:186)

This verse is a divine invitation to connect with Allah during the sacred month of Ramadan. Allah SWT, in His infinite mercy, declares His nearness and readiness to respond to the supplications of His servants. This beautiful ayah encapsulates a profound truth—making dua requires no specific qualifications other than the sincere willingness to communicate with Allah.

In this month of Ramadan connect to Allah SWT with dua. Make lots of dua wherever you are, even if you do not know the Dua in Arabic. Language is never a boundary.

Allah, the All-Knowing, comprehends all languages and is even attuned to the unspoken thoughts of our hearts and minds. Directly reconnecting with Allah, beyond formalities, is the essence of this spiritual journey.

Allah SWT sets a criterion for us. That we shall atleast try to respond to him too.

By listening to His words in the Qur'an and aligning our actions accordingly. The Qur'an is the words of Allah SWT through which Allah SWT communicates His guidance, and dua serves as our means of expressing our thoughts, hopes, and gratitude.

As we engage in the sacred act of fasting and deep reflection during Ramadan, it is crucial to remember that the connection with Allah extends beyond rituals. It transcends language barriers; Allah understands every thought in our hearts and minds. Reconnecting is not just about abstaining from food; it's about actively listening to the Qur'an and responding to its divine guidance.

May our Ramadan journey be a reflection of our commitment to reconnect, a celebration of the divine promise fulfilled, and a testament to the enduring bond between the heavens and the earth, Inshallah.

The author is Administrator in Maryam Memorial Institute Pandithpora Qaziabad

How To Pray Taraweeh At Home

RUMAYSA

Q: What is taraweeh?

A: Taraweeh prayers are Sunnah prayers performed at night after Isha Salah during the month of Ramadan. These night prayers have been emphasised in Ahadith and can also be called "qiyam al layl" (night prayers).

Taraweeh prayers are classed as either Sunnah mu'akkadah (emphasised Sunnah) or nafil (optional).

Q: WHY SHOULD I PRAY TARAWEEH?

A: There are many rewards for praying the taraweeh prayers:

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Whoever stands for prayer (the night prayer) during Ramadan with iman (faith), hoping for rewards, then all his/her previous sins will be forgiven." (An-Nasa'i)

Additionally, as the rewards for good deeds are multiplied during the month of Ramadan, the rewards for taraweeh are even greater:

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Whoever draws nearer (to Allah) by performing any of the (optional) good deeds in (this month) shall receive the same reward as performing an obligatory deed at any other time, and whoever discharges an obligatory deed in (this month) shall receive the reward of performing seventy obligations at any other time."

During the time of the Prophet ﷺ, the taraweeh prayers were prayed in congregation for a short period of time, after which the Prophet ﷺ changed this practice and performed the prayer at home. This was done out of fear that people would start to consider it to be compulsory. During the time of Umar ibn al Khattab RA (the second caliph), twenty rak'at of taraweeh prayer were led in congregation daily. These practices established by Umar ibn al Khattab came to be recognised as Sunnah, based on the hadith:

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Stick to my Sunnah (my way) and the Sunnah (way) of the khulafa ar-Rashideen (nightly guided Caliphs). Hold fast onto it with your molar teeth." (Tirmidhi)

The month of Ramadan is a gift; it is our time to focus on our personal relationship with Allah. Taraweeh prayers are a brilliant opportunity for us to do just that. Exhausted from the fasting and tired from the normal daily routine, we can turn to Allah and have a conversation with Him in the short time we dedicate to Him during our taraweeh prayers.

Q: WHEN DO I PRAY TARAWEEH?

A: You can pray taraweeh prayer after the four fard rak'at of Isha salah, before the witr prayer and any time before dawn. It is extremely rewarding to pray the Isha prayer, sleep or rest for a while, then wake up to pray taraweeh and witr in the last third of the night.

Q: HOW DO I PRAY TARAWEEH?

A: Taraweeh is prayed in sets of two rak'at each, in the same way as you would pray your normal salah. There are some narrations of the Prophet ﷺ that would support the opinion that taraweeh is twenty rak'at, and some narrations that would support the opinion that taraweeh is completed by praying eight rak'at. The opinion that taraweeh is twenty rak'at has been narrated by all four Sunni schools of fiqh.

Depending on the opinion that you follow (or depending on how tired you are) you can choose to pray eight rak'at or twenty rak'at (or any even number of rak'at), as taraweeh is prayed in sets of two rak'at each.

You can recite any part of the Quran during your taraweeh prayers—there is no specific obligation to recite a specific part of the Quran.

The most important thing is that these prayers should be a means to bring you closer to Allah, so you should try to find out the meaning of what you are reciting in your prayers and make sure that you pray calmly and with full focus.

The quality of your taraweeh prayers matters more than the quantity!



Abdullah ibn Umar narrates that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Prayers at night are to be offered two by two (two rak'at at a time). If any of you fears that the time of dawn is approaching, then let him pray one rak'ah as Witr." (Bukhari)

Abu Salama ibn Abd Ar Rahman (RA) narrated that he asked 'Aisha (RA), "How was the prayer of Allah's Messenger ﷺ in Ramadan?" She replied, "He did not pray more than eleven rak'at in Ramadan or in any other month. He used to pray four rak'at—let alone their beauty and length—and then he would pray four rak'at—let alone their beauty and length—and then he would pray three rak'at (witr)." (Bukhari)

(Aisha (RA) relates what she saw of the Prophet ﷺ in her home, so the hadith is taken to mean that the Prophet ﷺ would pray some rak'at in the masjid.)

Q: WHAT ABOUT IF I JUST PRAY TWO RAK'AT?

A: If you pray two rak'at, you will no doubt be rewarded for it, as Allah does not let any action go to waste unrewarded—and of course, praying two rak'at is better than praying none. However, two rak'at would not be classed as a complete

taraweeh.

Some people like to recite the whole Quran in their taraweeh prayers during Ramadan. This means if you go to a masjid, you may find that the taraweeh prayers are long (usually lasting over an hour!), as they will complete approximately one juz' of the Quran in one day. This is a great way to complete the recitation of the Quran in your salah during the month of Ramadan, so it can be highly rewarding. However, remember that it is not compulsory to complete the twenty rak'at with congregation every day and that you should always do actions according to your own ability, without comparing yourself to others.

Q: WHAT IF I ONLY KNOW TWO SUWAR (PLURAL OF SURAH) OF THE QURAN BY HEART?

A: If you only know two suwar, you can repeat the two that you know, with the aim to learn more in order to recite them in salah.

Q: CAN I HOLD A MUSHAF DURING MY TARAWEEH AND RECITE QURAN LOOKING IN THE BOOK?

A: There is a difference of opinion on this. Some scholars will al-

low this, for example the scholars of the Shafi'ee fiqh recommend the use of a mushaf. Some scholars of the Hanafi fiqh discourage or prohibit the use of a mushaf during the prayer.

Q: HOW DO I PRAY IN CONGREGATION AT HOME?

For a female-only congregation: The woman who leads the prayer (imamah) will stand in the first row, between the other women in her row. A second woman (preferably not the imamah) will say the iqamah*.

The imamah will recite everything as she normally would. Quran recitation, and all the takbeerat for changing positions, should be said out loud.

Anyone who is following her in prayer (in technical terms called a muqtadi) should follow her actions and make sure that they don't precede her—e.g. a muqtadi cannot go into prostration before the imamah does!

FOR A CONGREGATION WITH A MALE IMAM:

As a muqtadi, there is no difference between following a male or female imam, and the prayer will be made in the same way. The only difference is in the formation of the rows: a male imam will stand in front of the rows of men and women (on his own), rather than between them.

*The words of the iqamah are as follows:

Allahu akbar; Allahu akbar
Ash-hadu anla ilaha illallah
Ash-hadu anna muhammadar-rasalullah
Hayya 'alas-salah
Hayya 'alal-falah
Qad qamatis-salah, Qad qamatis-salah
Allahu akbar; Allahu akbar
La ilaha illallah
God is the greatest, God is the greatest.
I testify that there is no God but Allah
I testify that Muhammad is the messenger of God
Come to prayer

*Come to success
The prayer has begun! The prayer has begun!
God is the greatest, God is the greatest.*

There is no God but Allah
These words will be said out loud and without pausing in between them. Listeners do not need to respond to the words, but should stand to get ready to start their prayer.
Praying at the mosque vs at home

Q: WHERE DO I PRAY TARAWEEH?

A: You can pray taraweeh in congregation in a masjid, as most masjid will hold taraweeh prayers. However, you can also pray taraweeh at home, alone (please see above for the how to), or in congregation with family and friends. I have fond childhood memories of gathering with cousins and attempting to finish twenty rak'at amidst laughter, tiredness and midnight snacks!

As the taraweeh prayer is not one of the five compulsory prayers, it is actually recommended to pray it at home so that you can vary its length according to your own concentration levels.

Q: WHAT ABOUT IF I START PRAYING SOME RAK'AT IN THE MASJID AND COMPLETE THE REST AT HOME?

A: That is absolutely fine; you can pray some in the masjid and some at home. This is usually nice as you get to experience both types of prayer: the congregational prayer and the solitary prayer.

Q: IF I PRAY AT HOME, CAN I TAKE A BREAK OR A NAP IN BETWEEN, OR DO I HAVE TO PRAY IT ALL AT ONCE?

A: Taking breaks or taking naps in between is fine. It's important to make sure your body is rested so that you can concentrate as much as possible in your salah.

May Allah accept all our acts of worship this Ramadan.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Swift Claim Settlements Benefit J&K Bank Customers

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Extending a major relief to the affected families, J&K Bank facilitated the swift settlement of MetLoan & Life Suraksha (MLLS) insurance claims of its deceased borrowers who had their accounts in different branches of the Bank's Udhampur Zone. The claims worth Rs 2.34 Crores have been paid to 48 families freeing them from the severe financial crisis.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Udhampur) Rajesh Gupta and Zonal Head (Credit Life - PNB MetLife) Irfan Ali Zargar displayed the symbolic cheque of Rs 2.34 Cr - an amount that was handed over to the nominees/legal heirs of the deceased customers - in presence of Zonal Insurance Coordinator Raghuveer Singh, Branch Heads and other officials of the Bank and PNB MetLife including Regional Manager Ravi Sharma.

Expressing satisfaction on the occasion, the claimants thanked the Bank and its Insurance partner MetLife saying, "We are thankful to the Bank for covering these loans under insurance and appreciate their support



in timely settlement of the claims. We are also grateful to PNB MetLife for coming to our rescue and relieving us from the difficult burden of growing liabilities."

Speaking on the occasion, both the officials from the Bank and the insurance company highlighted the significance of getting the loans insured. "With a single-premium option alongside the bank funding available for the customers, we can safeguard the families of borrowers and the interests of our institution in case of such unforeseen eventualities," said Zonal Head (Udhampur) adding, "Let's

always advise the borrowers to get their loans insured for the future wellbeing of their own families."

While reminding the customers of the goodwill of J&K Bank, Zonal Head (Credit Life - PNB MetLife) said that the Bank always advises its clients to get their loans insured so that their loved ones are taken care of in case of such unseen contingencies. "We may not be able to compensate for the emotional loss of life but with good insurance products we can always support the bereaved families by relieving them of their financial burden," he added

LG Assures Every Possible Support To Missing Navy Sailor's Family

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday assured every possible support from his administration to the family of Navy seaman Sahil Verma, who is missing from a naval ship since February 27.

Sinha gave the assurance to the sailor's family members, who called on him at the Raj Bhawan here, an official spokesman said.

He said the Lt Governor assured every possible support from the administration to the family to ensure the safe return of Verma, a resident of Jammu's Ghou Manhasan area.

Earlier this month, the Mumbai-headquartered Western Naval Command had said that a high-level board of inquiry has been ordered into the missing of the seaman, terming the incident as "unfortunate".

"In an unfortunate incident, Sahil Verma, Seaman II, has been reported missing at sea from Indian Naval Ship whilst on deployment since 27 Feb 24. The Navy immediately launched a massive search operation with ships and aircraft, which is still continuing," it had posted on X.

The sailor's parents are demanding a CBI probe into the circumstances leading to his "mysterious disappearance" at sea.

Kashmiri Professor Mehr Un Nisa Wins Kaveri's 'Mahila Shakti Vandan Samman'

Srinagar, 18 March: Hailing from the Anantnag District of Kashmir, Ms. Mehr Un Nisa had never imagined that her routine teaching and work as an Assistant Professor at Arni University in Himachal Pradesh would one day bring her national honour. The joy of receiving an Award, given by a prominent Social Welfare Organisation Kaveri, reached its tipping point when she was accompanied to the ceremony by her student who has now become an entrepreneur. Ms. Mehr Un Nisa, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, Arni School of Allied Health Sciences, Arni University bagged Kaveri's 'Mahila Shakti Vandan Samman', and become a source of great inspiration to young women of not only her state Kashmir but the entire nation. Apart from academic excellence she worked relentlessly to help students and staff during the heavy flood in Himachal Pradesh that had affected the campus badly. She stood up as a wall against all odds.

The ceremony held in New Delhi witnessed a moment of pride as Ms. Mehr Un Nisa, accompanied by her entrepreneurial student, Ms. Areeba Fatima, received a standing ovation. Ms. Areeba, who once studied under Ms. Mehr Un Nisa's guidance at Arni School of Allied Health Sciences, Arni University, has since established her own Parlour and Boutique - Emaan Parlor and Emaan Collection, a testament to the mentorship and empowerment fostered within the institution.



Expressing her jubilation, Ms. Mehr Un Nisa remarked, "This award serves as a profound encouragement not only for me but for my students as well. I owe this honor to Arni University, which provides an enriching environment for academic and professional growth." She credited the Chancellor of Arni University, Mr. Vivek Singh, for his visionary leadership, which integrates higher education with entrepreneurship development, thereby nurturing a culture of innovation and excellence.

"Ms. Areeba's journey exemplifies the potential that lies within our students. This recognition motivates me to continue nurturing and extracting the best from our aspiring talents," added the Assistant Professor of Radiology.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Understanding The Surge

for divorce is extramarital affairs. Couples are dissatisfied with each other and neglect their families, seeking their own interests at the expense of their relationships. They fail to recognize the distinction between their single life and married life. They pursue personal pleasures even at the cost of their children and family."

Advocate and social activist, Mudasir Ahmad said that the life in Kashmir, particularly for married individuals, is getting complex in various ways.

"For the poor, marriage brings more responsibilities and financial burdens, making them unable to handle the associated pressures. There are cases when husbands may seem incompetent in managing expenses, while wives may demand more than necessary, which adds to the problems in a relationship," Ahmad said.

Ahmad further said that youth often fail to grasp the gravity of marriage. "Their egos and inability to co-exist contribute to problems. These issues culminate in marital problems and ultimately lead to divorce."

"Over these years, we have seen divorces happening due to infertility. It has been seen that tolerance between couples has come down. Couples do not tolerate each other," Shajina Shafi, another lawyer said.

A number of national and global studies back up her observation; a 2014 Danish study, for example, found that childless couples are up to three times more likely to divorce than those who have children.

Pertinently, according to the 2011 census, the divorce rate in Jammu and Kashmir stood at a mere 0.34 percent. However, in contemporary times, this landscape has dramatically changed with divorce cases becoming increasingly prevalent.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Mufti Nasirul Islam, grand mufti of Jammu & Kashmir, told Kashmir Observer that divorce cases in the valley have risen by an estimated 30% since 2012.

"Earlier, we would see only five or six divorces a month, now the number has increased to ten and even if we initiate a reconciliation between couples that often fails," Islam said.

"Due to the unabated access of the internet both men and women get into illicit relationships and extra marital affairs which disturbs the relationship between married couples which ultimately leads to a divorce."

Mufti said that another factor contributing to rising divorce rates is drug abuse.

"Men, often unemployed, turn to drugs and become violent towards their partners, leading to divorce filings under domestic violence laws. This cycle is exacerbated by the lack of job opportunities, pushing even highly educated individuals into menial work and depression, causing financial strain and relationship breakdowns."

Mufti also castigated the administration saying, "While the government claims to combat drug addiction, the proliferation of liquor shops contradicts this effort, both undermining family values."

He asserted that it is the clergy's responsibility to promote religion in a manner that addresses societal issues, yet many are preoccupied with spreading hate and sectarianism.

"There's a concerning moral decline, with parents failing to address their children's behavior. Some divorces stem from husbands' complaints

about wives not serving their in-laws. While religiously not obligatory, such acts should be considered on humanitarian grounds."

A study carried out by Dr. Muzamil Jan & Asma Hyder, Assistant Professors at Institute of Home Science, Kashmir University published in International Journal of Academic Research and Development states that the continuous post marital stress and conflict repeatedly leads to separation between husband and wife, which continue for years and decades.

The reasons found for separation given by women in Kashmir were undesirable behavior by in-laws, misunderstanding between husband and wife, husband's suspicion about his wife's extra marital relations, physical assault of wife. Disagreement over roles and power relationships is the other most cited reason for divorce.

The study states that rejection by husband was the main reason for taking divorce among most of the women.

"Success in marriage is totally dependent on ability to make adjustments so, for that purpose both spouses are required to make all efforts in this direction to develop a good compatibility. Unnecessary interference by parents and in-laws should be avoided after marriage and couples should be given freedom and privacy in order to avoid divorce. For a successful marriage, both partners need to be psychologically mature and they should have a good understanding of each other before they get married," the study reads.

Dr Farah Qayoom, Assistant Professor in Sociology at Kashmir University agreed that the divorce rates in Kashmir Society are rising at an alarming speed.

"Globally as societies shift toward modernization, the sustainability of marriages becomes difficult. There are many factors responsible for it. Women empowerment is one of the most important reasons for it. As people, especially women become independent, they are less likely to tolerate an unhappy marriage," Qayoom said.

Qayoom also highlighted a significant shift in societal attitudes. "The stigma surrounding divorce has lessened, allowing couples to easily move out of an unhappy marriage."

Many people believe that excessive internet and smartphone use are negatively affecting marriages. "Online activities can become addictive, leading to withdrawal from real-life interactions and a decline in intimacy," Aasia Jan, a divorcee and a mother of two, said.

"Nowadays, our world has shrunk to the size of a phone screen. I know people who crave for their partners' attention. In these times, couples don't get to spend quality time with each other, and if they do they remain glued to their phones," Aasia said, adding that while the internet and smartphones might not be destroying marriages on their own, they can definitely add strain if not managed effectively.

Govt To Fill

vacancies, the government aims to strengthen its workforce, streamline service delivery, and promote inclusive development across the region," they said.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir as per the Ministry of State for Labour and Employment has recorded a decrease in the unemployment rate for graduate persons of age 15 years.

As per the ministry, during 2021-22, the estimated Unemployment Rate

(UR) in Jammu and Kashmir was 22.8% for graduate persons of age 15 years. During 2022-23, the estimated unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir was 18.3 for graduates aged 15 years.

It is worth to mention that the Jammu and Kashmir Home department has recently referred more than 4,000 vacancies in police constable posts to the Services Selection Board—(KNO)

Abrupt Shift

The most significant jump in warming rates was observed in Rajasthan, where the average temperature in February was 2.6 degrees Celsius higher than in January.

A total of nine states and Union territories, including Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand, showed a January-February difference of more than 2 degrees Celsius.

This supports the reports that it feels like spring has disappeared in many parts of India, the researchers said.

The analysis also suggested that winter, overall, is warming across India, with every region showing a net warming trend during winter.

Manipur experienced the largest change in average winter (Dec-Feb) temperature since 1970 (2.3 degrees Celsius), while Delhi had the smallest change (0.2 degrees Celsius).

"The cooling in the central and northern Indian states during January followed by very strong warming in February creates the potential for a quick jump from winter to spring-like conditions," said Andrew Pershing, VP for Science at Climate Central.

Global average temperatures have risen by more than 1.3 degrees Celsius since 1850, exacerbating climate impacts, with 2023 being the hottest year on record.

The CO2 spewed into the atmosphere, largely due to the burning of fossil fuels since the start of the Industrial Revolution, is closely tied to it.

Climate science says the world needs to slash CO2 emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 to limit the average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the guardrail to prevent worsening of climate impacts.

The business-as-usual scenario will take the world to a temperature rise of around 3 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, scientists have warned.

Rains, Snow

generally dry weather was expected till March 20.

"From March 21-22, generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain/snow is expected at many places with thunder/lightning & gusty winds over plains of Kashmir & Jammu Division," he said, adding, "On March 23, generally dry weather is expected while partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain/snow at few places is expected on March 24-25."

Regarding night temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 3.5°C against 2.0°C on the previous night which was below normal by 1.2°C for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.8°C against 2.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 1.3°C against minus 1.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 3.2°C against 2.9°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 1.3°C against 0.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.5°C against minus 2.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.8°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 13.2°C and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 7.8°C, Batote 9.2°C and Bhaderwah 3.8°C, he said.

PM Sees Srinagar

that was held on the banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Sunday.

"This is very heartening to see. It will help further showcase the beauty of Jammu and Kashmir," Modi said.

"India offers great opportunities for motorsports to thrive and Srinagar is right on top of the places where it can happen!" the prime minister said.

NexGen Energia

presented its proposals on sustainable energy solutions like increasing the use of C&G and India-made EVs.

The company has a range of EVs two-wheelers and three-wheelers which is ready for launch. It will eventually start production of electric buses, trucks and cars in the future, it said.

In 5 years, Centre

over terror charges. They were respectively part of Hurriyat(G) and Hurriyat(M) before August 5, 2019.

On March 12, 2023, the government banned the Jammu & Kashmir National Front over charges of "indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the country."

On March 16, 2024 the Government of India banned four factions of Jammu & Kashmir Peoples League (JKPL) and Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFL).

The MHA declared factions of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League (JKPL), namely, JKPL (Mukhtar Ahmed Waza), JKPL (Bashir Ahmad Tota), JKPL (Ghulam Mohammad Khan @ Sopori) also known as Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Political League and JKPL (Aziz Sheikh) led by Yaqoob Sheikh, as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act-1967.

On the same day, the Centre banned Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Freedom League headed by Farooq Rehmani.

Centre Forms

people to refrain from taking part in elections.

According to the UAPA, the constitution of a tribunal is necessary for confirming any government decision banning an outfit.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said 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, the central government constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat faction) (MCJK-B) as an unlawful association.

In a separate notification, the home ministry said a tribunal has been constituted consisting of Justice Neena

Bansal Krishna for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction) (MCJK-S) as an unlawful association.

Earlier, the home ministry had said the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir- Sumji faction (MCJK-S), chaired by Ghulam Nabi Sumji, is known for its anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda and its members have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and providing logistic support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

The leaders and members of MCJK-S have been involved in raising funds through various sources including Pakistan and its proxy organisations for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides, the home ministry said, the MCJK-S has constantly asked the people of Kashmir to refrain from taking part in elections and thereby targeted and hampered the very basic constitutionally recognized fundamentals of Indian democracy.

On the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir-Bhat faction (MCJK-B), chaired by Abdul Ghani Bhat, the home ministry said the group has been indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country.

The home ministry said the MCJK-B has linkages with banned terrorist organisations and has supported terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and its members have been indulging in generating feelings of hatred and disaffection against India to separate Jammu and Kashmir from Union of India.

The leaders and members of the MCJK-B have been involved in raising funds through various sources including Pakistan and its proxy organisations for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone-pelting on Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The MCJK-B, by giving a clarion call to boycott elections on multiple occasions, has also attempted to subvert the will of people and democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir, the home ministry said.

J&K Election

within a reasonable time after the printing of the document, one copy of the declaration is sent by the printer, together with one copy of the document "Where it is printed in the capital of the state, to the Chief Electoral Officer and In any other case, to the District Magistrate of the district in which it is printed".

For the purposes of this section; any process for multiplying copies of a document, other than copying it by hand, shall be deemed to be printed and the expression "printer" shall be construed accordingly; "Election pamphlet or poster" means any printed pamphlet, hand-bill or other document distributed for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of a candidate or group of candidates or any placard or poster having reference to an election, but does not include any hand-bill, placard or poster merely announcing the date, time, place and other particulars of an election meeting or routine instructions to election agents or workers.

Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of sub-section (1) of sub-section (2) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine

which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.

It is, therefore, enjoined upon all the printers and publishers to indicate clearly in the print line the names and addresses of printer and publisher of any election pamphlet or posters or such other material printed by them. Besides, all printing presses have to send the copies or the printed material (along with three extra copies of each such printed material) and the declaration obtained from the publisher as required under section 127-A (2) within three days of its printing. Also, any violation of the provisions of section 127-A (2) and the above directions of the Commission would be viewed seriously and stern action, which may in appropriate cases include even revocation of license of printing press under relevant laws of the state, would be taken.

Before undertaking the printing of any election pamphlets or poster etc, printer shall obtain from the publisher a declaration in terms of section 127-A(2) in the proforma prescribed by the Commission in Append IX-A hereto, this declaration shall be fully signed by the publisher and attested by two persons to whom the publisher is personally known. It should also be authenticated by the printer when it is forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer or District Magistrate, as the case may be.

Likewise, the printer shall furnish four (4) copies of the printed material, along with declaration of the publisher, within three (3) days of the printing thereof, along with such printed material and the declaration. The printer shall also furnish the information regarding the number of copies of documents printed and the price charged for such printing job, in the proforma prescribed by the Commission in Appendix-B hereto. Such information shall be furnished by the printer, not collectively but separately, in respect of each election pamphlet poster etc., printed by him within three days of printing of each such document.

Enforces Pre-Certification

Committee (MCMC) before telecast/ broadcast on TV and cable network/ cable channels.

According to a notification issued here today by the office of Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir in this regard, the pre-certification will also include advertisements to be displayed in cinema halls/radio including private FM channels, audio visual displays in public places, advertisements in e-news papers, use of bulk SMS/voice messages, advertisements on social media and internet websites. The pre-certification of political advertisements is also applicable on print media as well for one day before poll day (Pre-Poll) and on poll day.

Therefore, all the concerned stakeholders have been informed through medium of this notice to ensure that only the pre-certified political advertisements by MCMC of district or UT Level Committee be telecast/broadcast or posted in social media, internet websites and used in bulk and voice SMSs. Besides, one day before poll day and on poll day only pre-certified print advertisements by MCMC be published in news papers, print media, magazines, display hoardings, banners, pamphlets etc. Any violation by the concerned in this regard shall be viewed seriously and action as warranted shall be initiated against the violators.

KDA Calls for Half-Day Strike in Kargil Amid Rising Tension

Agencies

LEH: The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) has called for a half-day general strike on March 20 in solidarity with renowned education reformist Sonam Wangchuk whose hunger strike in support of statehood and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory of Ladakh entered the 13th day on Monday.

The agitation in Ladakh in support of the demands is likely to intensify further in the coming days with the KDA and Leh-based Apex body planning to chalk out a joint strategy after their meeting with the Union Home Ministry early this month hit a deadlock.

Wangchuk, a key campaigner for constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, on Monday said that 250 people slept hungry in minus 12 degrees Celsius to "remind the Indian government of their promises to safeguard Ladakh's environment and tribal indigenous culture".

"This Government likes to call India the 'Mother of Democracy'. But if India denies democratic rights to people of Ladakh & con-



tinues to keep it under bureaucrats controlled from New Delhi then it could only be called a Stepmother of Democracy as far as Ladakh is concerned," Wangchuk wrote on X.

Wangchuk has been on "climate fast" here since March 6, a day after talks between the representatives of KDA-Apex body and the Central government failed.

In Kargil, the KDA announced a half-day general strike on March 20 and a protest rally in support of Wangchuk and the

ongoing agitation.

"The decision to observe the half-day strike was taken at a meeting. We will also brief the people about the talks with the government," KDA co-chairman Qamar Ali Akhoun told reporters.

Asgar Ali Karbalai, who is also the co-chairman of the KDA, said the ongoing agitation in Ladakh is not restricted to one community or one district as is being projected by some vested interests who want to pitch the people of La-

dakh against each other.

"We have called a strike and protest rally to put all types of rumors to rest. Everyone in Ladakh is part of the agitation and united in support of the demands," he said.

Karbalai said the leadership of both KDA and Apex body are shortly meeting in Leh or Kargil to chalkout the future strategy after the Centre's rejection of the main demands -- statehood and constitutional safeguards under the sixth schedule.

Northern Army Commander Visits Ladakh, Reviews Operations

Agencies

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar on Monday visited the high altitude forward areas and reviewed the operational preparedness in Ladakh sector.

The Northern Army Commander appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) for their relentless efforts in maintaining highest standards of operational effectiveness under challenging conditions, the Northern Command said.

"Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander Northern Command, visited formations deployed in super high altitude



areas of Ladakh to review the operational preparedness and border infrastructure development," the Northern Command said on X.

Lieutenant General Kumar

assumed charge as the general officer commanding-in-chief of the Udhampur-based Northern Command of the Indian Army in February this year.

Admin Sabotaging Assembly Elections: Omar Abdullah

Agencies

KULGAM: National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Monday strongly criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration, accusing it of obstructing the conduct of assembly elections in the union territory. He further rejected the reports about the end of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) alliance, saying that the amalgam is "intact and alive".

Addressing a press conference during the launch of his party's election campaign for the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency, Omar, according to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "The J&K administration does not want to hand over power to the people. The current government wants to continue ruling like uncrowned kings."

Expressing disappointment over the delayed assembly elections, he said, "We wanted elections along with Lok Sabha elections. But, this did not happen. The present government of Jammu and Kashmir interfered in this because they



do not want to hand over power to the people again."

Abdullah pointed out the contradictions in the government's stance regarding the security situation, saying, "Earlier, the BJP government claimed that the situation is normal, but when assembly elections are proposed, an atmosphere of insecurity is created."

Regarding the Election Commission's responsibility to conduct assembly elections before the Supreme Court's deadline of September 30, Abdullah said there is a need for timely elections. "The Chief Election Commissioner has also stated that elections will be held before the deadline," he said.

Responding to concerns about Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), the NC leader said, "Even if we complain against the use of EVMs in elections, they will still be used as

the ECI has again banned the use of paper ballots."

Addressing the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Abdullah criticised the BJP's "discriminatory" policies, saying, "CAA is not just against Muslims but there are many other minorities who have been kept out of its ambit."

The NC Vice President said that the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) objective in delimiting parliamentary constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir is "divide and rule". "Delimitation was done in the same way as the British did, divide and rule. That is what is being done here. Kashmir is being fought from Jammu, Hindus from Muslims, and Gujjars from the mountains. The aim is to achieve success in south Kashmir. People are not stupid. They know the BJP's approach in the rest of the country," he said.

Regarding the status of the PAGD, Omar clarified, "The alliance remains intact. We run our own separate parties. Today, I'm talking to you personally does that mean there is no PAGD? It is standing and they will meet in a day or two."

CCIK Collaborated With Police To Eradicate Drug Menace

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries Kashmir (CCIK) on Monday said that they have collaborated with Jammu and Kashmir Police to eradicate the drug menace from the Union Territory.

Addressing a news conference, Tariq Ghani, President of CCIK, said that the youth are getting involved in drug menace while some girls have also fallen prey to the nuisance.

"CCIK also has a social responsibility to help the youth to come out of the situation by creating awareness in this re-



gard. I want to inform you that we have collaborated with J&K Police to eradicate the drug menace, who have assured us the complete support in this regard," Ghani said.

He added that the religious clerics should also focus and create awareness in this re-

gard, so that the situation is prevented from getting worse further.

Moreover, he said that the CCIK has decided that the youth after coming out of the rehabilitation centres will be provided jobs at their units.

"I appeal to the parents of these youths to come forward and not hide the involvement of their beloved," he said.

Furthermore, he appealed the government to enhance the facilities at the rehabilitation centres so that the youth will get every possible support which they need to come out of the drug addiction--(KNO)

LG Meets Family Members Of Missing Seaman



KO NEWS Service

JAMMU: Family members of the missing Seaman from Jammu Sh Sahil Verma, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Monday at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor assured every possible support from the administration to the family to ensure the safe return of Sahil Verma.

The Seaman hailing from Jammu's Ghou Manhasan area went missing on 27th February from Indian Naval Ship. Senior Advocate Abhinav Sharma was also present.

Minor Boy Injured In Leopard Attack

Agencies

BUDGAM: A minor boy was injured after being attacked by a Leopard in Samsan area of Khanshab in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday evening, officials said.

An official said that the boy was attacked by the leopard during the evening hours near his home.

He said that soon after he was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. He said that the Wildlife Department has launched a massive hunt and has already placed cages to capture the leopard. Notably, a 9-year-old girl was mauled to death by a leopard in the same village last Monday--(KNO)

Three Houses Gutted in Baramulla Fire

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least three residential houses were gutted in a massive blaze in Dangiawacha Rafiabad in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on intervening Sunday and Monday night.

News agency GNS reported that a massive fire broke out in a residential house at Dangiawacha in Rafiabad Baramulla last night. Soon after Fire and Emergency Services' arrived at the site with men and machinery and launched a rescue operation with assistance of locals. After hours of relentless efforts, the fire was controlled, not unless it gutted at least three residential houses.

An F&ES official said that three residential houses, one double-storeyed and two single-storeyed, were gutted in the incident. The official identified the victims as Mohammad Kashif Peer, Tariq Ahmad Peer and Naseer Ahmad Peer. "The cause of the fire is believed to be leakage from a domestic gas cylinder," the official said.

Forest Department Pre-Event for Int'l Day of Forests

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Urban Forest Division, Srinagar, J&K Forest Department in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar on Monday organised a pre-event to the main function to celebrate the International Day of Forests on March 21st 2024.

On the occasion the department organized several events under the theme 'Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World'.

This dynamic event saw enthusiastic participation from various stakeholders including Officers and officials of Forest Department, educators, staff and Paralegal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, students of several school and community members. The students of Amar Singh

College Srinagar also participated in the event.

The event commenced with the Green March rally kicked-off by Pradeepchandra Wahule, Conservator of Forests, Srinagar Circle in presence of Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Dr. Mehraj Ahmad Sheikh, DFO Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar, , Aarif Nazir Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, Javid Ahmad, Range Officer, S. Park, Zulfi Tasneem Deputy LADC Srinagar, Nazir-be-Nazir, Chairman National Society for Protection of Water Resources, Wetland and other officers of the Urban Forest Division Srinagar.

The rally, a symbol of unity and commitment to environmental conservation, resonated with the spirit of the International Day of Forests.

Yousmarg PHC Operates from Rented Building, Patients Suffer

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Nagbal Yousmarg area of Budgam continues to operate from a rented building, affecting patient care as the construction of a new building for the hospital remains incomplete.

Currently, the PHC is functioning from a three-room structure that lacks adequate facilities for patients.

A health official, who wished not to be named, informed the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that while patients visit the centre for first aid and immunisation, essential facilities

are lacking.

Despite the availability of staff, the limited space hampers their ability to provide efficient services, the official added.

"The basic facilities necessary for better patient care are absent, leaving us with no choice but to transfer patients to SDH Chaar-e-Shareef or District Hospital Pulwama for treatment," he said.

Locals said the village, situated a few kilometres away from the tourist spot Yousmarg, witnesses heavy tourist footfall. "Road accidents occur frequently. However, with the PHC's inadequate infrastructure, patients often need to be shifted

elsewhere for treatment," said Ghulam Hassan, a resident.

Hassan said that during heavy snowfall, the village becomes cut off from the rest of the valley. "We have transported patients to hospitals on carts. There is an urgent need to equip the health centre with modern facilities," he said.

Although the staff are dedicated and striving to enhance services, the absence of adequate facilities and space undermines their efforts, locals said. They said despite raising concerns with the authorities, the construction of the new building has faced delays, leaving

the project incomplete.

Locals said that initially, the construction was halted due to a lack of funds, and though work is expected to resume soon, internal works such as doors and windows remain pending. They have urged higher authorities to intervene, restart the work and expedite the project to alleviate the suffering of residents.

An official from the health department said that work on the hospital would resume shortly.

"The work was put on halt due to paucity of funds but it is expected to resume soon," he said--(KNO)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION SRINAGAR MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

GIST of Short-Term e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS/2023-24/43
Date	16.03.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway/ State/ central Government organization for the below mentioned work: -

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5
Providing and fixing of ramp to main door entrance of Machinery Divisional office building of M&HED Complex Shalteng Srinagar.	50.00/-	19832.00	400.00	Available under MH-2059

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -

01	Publication date	16-03-2024(15 Hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	From 16-03-2024(15 Hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	16-03-2024(15 Hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	22-03-2024(18 Hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	23-03-2024(14:00hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/ 4278-81
Date: 16.03.2024
DIPK-18129-23
DT: 18/03/2024

Sd/
(Er. Kaplaish Pandita)
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

Hardik Ready To Take Rohit's Legacy With Mumbai Indians Forward

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya on Monday said his predecessor Rohit Sharma will continue to be his guiding force during the IPL despite the unexpected change of leadership ahead of the upcoming season, triggering a "backlash" from the fans.

Pandya, who led Gujarat Titans in the past two seasons, is back at Mumbai Indians as captain for the 2024 edition. Having led Mumbai Indians to five titles, Rohit was surprisingly replaced by Pandya going into the upcoming season.

"It will not be any different, he will always be there to help me. You mentioned that he is the captain of the Indian team, which helps me, because this team, what it has achieved, it has achieved under him... from now onwards, it is (about) what he has achieved, I just have to carry forward that," Pandya told



the media on Monday.

"I don't think it will be any awkward or any different. It will

be nice feeling because we have been playing for 10 years. I have played my whole career under

him and he is going to have his hand on my shoulder throughout the season," he added.

Pandya admitted his move of leaving the Gujarat Titans' captaincy and replacing Rohit at the helm in Mumbai Indians did upset a section of the fans.

"The backlash...To be very honest we respect fans but at the same time, we focus on the sport and what is required. I focus on the controllables and I do not focus on what I cannot control," Pandya said.

"At the same time, we are very grateful to fans. A lot of fame and love comes from them and they have every right and I respect their opinion," he added.

However, Pandya said he has not met Rohit for the last two months or so and would only be chatting with the former skipper once the squad gets into action during the practice game in Mumbai on Monday.

"Yes and no. He has been travelling and playing," Pandya replied when asked if he has had a chat with Rohit.

Short TAKES

Chopra Shocked At Pakistan's Nadeem Struggling To Get New Javelin

Star Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra expressed astonishment that his rival from across the border Arshad Nadeem is struggling to get a new javelin, given his standing in the world of athletics.

"It is hard to believe that he has been struggling to get a new javelin. Given his credentials, this should not be a big issue at all," Chopra told SAI Media on Monday.

Nadeem recently said he is struggling to acquire an international-standard javelin for several years and expressed his frustration about that.

Mayweather Keen For Exhibition Fight In India This Year

Professional boxing legend Floyd Mayweather Jr on Monday said he is eager to participate in an exhibition fight in India this year and the possibility of an opponent from the host nation cannot be ruled out. The 47-year-old former boxing champion boasts of a perfect 50-0 record in the professional circuit, which includes 27 knockouts.

"It's possible. I look forward to having an exhibition over here in 2024. We are looking for a solid name as a solid opponent," Mayweather said.

MI Name Wood As Replacement For Injured Behrendorff

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians on Monday named England left-arm fast bowler Luke Wood as injured Australian Jason Behrendorff's replacement for the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League.

According to a statement from the IPL, Wood will join MI for Rs 50 lakh.

Wood has played five T20Is for England, in addition to two ODIs, and has eight T20I wickets against his name.

MI bowlers Dilshan Madushanka and Gerald Coetzee are also facing serious issues ahead of their first game against Gujarat Titans on March 24.

IOA Dissolves Ad-Hoc Committee For Wrestling, WFI To Take Charge

The Indian Olympic Association on Monday dissolved the ad-hoc committee for wrestling, saying "there is no further need" for it to run the sport after revocation of the suspension on the national federation, which now gets complete administrative control.

The IOA said that the decision was also guided the successful conduct of the selection trials for next month's Olympic qualifying tournament for which the panel collaborated with WFI.

Forest Plunged Into Drop Zone After Four-Point Deduction

Nottingham Forest were plunged into the Premier League relegation zone on Monday after having four points deducted for breaking financial rules last season. The deduction, announced by the league, left Forest in 18th place in the standings with 21 points, one behind Luton Town and four clear of 19th placed Burnley.

The Premier League said an independent commission had applied the immediate deduction after a two-day hearing "for a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules (PSR) for the period ending Season 2022/23."



REAL KASHMIR FC organised an Iftar party on Monday at Synthetic Turf TRC Srinagar.

Cycle Polo Trials From March 19

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Cycle Polo Association will hold selection trials for the upcoming 44th Senior Men, 24th Senior Women, 38th Sub-Junior Boys and 42nd Junior Boys Cycle Polo National Championships 2023-24 scheduled to be held at Nagpur Maharashtra.

The Selection trials will be held at Gindun Ground, Raj Bagh, on Tuesday, March 19, from 11:00 AM onwards.

"Eligible players from affiliated districts units & interested players are asked to come along with two pass-



port size photograph, Aadhaar Card Xerox, age proof & Physical Fitness Certificate for the trials.

"For more information please contact 7006294963, 7006919285, 9419466424," the association said in a statement.

Maiden Indian Racing Festival Showrun Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Racing Promotions Private Limited (RPPL) and JK Tyre are set to hold the Indian Racing Festival 2024, comprising of the Indian Racing League (IRL), the FIA-backed Indian F4 Championship, and JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship (JKNRC) later this year.

The season will span across five rounds for each class, comprising of over ten races throughout the season.

Kicking-off the season, the promotional show made its first pit-stop in Srinagar on Sunday in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Tourism against the picturesque Dal Lake.

Spectators in Srinagar got an early glimpse of what they can expect when the season gets underway, with RPPL and JK Tyre whetting their appetite with a showcase of the Wolf GB08 cars and Formula 4 cars driven by young motorsport icons - Sohil Shah, one of the two champions of IRL 2023, Rishon Rajeev, Formula 4 Vice Champion and Shriya Lohia, Formula 4 India driver.

As the engines roared on the 1.6 kms stretch of Dal Lake, throngs of people from all walks of life converged to witness the high-octane action.



Abid Bhat/KO

JD YSS Holds Orientation Program For Pulwama Sports Teachers

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Joint Director Kashmir Department of Youth Services and Sports Mohammad Rashid Kohli on Monday inaugurated an orientation and capacity-building program at the Synthetic Hockey Turf here.

The event was attended by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Pulwama Mohammad Qasim, Principal of Bhss Pulwama S.M. Iqbal, Incharge Activity Section Joint Director Office Kashmir, Publicity Coordinator Directorate of YSS J&K, Zonal Physical Education Officers, PELs, PEMs, PETs, and REKs of the Department.

DYSSO Pulwama, in his

welcome address, provided an overview of the course and pertinent updates related to the development activities happening in the district.

During his speech, the Joint Director emphasized the importance of the program and highlighted its objectives.

"The course has been meticulously designed to cater to the evolving needs of both teachers and students in the field of sports. Our aim is to equip participants with the latest skills and techniques that are essential for their professional development in their respective sports disciplines," he said.

The orientation and capacity-building program will focus on enhancing the capabil-

ities and knowledge of sports teachers with innovative teaching methods. Through workshops, lectures, and practical demonstrations, the participants will learn about the latest industry trends and teaching methodologies specifically designed for various sports disciplines.

Furthermore, the curriculum will encompass a diverse range of topics, including sports psychology, physical conditioning, nutrition, injury prevention, and recovery strategies. By imparting this comprehensive training, the program seeks to equip sports teachers with the necessary tools to mentor and guide students towards excellence in sports.

FA Cup Thriller As Man United Beats Liverpool 4-3 To Ease Pressure On Ten Hag

Agencies

MANCHESTER: There's still some fight left in Manchester United.

With the season hanging in the balance, Erik ten Hag's team produced one of the most important wins of his tenure to beat Liverpool 4-3 after extra time in a thrilling FA Cup quarterfinal match on Sunday.

With nearly the last kick of the match, substitute Amad sent Old Trafford into raptures, ended Liverpool's bid for a quadruple of trophies and fired United into the semifinals.

"Listen to the noise, you can tell what a big game it is, a huge occasion," said Marcus Rashford, who missed a golden chance to win it at the end of regulation, but leveled the game at 3-3 in extra time. "I had to score that chance at the end... but we got the job done and we have to get something out of this season."

Time will tell just how significant a result this will be for Ten Hag, who has faced mounting speculation about his position in the face of a troubled campaign and restructuring at the club.

The FA Cup represents his last



chance of silverware this season, while Champions League qualification is in doubt with United sixth in the Premier League. Defeat against the club's fiercest rival Liverpool would likely have seen the pressure on the Dutchman grow. And it was notable that television cameras focused on new director Dave Brailsford as the clock ticked down with Liverpool leading 2-1 as the game approached 90 minutes.

Brailsford is part of the team overseeing United's soccer operations following British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe's recent investment in the club. He looked

stone-faced with United seemingly headed out of the competition and Liverpool's away fans making the loudest noise.

Emotions changed drastically inside Old Trafford, however, when Antony leveled the game in the 87th. That set up a white-knuckle ride through to the first minute of stoppage time in extra time, with big chances missed and momentum swinging one way and then another until Amad's winner.

Ten Hag hopes it can be a turning point for his team.

"Every team needs its moment into a season and we never had that moment," the Unit-

ed manager said. "This could be that moment where the team believe and (has) energy that we can do amazing things. I think when you can beat Liverpool the way we did, then you can beat any opponent. It's up to us to prove that point."

Twelve-time FA Cup winner United was later drawn against second-tier Coventry in the semifinals and defending champion Manchester City will play Chelsea, which beat Leicester 4-2 earlier Sunday. Both matches will take place at Wembley.

The game had looked like going to a penalty shootout until Amad fired low into the bottom corner to beat Caoimhin Kelleher following a late Liverpool corner.

The substitute was so caught up in the moment that he was shown a second yellow card and sent off for taking off his jersey during wild celebrations.

"It's the best goal of my life, it's a really important moment. You need to believe in every single moment, this is football," he said. "I am disappointed to be sent off, but what is important is to win. To beat Liverpool is a big, big moment for me."