

## Balancing Memory And Modernity: The Evolution Of Ramazan In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

**Srinagar:** Zoona Begum's calloused hands, stained with henna, delicately passed platters to other family members gathered around the Iftar Dastarkhwan. Its surface, adorned with dates, fruits, drinks, snacks, and pudding reflected the care poured into the meal. Yet, amidst the abundance, a wistful sigh escaped her lips as she surveyed

the spread.

"There's a lot of food, but it doesn't have the same joy it once held," Zoona said.

"In those days, Ramazan wasn't just about fasting and prayers; it was a time when families gathered around the Iftar Dastarkhwan, creating bonds that transcended blood ties," she recalled.

An old city resident in her late seventies, Zoona painted



a vivid picture of a time when the arrival of Ramazan brought

an unparalleled sense of community and togetherness. She

vividly remembers the vibrant atmosphere of her neighborhood, where the entire Mohalla felt like one extended family. The simple act of one person rising for Suhoor (pre-dawn meals) would ripple through the entire community, awakening each household in unison.

"A single person would take it as a responsibility to wake everybody for fasting, considered mandatory in Islam. He

would knock doors and call on top of his voice to wake up his neighbors," she said.

She is of the belief that there was simplicity in every aspect of life including Ramazan and, now, all that has changed. "Even though ordinary people were not very well versed with Islamic knowledge that people nowadays have, their fundamental beliefs were strong and they would fast and feast simply."

"The era of Sharm (chastity) and Haya (modesty) is gone and youngsters don't have a great deal of respect for faith. Nowadays, even though people fast, it seems that aaz kal chi laej ti tchoor ti gaej ti tchoor, meaning that everyone is a thief these days," she said.

However, Zoona isn't the only one who has observed a palpable shift in the aura surrounding

## PM To Address Rally In Udhampur On April 12

Yogi Adityanath In Kathua On April 10



Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address election rallies in Udhampur and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir on April 12 and April 10, respectively, BJP leaders said on Thursday.

They will be campaigning for BJP candidate and Union minister Jitendra Singh, who

is seeking reelection from Udhampur-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency.

"Modi Ji is coming to Udhampur on April 12, Yogi Ji will come to Kathua on April 10. They will address mega rallies," Jammu and Kashmir BJP general secretary Ashok Koul told reporters in Udhampur.

Koul, who was campaigning for Jitendra Singh, said that PM Modi will | More on P6

## Cong Failed To Deal With Cross-border Terrorism: PM

Accusing the previous Congress governments of failing to effectively deal with cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said this gave rise to the perception that India was a "weak and poor" target. Addressing an election rally at Jamui, Modi also mocked the INDIA bloc, saying those who used to | More on P6

PROBABLE 3RD TERM

## PM Sets Ambitious India Economic Goals

KO Web Desk

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, confident of winning the national election starting this month, has set an ambitious target of roughly doubling the economy and exports this decade, according to a government document seen by news agency Reuters.

PM Modi has highlighted economic growth as one of his biggest achievements in election rallies and has "guaranteed" making the economy the third-largest in the world from fifth

now if he wins a third term in a row as polls predict.

He has already asked officials to finalise plans by around May to expand the economy to \$6.69 trillion in nominal terms by 2030, from around \$3.51 trillion currently, according to the October document. Though short on concrete details of how to achieve that, it has been a basis for officials' meetings.

When he took office for a second term five years ago, PM Modi promised to take the economy to \$5 trillion by the current fiscal year, but | More on P6

## NC, Congress To Contest LS Polls Together In J&K: Omar

Says People Will Vote For BJP If Art 370 Abrogation Made Them Happy

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday said people should vote for the BJP if they are happy with the abrogation of Article 370, which bestowed special status on the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state.

"People should decide and send a message to Delhi. If the people of Jammu and Kashmir are satisfied with the August 5, 2019, decision, then they should not vote for the National Conference," the former chief minister of the erstwhile state



said at a party programme.

"But if they are unhappy with the abrogation of Article 370,

then they should come out and vote for the candidates of the National Conference," he added.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The move was upheld by the Supreme Court in December.

Abdullah also expressed hope that people will vote wisely in the elections.

"The decision has to be taken by the voter. The way we were deceived and humiliated. If not by any | More on P6

## NC Will Win From Anantnag-Rajouri: Dr Farooq

Observer News Service

## 26 Candidates Vie For Jammu Seat

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** As the deadline for nomination filing ended on Thursday, the electoral battleground for the Jammu parliamentary seat is witnessing a flurry of activity, with 26 candidates throwing their hats into the ring. With today marking the last day for nominations, contenders are making their final moves to secure their place in the electoral fray ahead of the April 26 voting day.

The nomination filing deadline for the Jammu parliamentary seat is set for April 4, until 3 pm, with scrutiny scheduled for April 6 and withdrawal of nominations by April 8. Amidst this backdrop, Thursday saw a surge in nominations, with nine additional candidates stepping forward to join the electoral race. On Wednesday, 4 candidates had filed their nomination papers.

With the filing of nomination papers by these candidates, the total number of candidates who have filed their candidature for 5-Jammu PC goes to 26.

The candidates who filed nomination papers in the office of Returning Officer included Naresh Kumar Talla from Jai Prakash Janta Dal, Qari Zaheer Abbas Bhatti from All India Forward Block, Naresh Kumar Chib from Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim), Indra Bhalla from Indian National Congress (Substitute Candidate) and Independent candidates Principal CD Sharma, Satish Poonchi, Vicky Kumar Dogra, Perseen Singh and Ravinder Singh. The latest contenders also include Ratan Lal and Roop Krishni Dhar from the Jammu Kashmir People's Conference, independent candidate Atul Raina, and Ganesh Chaudhary from the Hindustan Shakti Sena. | More on P6

## Sgr Resident Arrested In UP

AGENCIES

**Srinagar:** The Uttar Pradesh ATS on Thursday arrested three terrorists including two Pakistani nationals and a resident of Kashmir.

As per Intelligence information, the trio was planning to carry out terrorist activities in India and with the help of ISI.

Three Hizbul terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals were apprehended by the UP ATS after they entered India through the India-Nepal border, reports said.

"With assistance from ISI, the terrorists have trained under Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. The trio has been identified as Mohammad Altaf Bhat, son of Khizar Mohammad Bhat of house number 559, Sadiqabad. | More on P6

## Apni Party Names Candidates For 2 LS Seats

Retains 'Bat' Symbol  
 Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Apni Party on Thursday announced its candidates for the two parliamentary constituencies. The party declared the candidature of its Vice President, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, for the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency, and Mohammad Ashraf Mir, the party's Provincial President of Kashmir, for the Srinagar constituency.

The announcement was made during a press conference at the party headquarters in Srinagar. The party's Parliamentary Committee Chairman, Mohammad Dilawar Mir, who was flanked by senior party leaders, including the nominated candidates, addressed the press conference.



He said, "The party leadership has unanimously decided on the candidacy of party senior leader and Vice President Zaffar Iqbal Manhas for the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, and the party's Provincial President for Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, for the Srinagar constituency."pp  
 Replying to a question, Dilawar Mir said, "The party has not yet decided about the Baramulla parliamentary constituency. Since | More on P6

## NC, PDP Have Been Beneficiaries Of BJP: Azad

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has pooh-poohed the claims made by rival National Conference and PDP that his newly-formed party was in cahoots with the BJP and asked whether they are the 'B' teams of the saffron party going by their past coalition arrangements.

Talking to PTI Videos, Azad, who is contesting on his Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), highlighted his party's primary focus on reinstating full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and not on the lines that union territories like Delhi and Puducherry enjoy.

To a question that his party was seen as a B team of the



BJP, Azad pointed out past associations of regional parties with the saffron party.

"A and B team are those from the valley who have been ministers in the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, father of the BJP, or those who enjoyed governance with the help of saffron party MLAs in the erstwhile state," he said. He highlighted | More on P6



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# App-Based Data Collection Found To Help Detect Dementia At Genetic Level In New Study

In a new research, data collected via a mobile app, including voice recordings and body movements, was found to help researchers develop new tests for detecting dementia. They said the newly developed testing method is "comparable to gold-standard methods" and could detect frontotemporal dementia (FTD) - a common cause of dementia - at the genetic level before symptoms start.

The smartphone app, developed by the researchers in collaboration with a software company, included tests of executive function, such as planning and prioritising, filtering distractions and controlling impulses. Executive functioning is known to degrade as FTD advances.

"We developed the capability to record speech while participants engaged with several different tests," said first author Adam Staffaroni, clinical neuropsychologist and associate professor in the Department of Neurology, University of California San Francisco (UCSF), US.

"We also created tests of walking, balance and slowed movements, as well as different aspects of language,"



said Staffaroni.

The team said patients having this condition are believed to be most responsive to early treatment, ideally before symptoms start to emerge. Multiple variants of FTD are known

to occur - one brings about dramatic personality shifts, including apathy, impulsivity and socially inappropriate behaviour, another affects movement, and a third impacts speech, language and comprehension.

However, most patients are diagnosed "relatively late in the disease, because they are young, and their symptoms are mistaken for psychiatric disorders," according to Adam Boxer, professor in memory and aging at the UCSF Department of Neurology, and senior author of the study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

For the study, the researchers tracked 360 participants with an average age of 54 enrolled in ongoing studies, of whom about 90 per cent had app data on disease stage. These participants included those not having FTD or were gene carriers presenting no symptoms, those displaying early signs, and those presenting symptoms.

The team found the tests to be as sensitive as clinical evaluations employed to diagnose the disease.

"Eventually, the app may be used to monitor treatment effects, replacing many or most in-person visits to clinical trials' sites," said Staffaroni. While the team has no current plans of making the app public, they said that such assessments could pave the way for new trials of "promising" therapies.

## 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 Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Sanah Hilar D/o Hilar Ahmad Bhat R/o Sariwarpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 31/03/2021 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 name from (Old name) Ridha Pervaze to (New name) Ridha Pervaze. In future I will be known as (new name) Ridha Pervaze. If anybody is having any objection/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

Ridha Pervaze  
D/O-Pervaze Ahmad  
inf R/O-Naseem Bagh, Hazratbal

## Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Shabir Ahmad Bhat S/o Gh Ahmad Bhat R/o Kreeri seeking their in the legal hier certificate.

### NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned Gh Ahmad Bhat S/o Khalil Bhat R/o Kreeri has passed away on 31-10-2023. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following legal heirs.

S. NO	NAM OF LEGAL HIER	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	RE-MAKKS
1	Shabir Ahmad Bhat	Son	35	Daily Wager in Floriculture	Married
2	Rafiq Begum	Daughter	55	House Wife	Married
3	Farida Begum	-DO-	52	-DO-	Married
4	Sara Begum	-DO-	48	-DO-	Married
5	Meerna Begum	-DO-	30	-DO-	Married

The applicant has applied for issuance of legal hier certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days, no objections will be entertained.

FKO

Naib Tehsildar

## 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 Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Waris Dilavar Khan S/o Dilavar Ahmad Khan R/o Palhallan Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 13/05/2020 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\_r

## 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 Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Adnan Waseem S/O Waseem Ahmad Bhat R/O Buran Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 05/04/2012 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\_

## 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 Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Saika Bilal D/o Bilal Ahmad Dar R/o Dulpura kreeri Tehsil Kreeri District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 31/07/2020 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 lost the number plate of my motor cycle bearing regd no: JK01X 8132 from Magam to Bazarpora. 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 RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Bhat  
S/o Abdul Samad Bhat  
R/o Munawarabad Srinagar  
2nd owner Showkat Ahmad Wani  
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o Bazarpora Aripanthan  
bmg

### NOTICE

I Arif Hamid Bhat S/o Abdul Hamid Bhat R/o Al Noor Colony B Ellahi Bagh Buchpora, Sgr have lost my RC somewhere having Vehicle no- JK01AU1872 (Motor Cab(LMV)). Now I am applying for its duplicate RC. In this regard, if anybody is having any kind of objection may file to the RTO Office Srinagar within the period of seven days, after that no objection will be entertained.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to information of all general public that my father's name in the school records is reflected as Mohammad Yaqoob Wadoo when actual name is Mohammad Yaqoob Wadoo and same needs to be corrected as per the academic records. Now if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may inform the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Any representation /objection received after due date shall not be entertained.

Asrar Abass S/O  
Mohammad Yaqoob Wadoo  
R/O: Syed Mirak Shah Colony, inf  
Habbak Crossing, Srinagar

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 29.04.2024 at 15.00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

**Tender No. : 601-TRD-FZR-2024-25**

Name of work : Outsourcing of maintenance activities for PSI & OHE assets of TRD depots at Tarn Taran (TTO), Amritsar (ASR) and Gurdaspur (GSP) in the jurisdiction of ADEE/TRD/ASR over Firozpur division for a period of Two Years.

App. Cost (Rs.) : 2,99,45,433.29

Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL

Date & time for submission of tender : Upto 29.04.2024, 15:00 Hrs.

Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 1,66,200/-

Completion Period : Twenty Four (24) Months

Opening of tender : 29.04.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.

Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

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**Tender No. : 602-TRD-FZR-2024-25**

Name of work : Outsourcing of maintenance activities for PSI & OHE assets of TRD depots at Pathankot Cantt. (PTKC), Samba (SMBX) and Udhampur (UHP) in the jurisdiction of DEE/TRD/JAT over Firozpur division for a period of Two Years.

App. Cost (Rs.) : 2,75,88,032.10

Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL

Date & time for submission of tender : Upto 29.04.2024, 15:00 Hrs.

Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 2,31,700/-

Completion Period : Twenty Four (24) Months

Opening of tender : 29.04.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.

Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

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**Tender No. : 603-TRD-FZR-2024-25**

Name of work : Outsourcing of maintenance activities for PSI & OHE assets of TRD depots at Ludhiana (LDH), Jalandhar Cantt (JRC), Dasua (DZA), Lohian Khas (LNK), Moga (MOF) and Nawanshahar (NSS) in the jurisdiction of ADEE/TRD/JUC over Firozpur division for 02 years.

App. Cost (Rs.) : 3,75,39,246.37

Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL

Date & time for submission of tender : Upto 29.04.2024, 15:00 Hrs.

Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 2,31,700/-

Completion Period : Twenty Four (24) Months

Opening of tender : 29.04.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.

Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 601, 602 & 603-TRD-FZR-2024-25 Dated: 04.04.2024 995/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

No: Eo/PW/Tech 556 Dated: 04/04/2024

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir

#### Office of the Extension officer Publicity Wing Kashmir

Sub- Sale of Poultry / Poultry products on eve of Shab-i-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida And Eid-ul- Fitr 2024

Information regarding the sale of Poultry & Poultry Products on eve of Shab-i-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida and Eid-ul- Fitr 2024 at various places

(Dr. Purnima Bhat)  
Extension Officer  
Publicity Wing  
Department of Animal Husbandry Kashmir.

DIPK-34/24  
dated: 04-04-2024

Subject: - Details regarding Sale plan for poultry birds on upcoming festive days with stock position.

S.no	District	Total No. of Poultry Birds Available	No. of Poultry Birds Available for Sale	Sale points	Date of sale
1	Shopian	33500	500	Main Market Shopian (Mobile Sale)	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			300	Block Veterinary Office Kellier,	
			300	Sub Unit Zainpora.	
		<b>Total</b>	1100	--	
2	Kulgam	91000	3700	DVH Kulgam	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			3600	Areh Kulgam	
			3200	Tullinowpora	
		<b>Total</b>	10500	--	
3	Anantnag	125000	1500	DVH Complex,	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			1000	Khiram dargah	
			1000	Kabamarg dargah	
			1200	Aishmaqam dargah	
			1300	Mobile sale	
		<b>Total</b>	6000	--	
4	Srinagar	407580	4000	Batmaloo, Hawal, Shalteng and Palpora.	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			<b>Total</b>	4000	
5	Kupwara	28000	1000	DVO Kupwara	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			500	Poultry farm, Shumnag	
			700	PDO office Branwari	
		<b>Total</b>	2200	--	
6	Baramulla	210000	5000	Sale booth Baramulla	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			1000	Composite Sale Centre Sopore	
			5000	Sale booth Baramulla	
			1000	Composite Sale Centre Sopore	
			3000	BVO Kakapora	
		<b>Total</b>	12000	--	
7	Pulwama	800000	1500	BVO Pampore	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			1500	LDO Tral	
			3000	Dist. Vet Campus	
			9000	--	
			3000	PDC Budgam	
		<b>Total</b>	9000	--	
8	Budgam	240000	2000	BVO Khanshab	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			3000	BVO Beerwa	
			3000	BVO Chadoora.	
			3000	BVO BK Pora	
			2000	BVO Narbal	
			3000	--	
			3000	--	
		<b>Total</b>	16000	--	
9	Bandipora	125000	3000	Poultry Mandi Sumbal	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			1200	Main Market, Hajin	
			1100	Main Market, Bandipora	
			1500	Veterinary Complex Bandipora	
			500	Main Market Gurez	
		<b>Total</b>	7300	--	
10	Ganderbal	200000	1000	Main Campus, Duderhama	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			800	BVO Office, Lar	
			1200	BVO Office, Kangan	
		<b>Total</b>	3000	--	
11	Poultry Marketing Division	--	3000	Sale Centre Gowkadal (Dressed/ Live)	06-04-2024 & 09-04-2024
			2500	Mobile Sale (Dressed birds): Uptown Route:- Jahangir Chowk - DC Office Complex- Barzulla-Hyderpora - Sanatnagar-Jawaharnagar. Downtown Route:- Khanyar-Rainawari- Hariparath-Hazratbal- Lalbazar-Hawal- Safakadal-Ihabbakadal.	
		<b>Total</b>	5500	--	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22,60080</b>	<b>76600</b>		

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Sub: - Grant of registration to the Guest House under the name and style "The Shahrukh Guest House" situated at, Hariganiwan, Ganderbal.

#### Public Notice

Whereas, Ms Maqsooda Shabir W/o Shabir Ahmad Bijard R/o Surfraw Kangan Ganderbal has approached this office for grant of Registration to the Guest House under the name and style "The Shahrukh Guest House" situated at, Hariganiwan, Ganderbal; Whereas, the applicant has submitted the documents viz. Sale Deed duly registered between Shabir Ahmad Bajard and Ms Maqsooda Shabir W/o Shabir Ahmad Bijard NOC from Sub Divisional Magistrate vide No:SDM/KGN/PS/1234-36 dated 15.12.2023, NOC from BDO Gund vide No.BG/Estt/2023-24/166-68 dated 19.05.2023 for registration of already existing two storey building at Ganiwan-B with a report from the Gram Panchayat Halqa Ganiwan, Revenue papers, Character Certificate, Pan Card, ID Proof, Domicile certificate, Power bill, Affidavit, NOC from Fire and emergency dated 27.10.2023, NOC from JKPC dated 21.07.2023 for 7 rooms only, NOC from Assistant Executive Engineer, Electric Sub-Division Kangan vide No.208 dated 15/06/2023, NOC from JSD PHE, Rural Water Supply Div. Ganderbal vide No.PHE/JSD/RWSD/CS/7466-67 dated 12.09.2023 and other related documents etc;

Whereas, grant of registration certificate for the guest house is purely for purpose of running operation management of the said guest house and does not confer any right of ownership of the guest house or any other entitlement in respect of property disputes and shall also not regularize any unauthorized structure and encroachment on Government land;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before issuance of registration certificate in favour of Ms Maqsooda Shabir W/o Shabir Ahmad Bijard R/o Surfraw Kangan Ganderbal the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/ Development Authorities/ BDO/ PHE Department / Electric Department etc, that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered as per norms and as after submission of all requisite documents.

Sd/-  
Assistant Director Tourism  
Registration

No: Reg/UP-169/DTK/19  
DIPK-29/24  
Dated: 04.04.2024

## Urs Of Hazrat Sheikh Dawood Observed With Zeal In Batamalloo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Devotees from across the region gathered at the shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Dawood (RA) in Batamalloo Srinagar to observe the annual Urs of the revered Sufi saint with fervor and reverence.

The atmosphere was charged with religious fervor as men and women from different walks of life offered prayers and paid homage to the saint known for his teachings of peace, harmony, and spirituality.

Locals expressed joy while saying the Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Dawood (RA) is not just a religious event, but a reminder of the rich spiritual heritage of our region. "It is a time for reflection, prayer, and coming together as a community," Wahid, a local resident said.

Another devotee expressed his gratitude for being able to participate in the Urs, added it is a blessing to be able to visit the shrine and seek the saint's blessings. "His teachings continue to inspire and guide us in



The Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Dawood (RA) is observed annually on the anniversary, attracting devotees from far and wide who seek blessings and spiritual solace at his shrine.

our lives," she said. Moreover, the administration ensured adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Urs, including security measures and facilities for the convenience of pilgrims



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

## 25 New E- Buses To Enhance Public Transport System in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar is gearing up to welcome a fleet of 25 new smart city buses, introduced by the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL). An inspection and trial run of the freshly arrived buses were carried out in the city on Thursday.

Anuj Malhotra, Gen-

eral Manager of Planning & Urban Development at Smart City Srinagar said the city is all set to receive 25 state-of-the-art smart city buses, which will commence operations in the coming days.

He elaborated on the features of the new buses, saying these have length of over 12 meters. "These buses are a significant upgrade from the previ-

ously acquired 9-metre buses, with a seating capacity of 35 passengers along with additional standing room," he said, adding that the new buses offer enhanced comfort, including more spacious seating and high-back seats.

Speaking about the total number of buses, Malhotra said they have made an addition of 25

new buses to the existing fleet, bringing the total count to 100 smart city buses, including the previous 75.

The inspection and trial run of the smart city buses were overseen by key figures such as RTO Kashmir, Syed Shah-awaz Bukhari and Anuj Malhotra, alongside other officials.

## DC Srinagar For Strict Vigil Around Drug Hotspots, Educational Institutions

Chairs NCORD Meeting On PDA&NT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat on Thursday directed the members of NCORD Committee to keep vigil on vulnerable target groups and places particularly around educational institutions to prevent spread of drugs and save the young generation from drug menace.

In order to review the measures taken by Law Enforcement Agencies and other stakeholders to curb the menace of drug abuse and drug peddling in Srinagar, a meeting on District Level meeting on Prevention of Drug Abuse & Narcotics Trade (NCORD) was

held under the Chairmanship DC at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal and action taken with regard to the directions passed in the last meeting from the concerned members of NCORD Committee. He also reviewed the deterrence measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling from the Srinagar District.

The DC also reviewed the progress and impact of the anti-drugs awareness campaign in the district.

Dr Bilal stressed upon the Officers of all the line depart-

ments to further intensify the deterrence measures to control the harmful effects of drug menace so that youth is discouraged from tempting towards drugs.

He urged the concerned to intensify the IEC campaign for awareness of target groups so that they are educated about the harmful effects of the substance abuse in an impactful manner.

The DC asked all the stakeholder Departments to further strengthen the intelligence network by keeping proper vigil around suspected hotspots to crack whip on the menace of drugs.

The Officers of Agriculture, Excise and other Departments were asked to intensify field in-

spection to check cultivation of poppy and cannabis etc. in order to curb its cultivation for the purpose of drugs.

Dr Bilal further stressed the Officers to evaluate the progress related to anti-drugs measures by setting benchmarks based on previous data to get accurate information.

Earlier, the DC was given feedback by the members of the Committee including Superintendent of Police, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Incharge ATF, SKIMS Bemina, Officers of Drug Controller and other enforcement agencies, who presented the latest report related

to action taken against drug addiction and drug trafficking in Srinagar District.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Khalid Hussain and Superintendent of Police, Umer Shah, the meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agricultural Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District youth Services & Sports Officer, DDMO Srinagar, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Incharge ATF, SKIMS Bemina and Officers from ANTF, Excise, Labor and other Departments.

## Secy Health Reviews SKIMS Maternity Hospital Functioning

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rashed Shah, who is also holding the charge of Director SKIMS, today visited Maternity Hospital SKIMS and reviewed its functioning.

He had a detailed in-

teraction with the staff and patients. He conducted rounds of the Maternity Hospital and OPD service areas of SKIMS to assess the medical facilities available to the patients.

He visited the wards, casualty area, operation theatres and OPD areas of the hospital where he interacted with the patients

in detail.

Medical Superintendent Maternity Hospital & HOD Gynaec & Obstetrics along with other senior faculty appraised the Secretary of the functioning of the hospital including the current state of infrastructure, availability of essential drugs/ equipment.

## SP College Observes World TB Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: S.P College Srinagar today commemorated World TB Day 2024 to raise awareness about tuberculosis and foster a spirit of collective action in combating this global health challenge.

The event, organized by the NSS units in collaboration with the Red Ribbon Club, College Health Committee, and Department of Zoology commenced with a Presidential Address by Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi, setting the tone for the insightful discussions that followed.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No.: 01 & 02-2024-25-Sr. DENC-FZR Date: 02.04.2024

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination)/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date-25.04.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revise bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
02.04.2024	11.04.2024	25.04.2024/ 15:00 Hrs

S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1.	01-2024-25-SrDENC-FZR	Manufacturing and supplying of 45,000 cum 65 mm gauge stone ballast (Mechanically Broken) duly stacked and loading into Railway Wagons in quarry siding in Sub-Depot-I & II at KATHUA on PTK - JAT section under ADEN/JAT.	2,66,47,200.00/-	2,83,200.00/-	60 Days	06 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for railway/highway/roads".						
2.	02-2024-25-SrDENC-FZR	Manufacturing and supplying of 45,000 cum 65 mm gauge stone ballast (Mechanically Broken) duly stacked and loading into Railway Wagons in quarry siding in Sub-Depot-I at HIRANAGAR on PTK - JAT section under ADEN/JAT.	2,66,47,200.00/-	2,83,200.00/-	60 Days	09 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for railway/highway/roads".						

Note. 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 993/24

## High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh (Office of the Registrar Recruitment at Jammu)

NOTIFICATION

No.: 545 of 2024/RR/RC

Dated: 02-04-2024

Subject:- Conduct of Online CBT Examination for the various posts in the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

1. The High Court of J&K and Ladakh would be conducting the Online CBT examination for the post of Reader, Junior Assistant, Developer and Telephone Operator as per the following details:-

S.No	Post	Advertisement Notice No.	Date of Examination	Shift	Examination Centre
1	Reader, Level-8 (47600-151100)	01 of 2023/RR/GS Dated 07.12.2023	29.04.2024	Morning Shift (Timing as per Admit Card)	As mentioned on the Admit Card.
2	Junior Assistant, Level-4 (25500-81100)	03 of 2022/RR/NG Dated 30.08.2022	29.04.2024	Afternoon Shift (Timing as per Admit Card)	
3	Developer, Level-4 (25500-81100)	03 of 2022/RR/NG Dated 30.08.2022	29.04.2024	Afternoon Shift (Timing as per Admit Card)	
4	Telephone Operator, Level-4 (25500-81100)	01 of 2024/RR/RC Dated 27.02.2024	29.04.2024	Evening Shift (Timing As per Admit Card)	

2. The candidates who have applied for the aforementioned posts, shall download their Admit cards from the official website of High Court of J&K and Ladakh (<https://jhighcourt.nic.in>) w.e.f. 17.04.2024.

3. In case of any difficulty in downloading/issue related to Admit Cards, candidates(s) may contact on the following helpdesk i.e. (E-Mail: [recruitmentcell99@yahoo.com](mailto:recruitmentcell99@yahoo.com)).

By Order

DIPK-21/24  
dated: 04-04-2024

No.: 12374-90/RR/RC

*(Registrar Singh)*  
Registrar Recruitment

Dated: 02.04.2024

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

### RAILWAYS

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
25 Ramzan  
1445

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4 : 48
ZUHR	12:34
ASR	5: 05
Magrib	6:57
ISHA	8: 20

## This Day In History

- 1609 - Daimyo (Lord) of the Satsuma Domain in southern Kyushu, Japan, completes his successful invasion of the Ryukyu Kingdom in Okinawa
- 1648 - Spanish troops and feudal barons strike down people's uprising in Naples
- 1739 - French emperor Karel VI sign secret treaty
- 1751 - Adolf Frederik of Holstein-Gottorp crowns himself king of Sweden
- 1792 - George Washington casts 1st presidential veto
- 1804 - High Possil Meteorite: The first recorded meteorite in Scotland falls in Possil
- 1806 - Isaac Quintard patents apple cider
- 1812 - British storm Badajoz fortress in Extremadura, Spain, held by French & Spanish
- 1814 - Netherlands Bank issues its 1st banknotes
- 1815 - Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies, has its first violent eruption after several centuries of dormancy
- 1818 - In the Battle of Maipú, Chile's independence movement - led by Bernardo O'Higgins and José de San Martín - win a decisive victory over Spain, leaving 2,000 Spaniards and 1,000 Chilean patriots dead.

## From KO Archives

Co-Sponsored By Kashmir Observer

## Biscoe Holds Annual Cross Country Run

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Tyndale Biscoe School today had its annual cross country run Amidst great enthusiasm and excitement among the students, teachers and staff as also the parents of the boys taking part in the annual event. The students dressed in their House colours (red, yellow, blue and orange) added colour to the event.

The cross country run of the Biscoe students was co-sponsored by 'The Kashmir Observer', which offered trophies for the "best runners" in three different categories.

From early morning students trickled in along accompanied by their parents who also had a day off because of the holiday in connection with the urs of Hazrat Shah Hamadan. By 7.15 a.m. the entire school campus was full with people, staff, students and the parents. The security check at the entrance had no effect on till the unexpected announcement that the chief minister Farooq Abdullah was on way to flag off the run. Entire campus was virtually cordoned off and security personnel in strength deployed with the Residency Road, where the school is located, declared out of bounds for vehicular traffic. No vehicle, even those of the newsmen who were to cover the event, was allowed to go beyond Regal Chowk and Clock Tower.

The chief minister accompanied by his MP son, Omar Abdullah, arrived at 7.25 a.m. sharp just five minutes before the scheduled start of the event. The cordons was tightened around the school, but it hardly mattered to the students who were lost in the excitement and quest for glory. Abdullah was given the customary Biscoe standing ovation by the students.

The show started soon with the chief minister raising the flag for the first batch of students which comprised those of class XI and XII, followed by the senior department, the middle, the junior and lastly the lower primary department.

But the real excitement was on the way. The students raced with each other raising slogans to encourage their House mates. The partly wet road and the muddy and slippery track made no impact on their high spirits. The gods also seemed to be kind as the weather was clear and sunny. Although it was a long and tiring one, the run joined by over 1500 students, was completed in less than two hours.

The first boy to return was Ather Latif of junior school and for this achievement he was offered a "biscuit" by the chief minister who was still present when Latif came back, after completing the run successfully. Soon the students started coming back and all of them were greeted with applause by the parents and teachers. The most concerned were the House masters who virtually had their pride at stake. However it was the Yellow (Haramukh) House, that emerged the winner with a tally of 538 pts, followed by Green (Mahadev) with 502 pts, Red (Kolahi) with 494 pts and Bally the Blue (Tatakoti) with 489 pts.

The students and teachers of the victorious house were seen hugging each other. The parents were as eager as students and teachers for the final result. It was heartening to see young buds and young men running for the pride of the institution and also to involve themselves in other activities apart from studies

(Kashmir Observer, 05 April, 1998)

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Friday | 05-04-2024

## Gaza Catastrophe

The ongoing catastrophe in Gaza demands urgent international attention and action. The recent Israeli airstrike that killed aid workers reflects the dire situation faced by the people of Gaza. As the death toll continues to rise and critical infrastructure lies in ruins, it is imperative that the international community steps up its efforts to bring an end to the suffering in Gaza.

The scale of destruction revealed in the World Bank's interim damage assessment is staggering. With an estimated \$18.5 billion in damage to critical infrastructure, including housing, Gaza has been brought to its knees. The heavy toll on civilian lives, with thousands dead and injured, paints a grim picture of the human cost of conflict. The targeting of aid workers adds another layer of tragedy to an already catastrophic situation, highlighting the need for greater protection of humanitarian personnel and infrastructure.

The blockade imposed on Gaza has compounded the suffering of its residents, exacerbating food insecurity, malnutrition, and the collapse of essential services. More than half of Gaza's population is on the brink of famine, while the healthcare system teeters on the brink of collapse. The destruction of health facilities and the displacement of millions have left the population vulnerable and without access to basic medical care.

Education has also been severely impacted, with 100 percent of Gaza's children out of school due to the destruction of the education system. The long-term consequences of this lost generation cannot be overstated, as the lack of education perpetuates cycles of poverty and deprivation.

The international community must prioritize humanitarian assistance to Gaza, providing much-needed aid, food, and shelter to those affected by the conflict. There must also be a concerted effort to rebuild critical infrastructure and restore essential services, including healthcare and education. Efforts should be made to address the root causes of the conflict and work towards a lasting and sustainable solution.

Israel must face accountability for violations of international law, including attacks on humanitarian workers and infrastructure. The Israeli government's pledge of an independent inquiry into the recent airstrike is a step in the right direction, but more must be done to ensure justice for the victims and prevent future atrocities.

Ultimately, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza demands immediate action. The international community must come together to end the cycle of violence and bring about a just and lasting peace for the people of Gaza. Anything less would be a betrayal of our shared humanity.

Alainna Liloia

“  
Western feminism, particularly white western feminism, has a history of cherry-picking which issues - and which women - warrant advocacy and attention

# Western Feminists' Cherry-Picking

As Israel continues its onslaught against Gaza, Palestinian women face a lack of access to basic reproductive care. They have been forced to rip up tents to use as menstrual products because they cannot find any in the besieged territory.

Many women who are pregnant have no access to sanitary or safe healthcare, a situation that continues after they give birth.

Palestine is a reproductive justice issue, and western feminists who claim to care about reproductive rights are betraying Palestinian women and girls in Gaza by refusing to speak out.

Since Israel's war on Gaza began on 7 October, Palestinians have faced a total deterioration of reproductive healthcare. The siege has caused a shortage of menstrual products, forcing women to resort to using strips of cloth in place of sanitary pads, which puts them at risk of serious infections and toxic shock syndrome.

The trickle of aid that reaches Gaza rarely includes hygiene products, and many families lack access to running water and toilets.

At the same time, pregnant women are being forced to give birth in unthinkable circumstances. Some are undergoing caesarean sections without anaesthesia, while others are giving birth in tents. The miscarriage rate in Gaza has skyrocketed by 300 percent since October.

Hospitals in Gaza are unable to provide proper care to pregnant women because the territory's entire healthcare infrastructure has been destroyed by constant bombings. Gaza's two largest hospitals have ceased to function amid shortages of electricity and fuel. Women fortunate enough to get C-sections in a hospital are often discharged within a day due to a lack of capacity.

### Horrific conditions

After giving birth in a territory ravaged by bombings and siege, new mothers are left to fend for their newborns in the same horrific conditions. Palestinians in Gaza live each day under constant threat of bombing and without access to sufficient water, food or shelter.

The Palestinian death toll since October



Abed Zagout/Getty Images

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After giving birth in a territory ravaged by bombings and siege, new mothers are left to fend for their newborns in the same horrific conditions. Palestinians in Gaza live each day under constant threat of bombing and without access to sufficient water, food or shelter.

has surpassed 30,000, and more than 570,000 people in Gaza are experiencing famine levels of starvation, according to the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees. Many women are unable to breastfeed due to malnutrition, and cannot access formula as a result of the ongoing siege.

The number of Palestinian women lacking access to sexual and reproductive health services has increased from 94,000 to more than one million since October.

In Gaza, reproductive justice is not merely under threat. The right to reproductive care has been demolished by merciless bombing and an inhumane siege. Gaza should be at the centre of conversations around reproductive justice. But where are the rallying cries of western feminists who claim to care about this issue?

While the silence of western feminists on Gaza is loud, it is not surprising. Western feminism, particularly white western feminism, has a history of cherry-picking

which issues - and which women - warrant advocacy and attention. Palestine rarely makes the list.

Feminists in the US have long relied on an unholy alliance with their government to advance their aims. The western feminist movement has long been tied to the agendas of the state, both political and military.

Western feminists played a major role in justifying the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. The Feminist Majority Foundation advocated for the invasion to save Afghan women from the Taliban, while ignoring opposition from Afghanistan's own feminist organisation, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan.

### Voices ignored

In a similar fashion, western feminists are ignoring the voices of Palestinian and Arab women calling for an end to Israel's slaughter of Palestinians. While the US continues to funnel aid to Israel to support its massacre of Palestin-

ians, western feminists are apparently content to stay silent on the horrific consequences for Gaza's women and girls.

In the US, feminists have seen reproductive rights stripped away by our government. Since the overturning of Roe v Wade in 2022, states across the country have passed abortion bans and restrictions. Across the US, people face unequal access to reproductive and sexual healthcare, with poor and Black women experiencing disproportionate barriers to care.

Gaza is a reproductive justice issue. As feminists, we have an obligation to speak out for the women and girls of Gaza, and to demand an end to the onslaught that is destroying their access to reproductive care.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Middle East Eye*



## The Cardinal Rules of Investing

Did you know?

Irshad Mushtaq

The importance of wise decision-making in investing cannot be overstated. The remarkable increase in the value of gold and land over the years serves as a powerful example of the potential for significant returns on investment. In 1965, the price of 1 kg of gold was Rs 7000, and today it is worth a staggering 64.50 lac, marking an increase of 921 times with a compounding annual growth rate of 12.50%. Similarly, the cost of land in the Rajbagh area was Rs 5000 per kanal in 1965, and today it has soared to a staggering 5 crore, marking an increase of 10000 times with an annual compounding growth rate of 17.21%.

These eye-opening statistics demonstrate the substantial growth potential of gold and real estate investments. The compounding effect has significantly contributed to the exponential increase in their value, highlighting the power of time in investment growth. This underscores the importance of carefully considering the long-term growth potential of an asset before making investment decisions.

In conclusion, the transformation in the value of gold and land over the years emphasizes the importance of making informed and strategic investment decisions. Individuals looking to make sound investment choices must understand the potential for substantial returns and the impact of compounding on asset growth. It is clear that wise decision-making is crucial when it comes to investing in order to achieve significant long-term returns. Therefore, it is imperative to thoroughly research and consult with trusted and experienced professionals before making any investment decisions.

In the world of investing and financial management, there are certain rules that are considered vital for success. One of the most fundamental rules, often attributed to Warren Buffet, is "Rule No. 1: Never lose money." This rule emphasizes the importance of protecting one's capital and avoiding significant losses. It is a principle that is ingrained in the mindset of successful investors and is often considered non-negotiable.

The second rule, "Rule No. 2: Never forget rule no 1," is a reminder to always prioritize the preservation of capital. It serves as a reinforcement of the first rule and underscores the idea that minimizing losses is paramount to long-term financial success.

These rules are particularly relevant in the context of stock market investing. The stock market is inherently volatile, and there is always a degree of risk involved. However, by adhering to Rule No. 1 and Rule No. 2, investors can mitigate potential losses and protect their investments.

Furthermore, the premise that if a company is doing well, its stock will follow the same trajectory is closely tied to these rules. By focusing on the fundamentals of a company, such as its financial health, competitive position, and growth prospects, investors can make more informed decisions about the stocks they choose to invest in. This approach aligns with Rule No. 1, as it prioritizes the preservation of capital by selecting strong, stable companies with the potential for long-term growth.

In essence, the principles of Rule No. 1 and Rule No. 2 serve as a guide for responsible and prudent investing. By emphasizing the importance of minimizing losses and prioritizing the selection of high-quality investments, these rules help investors navigate the complexities of the stock market while striving for financial success.

In conclusion, Rule No. 1 and Rule No. 2 are foundational principles that underscore the importance of protecting capital and making informed investment decisions. By adhering to these rules, investors can enhance their chances of success in the stock market and achieve their long-term financial goals. As Warren Buffet himself has said, "It's not whether you're right or wrong that's important, but how much money you make when you're right and how much you lose when you're wrong." This sentiment reinforces the relevance and significance of Rule No. 1 and Rule No. 2 in the world of investing.

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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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email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

## Hogging isn't Fasting

Ramazan is upon us. It is a month of blessings and mercy. An integral part of Ramazan is restraint. We fast to restrict our impulses of excess. We fast to control our desires - physical, emotional and others. It is also a time when we reflect on our privileges and share these in the form of charity.

However, Ramazan has also been turned into a feast. More than worrying about our Ramazan goals, we worry about new dishes to cook. While it is alright to enjoy iftar with your family, this instance should not set a precedent as though iftar is supposed to be lavish.

Furthermore, hogging on food

with no restraint is bad for your physical health as well. We make high sugar desserts with no concern for the science behind food, especially during ramazan. We then go on to share picture perfect iftaar pictures on social media. It not only makes people desire food everyone can't afford, it

also makes people crave for company of family members they may have lost.

Let's show some restraint and be mindful.

---  
Junaid Shafi

Mindful Fridays

# Navigating the Psychosocial Terrain of I'tikaf

## Retreat, Detachment, and Spiritual Growth

Wasim Kakroo

In the midst of life's chaos and demands, the tradition of I'tikaf stands as a sanctuary—a time of retreat and detachment from worldly affairs. Rooted in Islamic tradition, I'tikaf offers individuals an opportunity for introspection, self-awareness, and spiritual rejuvenation. This article explores the multifaceted dimensions of I'tikaf, delving into its role as a source of retreat, detachment, self-awareness, and self-compassion.

### The Essence of I'tikaf

I'tikaf, derived from the Arabic word 'Akafa,' meaning to adhere or cling to, is a spiritual practice deeply ingrained in Islamic tradition. It involves secluding oneself in a mosque or a designated space for a specific period, typically during the last ten days of Ramadan. During this time, individuals engage in acts of worship, reflection, and spiritual devotion, seeking closeness to Allah.

### Retreat and Detachment

In a world inundated with noise and distractions, the concept of retreat assumes profound significance. I'tikaf provides a sacred space for individuals to disengage from the hustle and bustle of daily life, creating an environment conducive to inner reflection and connection with the divine. By stepping away from worldly affairs, participants can recalibrate their priorities, reevaluate their life choices, and experience a sense of liberation from the pressures of society.

### Detachment from the Material

In a culture fixated on materialism and consumption, the practice of detachment becomes paramount for spiritual growth. I'tikaf fosters a sense of detachment from material possessions and worldly desires, encouraging individuals to prioritize spiritual wealth over material abundance. Through fasting, prayer, and contemplation, participants cultivate a mindset



Kashmir Observer

Abid Bhat/KO

As participants conclude their period of I'tikaf and re-enter the world, they carry with them the spiritual insights, serenity, and renewed sense of purpose gained from their retreat. The experience of detachment and introspection during I'tikaf equips individuals with the tools to navigate the complexities of daily life with mindfulness, gratitude, and resilience

centered on spiritual fulfillment, leading to a deep sense of contentment and inner peace.

### Self-Awareness and Introspection

The solitude of I'tikaf offers a unique opportunity for individuals to embark on a journey of self-discovery and introspection. Removed from the distractions of daily life, participants can delve deep into their thoughts,

emotions, and spiritual aspirations. This process of introspection enables individuals to gain insight into their innermost desires, fears, and motivations, fostering greater self-awareness and personal growth.

### Self-Compassion and Spiritual Healing

Central to the practice of I'tikaf is the cultivation of self-

compassion—a profound sense of kindness, acceptance, and forgiveness towards oneself. As individuals confront their inner struggles and shortcomings during I'tikaf, they learn to treat themselves with compassion and understanding, recognizing their inherent worth as creations of Allah. This journey of self-compassion serves as a catalyst for spiritual healing and transfor-

mation, allowing individuals to embrace their imperfections and strive towards self-improvement with grace and humility.

### Connection with the Divine

At its core, I'tikaf is a spiritual endeavor aimed at fostering a deeper connection with the divine. Through prolonged acts of worship, recitation of the Quran, and supplication, participants seek Allah's guidance, mercy, and forgiveness. The seclusion of I'tikaf creates an intimate space for communion with the divine, where individuals can pour out their hearts in prayer and contemplation, seeking solace and spiritual enlightenment.

### Community Support and Solidarity

While I'tikaf is primarily an in-

dividual spiritual retreat, it also fosters a sense of community bonding and support. Participants share communal prayers, engage in spiritual discussions, and offer encouragement to one another on their spiritual journey. This sense of camaraderie reinforces the notion that individuals are not alone in their quest for spiritual fulfillment, creating a supportive network of like-minded individuals united in their devotion to Allah.

### Overcoming Spiritual Challenges

The journey of I'tikaf is not without its challenges. The solitude and seclusion may evoke feelings of loneliness, doubt, or spiritual unrest. However, it is through these challenges that individuals experience profound spiritual growth and resilience. By confronting their inner demons and seeking refuge in Allah's guidance, participants emerge from I'tikaf with a renewed sense of faith, strength, and determination to navigate life's trials and tribulations.

### Integration into Daily Life

As participants conclude their period of I'tikaf and re-enter the world, they carry with them the spiritual insights, serenity, and renewed sense of purpose gained from their retreat. The experience of detachment and introspection during I'tikaf equips individuals with the tools to navigate the complexities of daily life with mindfulness, gratitude, and resilience. Whether in the workplace, family life, or social interactions, the lessons learned during I'tikaf continue to resonate, guiding individuals towards a more fulfilling and spiritually enriched existence.

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

# Minimalism: How to Live with Less

Firdoos Wani

Eat and drink but waste not by extravagance, certainly Allah likes not those who waste by extravagance » [Quran 7:31]

Verily, the spendthrifts are brothers of the Shayatin, (17: 27)

Minimalism is a lifestyle and design philosophy that emphasizes simplicity, decluttering, and the removal of unnecessary elements. It is a way of living with intention, focusing on what truly adds value and meaning to one's life while eliminating excess possessions, distractions, and commitments.

In the context of lifestyle, minimalism encourages individuals to reduce their consumption, simplify their living spaces, and prioritize experiences over material possessions. It involves decluttering and organizing belongings, only keeping what is essential and brings joy or serves a practical purpose. By eliminating excess, minimalism aims to create a sense of calm, promote mindfulness, and free up time and resources for what truly matters.

In design, minimalism is characterized by clean lines, simplicity, and a focus on functionality. Minimalist design often features neutral colors, open spaces, and a limited color palette. It seeks to remove any unnecessary embellishments or decorative elements, emphasizing the essential aspects of the design. Minimalism extends beyond physical possessions and design choices. It can also apply to other areas of life, such as commitments, relationships, and digital clutter. By simplifying and streamlining various aspects of life, minimalism aims to create a sense of clarity, reduce stress, and increase overall well-being.

It's important to note that minimalism can be interpreted and practiced differently by individu-

als. Some people may embrace an extreme form of minimalism, owning very few possessions and living with minimal belongings, while others may adopt a more moderate approach that suits their lifestyle and preferences. Ultimately, minimalism is about finding balance and consciously choosing what adds value and meaning to one's life.

### What Islam says about minimalism?

Islam, the religion of peace and blessings, is strongly associated with minimalism. Our religion encourages its followers to become cautious about their belongings and every instance of life. Living in moderation and simplicity are the basic guidelines of Islam because religion is all about guidance; ours teaches us to live a simple, meaningful life without going extravagant.

### How to live with less? Do not compare

Comparison with others, how much they earn, what they consume, etc. These thoughts are not encouraged in Islamic teachings. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) always taught his companions not to compare their lives with that of others. Instead, Islam and modern studies prove that the key to contentment is focusing on those who own lesser things than us. When we feel attached to the material world, Islam expects us to shift our focus on individuals who are ore devoted to Allah, even if they do not earn a lot.

Let's understand that nobody is born equal or perfect. Everyone is unique, and our lives are different from that of others. The more we learn to avoid comparing ourselves to others, the easier life becomes.

### Detach from impulsive buying

Humans are naturally wired to

seek happiness by buying things. We feel sad, and the next moment our shopping spree starts. Instead of finding reasons for our discontentment, we prioritize our purchasing behaviors. This act, in return, adds no value to our already dissatisfied thoughts. Hence we must learn to understand that worldly desires do not reduce our spiritual desires, and thus the cycle will continue.

### Focus on hereafter

Our beloved religion, Islam, doesn't restrict spending for our basic needs or luxury. There is no harm in earning a Halal livelihood for our family and ourselves. However, Islam guides us in attaining Zuhd by prioritizing our life after death and Allah's pleasure. When a Muslim strives to achieve Allah's closeness and leave his matters to The Lord, then our problems or matters become too insignificant to worry about. Those matters for which we seek Allah's help turn out more successful and more superficial. By focusing on our actual world, the hereafter, we can prevent ourselves from the worldly traps of this shiny life. Learning to hand over every matter, every life decision, business deal – everything and seek The Almighty's favor becomes a turning point in our life. Indeed, He is the best guide and protector. Minimalism is a lifestyle and philosophy that emphasizes simplicity and the intentional reduction of possessions and distractions. It is not inherently tied to any specific religion, including Islam. However, the principles of minimalism can be applied by individuals from various religious backgrounds, including Muslims, as a means of living a more deliberate and purposeful life.

In Islam, the focus is primarily on spiritual well-being, mindfulness, and detachment from material possessions. Islamic teachings

encourage moderation, gratitude, and the avoidance of excess and extravagance. Muslims are encouraged to use their wealth and possessions responsibly and to be mindful of the impact their lifestyle choices have on themselves, their communities, and the environment. In this context, minimalism can align with Islamic values by promoting simplicity, contentment, and detachment from materialism. By embracing minimalism, Muslims can focus more on their spiritual growth and connecting with their Creator, rather than being preoccupied with accumulating worldly possessions. However, it is important to note that minimalism should not be pursued as an end in itself or as a strict rule, but rather as a means to achieve a balanced and purposeful life. Each individual's interpretation and application of minimalism may vary, and it should be approached in a way that is consistent with one's personal circumstances, cultural context, and religious beliefs. Ultimately, it is up to each Muslim to reflect on their own understanding of Islam and how minimalism can complement their spiritual journey within the bounds of Islamic teachings.

Postscript: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to eat one third of his fill. His stomach would always be one third empty and one third would be water and one third would be the actual food. So that is Prophet's minimalism in terms of consumption of food.

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

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# Al Quds Day and its Importance

Lateef Shah

The religious and historical significance of Masjid alAqsa, (The Farthest Mosque), also known as Bait al Maqdis is not lost on any Muslim. It occupies an important place in Muslim history, heritage, culture and religion. Located in Jerusalem, it is the third holiest place for Muslims. In fact it is important and sacred for followers of all the three Abrahamic faiths: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The Mosque with a silver colour dome is situated on the Temple Mount. Throughout its history, the city of Jerusalem has been ruled by Muslims, Christians and now Jews. For Muslims, Al Aqsa is not only their first Qibla, the place facing which they would offer prayers, but is significant also because Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), started his miraculous night Journey, Al-Isra from Mecca to Masjid al Aqsa and then his heavenly ascension. This journey has linked Masjid al Aqsa and Jerusalem to the hearts and minds of Muslims worldwide. As Quran says, Glory to Allah who did take His Servant for a journey by night from the Sacred Mosque (in Makkah) to the Al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem) whose precincts We did bless - (Al-Isra 17:1).

Its importance for Muslims has been impressed upon by making Al-Aqsa an important part of the Prophet's journey. As per the Muslim tradition, before his ascension, Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) led congregational prayer in the mosque in which all previous Prophets of Allah participated. Al-Aqsa therefore holds the unique distinction of being the only mosque where all the prophets performed their Namaz in congregation. The importance and sacredness of Jerusalem is emphasized in the Quran and various Muslim traditions. For Muslims, like Masjid alHaram and Masjid al Nabwi, the virtues of praying in Al-Aqsa are also exalted. It also holds the distinction of being the second mosque on the surface of the earth, after the Sacred Mosque in Makkah.

Muslims laid siege to Jerusalem, during the rule of Umar ibn Al Khatab. But he was not leading the army. The inhabitants of the city agreed to surrender if Umar ibn al Khatab himself came to the city in person. He arrived in the city and received the keys to the city in 637 CE. He concluded a peace treaty with the

people of the city which allowed the Jews to enter the city who were denied access to the city by its Christian rulers. Under the Muslim rule the city became free to followers of all the three faiths: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The Muslim rule really helped the city to remain prosperous and peaceful where followers of all the religions lived with peace and harmony and were free to perform their religious duties and obligations.

But after Israel occupied east Jerusalem in 1967, Palestinian Muslims have got restricted access to the mosque. The Waqf Ministry of Jordan had control of the Masjid till the 1967 war between Israel and the Arabs. After their victory, the Israeli authorities didn't take direct control of the mosque, but transferred it to the Islamic Waqf Trust. But this transfer did not stop the Israeli Security Forces, IDF from conducting searches and patrol within the premises of Al Aqsa. Israeli authorities have also enlarged the prayer plaza at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's old city. Despite a Jerusalem court order against such a move, which the court said would violate the status quo, Israeli authorities went ahead with the expansion. Various encroachments by Israel on the Islamic authority at the site have triggered clashes between Israeli police and Palestinians. In 1996, Prime Minister Netanyahu opened the Western Wall tunnel, another excavation close to the mosque compound, resulting in clashes in which 75 Palestinians and 15 Israeli soldiers were killed. Knowing its importance and sensitivity to Muslims, Israel has often acted provocatively and added to the anger and frustration of Palestinian Muslims.

Common Muslims take out processions and impress upon the world on the last day of Ramadan by observing it as the Al Quds Day. It was initiated in 1979 by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to express solidarity with the people of Palestine and oppose Zionism and Israeli occupation, most notably that of Jerusalem. Iran is perhaps the only Muslim country where the Govt sponsors rallies and protests on this day.

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



## From Traditional to Trendy: Kashmir's Apple Growers Embrace Exotic Varieties

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A remarkable trend is unfolding in Kashmir with farmers and horticulturists embracing exotic apple plant varieties over traditional ones.

This surge in interest is reshaping the agricultural landscape of the region, known for its traditional apple cultivation.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable shift towards cultivating exotic varieties of apples, spurred by changing consumer preferences and evolving market dynamics.

Varieties, including Red Velox, Pink Lady, Redlum Gala, Scarlet II, Golden Delicious and Jeromine, are ruling the roost in Kashmir these days.

These varieties, known for their distinctive flavors, textures, and extended shelf life, are increasingly finding favour among consumers both domestically and internationally.

Aarif Bhat, a progressive farmer from Baramulla district, shares his experience, "I have been cultivating traditional apple varieties for decades, but I decided to diversify my orchard by introducing exotic varieties. The response has been overwhelming, with buyers showing great interest in these apples."

The shift towards exotic apple varieties is not only driven by



consumer demand but also by economic factors. Farmers are recognizing the potential for higher returns associated with cultivating these premium varieties. "A box of Red Velox apples costs almost 30 percent more than the traditional variety. So, growers are increasingly shifting from traditional to exotic varieties to make more money," said Mohammad Shahbaz, an apple dealer.

As such various entrepreneurs have emerged in the valley who grow the nurseries of such varieties to sell growers during the season.

"We grow varieties of apple plants in the nursery. For the last five years we have been associated with the farming of these varieties and growers come from various districts to buy saplings

from our nursery," said Abdul Quyoum Bhat, an entrepreneur.

Pertinently, the government too is encouraging and promoting the high density apple plantation in Kashmir to grow the income of farmers.

The department of horticulture has set a target to bring 5500 hectares of land under the Modified High-Density Plantation Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir by 2026.

According to government figures, Kashmir exports more than 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples every year, and the horticulture industry is pegged to be worth around 9,000 to 10,000 crore including the employment it generates. Kashmir produces 75 per cent of the total apple production in the country.

## Lone Should Do Whatever He Can: Dr Farooq On His FIR Remarks

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday downplayed the remarks of People's Conference chief Sajad Gani Lone on registering an FIR against him for his role in the alleged rigging of the 1987 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls and said "he should do whatever he feels".

Lone on Wednesday said a case against NC president Farooq Abdullah and others for their role in the alleged rigging of the polls will be the biggest confidence-building measure towards Kashmiris.

"As far as 1987 is concerned, I strongly believe that even today, the biggest CBM (confidence-building measure) towards Kashmiris will be an FIR in which Farooq saheb, Congress leaders and bureaucrats are named for rigging the election," Lone told reporters in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday.

"I understand what you are saying. I have heard this. As per his will, Lone saheb should do whatever he can," Abdullah said replying to a question on Lone's remarks.

Responding to another question on PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's remarks on contesting elections in Kashmir, he said, "Can I stop anyone from contesting elections? It is a free country. Any one can contest."

Dr Abdullah was on a campaign trail in support of Congress candidate Raman Bhalla as part of the INDIA bloc.



## Resurgence of Gangsterism: A Looming Threat In Twin Jammu Districts

Agencies

**JAMMU:** Since the killing of a gangster outside Government Medical College (GMC) Kathua on Tuesday and where one police sub inspector also laid his life for the country, the focus is back on this menace of gangsterism.

This menace is returning to Jammu and Kashmir mostly in twin districts of Samba and Kathua, falling on Jammu-Pathankote national highway 44, which are close to neighbouring Punjab.

According to a local news agency, at present two gangs are working in these districts which include Shalu gang and Royal Singh gang. The gangster killed in Kathua shootout, Vasudev Sharma, belonged to the Shalu gang.

Sources in the police de-

partment said that long back gangsters were operating in Jammu plains but the menace was controlled by killing few of them and arresting others. "But now Samba and Kathua districts are witnessing the return of these gangsters who are trying to increase their footprints in others parts as well," the source said. The question arises as to how they are surviving and from where they are getting the weapons.

On Wednesday, Director General of Police (DGP) J&K had hinted that there is a nexus between drug mafia and these gangsters who are working in tandem to increase their footprints in Jammu and Kashmir. The DGP had said that they are building the network on the pattern of Punjab.

"Drugs are the major business where these gangsters are

operating and they are getting easy money from there. There are ample chances that these gangsters are having links with drug mafia of Punjab and during the investigation it will be known," the source said.

During the Tuesday shoot-out in Kathua, police had arrested colleagues of the dead gangster and gave a huge dent to Shalu gang. "There are reports that few more people are part of this gang but with the killing of Vasudev Sharma, they will try to stay calm and do nothing to avoid getting caught," he added.

Now, another question is what kind of the weapon they are using and from where they get it from. Responding to this query, the source said, "Mostly they use locally made weapons which they get from Uttar Pradesh and from Punjab." (KNO)

## 2 Day IDE Bootcamp Inaugurated In Kashmir

Observer News Service

**PATTAN:** In a bid to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among student innovators, teachers, and principals, the Ministry of Education's (MoE's) Innovation Cell, in collaboration with the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), AICTE, CBSE, NCERT, and the Wadhvani Foundation, has inaugurated a two-day Innovation Design and Entre-

preneurship (IDE) Bootcamp in North Kashmir's Baramulla.

The inaugural ceremony, graced by esteemed personalities including Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman AICTE, witnessed insightful addresses by Mrs. Pooja Rawat from MoE's Innovation Cell, Prof. Z.A. Chatt, and Dr. Abdul Malik Razvi, emphasizing the alignment of the camp with NEP-2020 objectives.

This unique initiative, hosted at SSM College of

Engineering in Kashmir's Baramulla district, aims to transcend boundaries by training participants from both PM-SHRI and Non-PM SHRI schools across India, highlighting inclusivity and accessibility in education.

With a focus on product design, ergonomics, design thinking, and pitching skills, the bootcamp promises to equip attendees with the necessary tools to thrive in today's competitive world.



A TOURIST ENJOYING SKIING at famous ski resort Gulmarg.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## CS Reviews Implementation Of New Criminal Laws In J&K

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high level Steering Committee Meeting of senior functionaries of Home, Police and Law Departments to review implementation of three new criminal laws in J&K enacted by the Parliament in 2023.

Apart from the Principal Secretary, Home the meeting was attended by DG, Prisons and Crime, Director, Prosecution J&K, ADG, L&O; Secretary, Law, Director, FSL and other concerned officers of the department while Srinagar based officers participated through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary took note of the measures taken so far regarding the capacity building and training of personnel. He enquired about the batches of police officers from each wing who had got the required training and education about new laws.

He called for designation of a



senior Police Officer as a single point contact for implementation of these laws across J&K. He observed that this Nodal Officer should address all the issues and facilitate between different wings of police department in adoption of all the changes made in these laws within the stipulated timeframe.

He asked about the changes to be made in Police Manual here. He told them to look into the need for issuing the SO's for meeting the purpose within deadline. He sought suggestions from members of the steering committee about the efforts made so far and the way ahead to make maximum out of the available time.

In his presentation, the Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti, threw light on different initiatives taken by the local administration in this pursuit, so far. He revealed that the three pillars of our strategy in implementation of these laws rest on capacity building and training of the staff, requirement of additional manpower, if any and the requirement of upgradation of hardware and technological interventions to be made.

It was also revealed that the committees and study groups were constituted for having insights into these laws and framing a roadmap to implement these laws in the UT.

## Drug Peddler's Properties Worth 20 Lakh Attached In Baramulla

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Immovable properties of a notorious drug peddler were attached in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, said police on Thursday.

A police spokesperson in a statement said, "Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Police in Baramulla attached properties (1 Kanal & 10 Marlas Land and single-story residential house worth approx. ₹20 lacs) belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Farooq Ahmad Mir son of Gh Mohiuddin Mir resident of Zaspora Tangmar, District Baramulla."

He said that the action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of the NDPS Act of 1985 & is linked with case FIR No.50/2019 & 55/2023 u/s 8/20, 29 NDPS Act of PS Tangmar & case FIR No. 142/2022 u/s 8/20 NDPS Act of PS Kunzer. "The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler," the police spokesperson said.

## Edu Deptt Grants Age Relaxation For Class 1st Admissions

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** School Education Department Thursday granted one time relaxation of six months for admission of students in class 1st.

The information was revealed by directors of school education of both Jammu and Kashmir regions.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a circular said, "Keeping in view the academic interests of the students, the competent authority has decided to grant one time relaxation of the age for six months upto September 2024 for admission in class-1st that is students

who shall attain age of 6 years upto September 2024 be also admitted in Class-1st during the forthcoming Academic Session."

DSEK said that the heads of all educational institutions including government and recognised private schools shall adhere to the following guidelines in letter and spirit.

"The relaxation to the age limit is a one time exception and shall remain effective for the forthcoming academic session only," it reads.

Meanwhile, Director of School Education Jammu in a circular said that it received a number of representations from parents of some students stating that their wards are being denied admission in class 1st by the respec-

tive schools for the reason of being less than 06 years of age and hence ineligible for admission as per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

"The Issue has also been projected by some schools. The matter has been examined and it is felt that strict implementation of these provisions will lead to loss of academic year for some students who have already been admitted in pre-

primary in the preceding year and therefore the request merits consideration," it reads.

DSEJ however said that an upper ceiling has to be fixed and the relaxation cannot be unending.

"It has accordingly been decided to gradually implement the NEP and relax the age criteria for admission to class-1st for the academic session 2024-25, in view of the transition period," reads the circular.

Besides, DSEJ further said that similar relaxations are being extended by some other states also.

In backdrop of the matter, DSEJ said that it is brought to the notice of all concerned that as a one time exception, the students who shall be completing six years of age in the next six months upto 30th September 2024 from the start of academic session shall be allowed admission in the first class in the academic session 2024-25.

**The relaxation to the age limit is a one time exception and shall remain effective for the forthcoming academic session only," it reads.**

## J&K Bank Advises People

### Do Not Get Duped By Fraudsters Selling Jobs

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** According to few reports received from various parts of the UT, some miscreants have been trying to entrap the general public in the name of providing jobs at J&K Bank. On closer scrutiny, it has come to the fore that some unscrupulous elements posing as senior bank officials are misleading gullible people by enticing them with 'job opportunities at J&K Bank'.

On taking up the matter with the bank authorities, the bank's spokesperson termed the miscreants as fraudsters selling jobs to the gullible, and said, "Through this medium, let me inform general public that whenever the Bank plans to conduct recruitment/s, we always issue a proper advertise-



ment notice, which is circulated widely not only in the print media but also uploaded on the Bank's official website and all its social-networking pages."

"Therefore, regarding these disturbing reports, we would like to request all the concerned to remain vigilant and for any news regarding recruitment in the Bank, please keep visiting our website and official social-media pages. And don't pay heed to any fraudster out there to dupe people impersonating as a senior official of the Bank and tarnish Bank's image in the process. Kindly be smart to be safe", the spokesperson said. (KNS)

## Lal Ded Hospital Gets J&K Bank ATM

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Enhancing convenience for patients, visitors, and medical staff, J&K Bank today commissioned a permanent Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at valley's LD Hospital to replace its ATM van.

The ATM was inaugurated by the Principal of Government Medical College & Associated Hospitals Dr. Iffat Hassan in presence of Medical Superintendent LD Hospital Dr. Mohammad Muzaffar Jan, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Shabir Ahmad amid a good gathering of valuable customers besides other officials of the Bank and the Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Iffat Hassan thanked the Bank for providing hi-tech banking facility at the hospi-



tal, saying, "The facility will not only help the patients and their attendants in times of emergency but will also meet the banking needs of the medical staff and other visitors to the hospital round the clock."

She commended the Bank for its proactive approach in collaborating with public institutions and facilitating banking access for all.

Reiterating the Bank's commitment to serve peo-

ple, Zonal Head said, "placement of this ATM within the premises of LD Hospital underscores our commitment to serve the patients and their families, who can now access essential banking services conveniently and round the clock in the hospital itself. Moreover, medical professionals and hospital staff can also benefit from seamless banking facilities right at their workplace."

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTT. DIVISION-VIII, SRINAGAR**

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION J & K SRINAGAR.**

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(e-NIT No. TLM-D-VIII/TS/ 01 of 2024 Dated: 20-01-2024.)

No. TLM-D-VIII/TS/ 99-104 Dated: 04 : 04: 2024  
Due to poor response, the Critical Dates in respect of e-NIT No. TLM-D-VIII/TS/ 01 of 2024 Dated: 20-01-2024 issued by this Division under endorsement No. TLM-D-VIII/TS/3742-47 Dated: 20 : 01 : 2024 for Procurement, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Diagnostic Tools/ Equipment for 220/132KV Grid Sub Stations Zainakote, Alusteng & Mirbazar of JKPTCL Kashmir Srinagar. (Complete Job) in Kashmir Valley, J & K India." are further extended as under.

S.#	Description	Date/Time Extension
1.	Last Date for Submission of Hard Copies of e-Bid	30-04-2024 (2.30PM)
2.	Online e-Bid Submission End Date (Submission of e-Tender, Tender Fee, EMD & Other qualification /Supporting Documents in PDF Form.	01-05-2024 (4.00PM)
3.	Online Techno Commercial e-Bid Opening Date	02-05-2024 (3.30PM)

All other Terms & Conditions as detailed in the e-NIT/SBD shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-  
DIPK-NB-13-24  
DT: 04/04/2024  
Executive Engineer  
TLM-D-VIII Srinagar.

# IPL Records Highest Ever TV Viewership In First 10 Matches

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** The Indian Premier League recorded a TV viewership of 35 crore in its first 10 matches, which is higher than any previous edition of the tournament including the COVID-19 pandemic, the event's official broadcaster claimed on Thursday.

As per BARC data released by Disney Star, the overall watch-time for the tournament has sky-rocketed to 8028 crore minutes which is 20 per cent higher than last year.

"We are overwhelmed with the record-breaking viewing figures for TATA IPL 2024. Disney Star has started the 17th season from where it left off last year, doubling down on fan-centred initiatives that seek to drive passion and fandom for the tournament," Sanjog Gupta, Head of Disney Star (Sports) said in a press release.

Disney Star is broadcasting IPL across 14 feeds in 10 languages with a special feed in Indian



Sign Language for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Visually Impaired fans.

The tournament had opened to blockbuster viewership numbers with 16.8 crore tuning in to watch the season's first game

between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22.

Disney Star said the opening day also registered a watch-time of 1276 crore minutes -- the highest-ever for the first day

of any season. The watch-time minutes are a compilation of the time spent by each viewer in watching the game.

**POLICE BUST MASSIVE IPL BETTING OPERATION IN INDORE**

The Indore police claimed to have busted a racket involving betting of crores of rupees on the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket matches and arrested eight persons in this connection, an official said on Thursday.

Based on a tip-off, the eight persons were apprehended on Wednesday night from a flat in a multi-storey building in Lasudia area here in Madhya Pradesh when they were making people place bets online on the IPL matches through a website, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, Rajesh Dandotia said.

The accused had obtained mobile phone SIM cards in fake names and used to take betting amounts from people through QR codes, the official said.

The police seized 22 mobile phones, 17 cheque books, five laptops, 21 bank passbooks and 31 ATM cards along with registers containing account of crores of rupees of online betting from their possession, he said.

## Short TAKES

### Sports Activities Held At Ganderbal

The District Youth Services and Sports Office Ganderbal held its inaugural phase of sports activity calendar, kick-starting a series of sports events across the various zones of the district.

DYSS Ganderbal continued the momentum on Thursday by organizing a diverse range of activities including Jump Rope, Rope Skipping, Table Tennis, Cricket, Football, Carrom and Chess.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools, showcasing their athletic prowess and competitive spirit.

### Rishabh Pant Fined Rs 24 Lakh For Second Over Rate Offence

Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 24 lakh for a second over rate offence in the 2024 Indian Premier League.

Pant was guilty of maintaining a slow-over in the game against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday. The rest of his teammates were fined 25 percent of their match fees.

Delhi Capitals lost the game to KKR by 106 runs. It was Delhi Capitals' third loss in four games.

### ICC Names Adair, Henry, Mendis As POTM Nominees For March

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday announced the Player of the Month nominees for March with Mark Adair, Matt Henry and Kamindu Mendis competing for the coveted award.

Ireland pacer Adair left his mark in all three formats in March. New Zealand's Matt Henry was the standout performer with the ball during their Test series defeat against Australia. Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis pulled out arguably the best performance with the bat in two-match Test series against Bangladesh.

### FIFA Rankings: India Plummet Further

Indian football men's team dropped four places to 121 in the latest FIFA rankings, its worst in recent years, following an embarrassing 1-2 defeat against Afghanistan in the second round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Reigning world champions Argentina continue to top the chart followed by 2022 World Cup runners-up France, England, Belgium and Brazil.

Netherlands are sixth and are followed by Portugal, Spain and Italy with Croatia completing the top 10.

### India Tops Doping List With Most Failed Tests

India registered the highest percentage of failed dope tests among countries which tested more than 2000 samples with South Africa being second in the 2022 Testing Figures Report released by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

India tested 3865 samples (urine, and blood combined) during the recorded period, of which 125 returned adverse analytical findings. This amounts to 3.2 per cent of the samples, the WADA said in its report released late on Wednesday.

### WTA Finals To Be Held In Saudi Arabia From 2024-2026

The season-ending WTA Finals will be held in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh from 2024-2026, the women's tennis body said on Thursday, ending months of speculation and marking the Gulf country's latest foray into the sport. Riyadh will host the season finale - which features the top eight singles players and doubles teams - from Nov. 2-9 and replaces last year's hosts Cancun, Mexico. The WTA said the Saudi Tennis Federation will offer record prize money of \$15.25 million this year.

## Real Kashmir Captain M Hammad To Join ISL Club FC Goa



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Real Kashmir centre-back and captain Muhammad Hammad is set to join Indian Super League team FC Goa on a multi-year deal at the end of the 2023-24 I-League season.

Hammad, 26, has put stellar performances for the Snow Leopards this season, playing in all of the 22 matches and keeping 12 clean sheets. The Srinagar-born defender started his youth career with Lon-

eStar Kashmir FC. He represented J&K in the 2015-16 Santosh Trophy and joined Real Kashmir FC in 2017, winning the I-League second division with the team.

The 6-foot-1 centre-half will now ply his trade in the highest professional league of India, the ISL. Goa struggled defensively this season after losing India international Sandesh Jhingana to injury. The Manolo Marquez-coached team will hope to get the best out of their new recruit.

## Mustafizur-Less CSK Face Unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad



Press Trust of India

**HYDERABAD:** Without their in-form bowler Mustafizur Rahman, Chennai Super Kings will need to sharpen their all-round game when they take on an unpredictable Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on Friday.

Consistency is the hallmark of CSK who would be looking to restore "normal service" following their first loss of the season against Delhi Capitals.

It is a long tournament and an odd dip in performance is expected, as mentioned by the CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad after the game in Visakhapatnam.

However, he and his opening partner Rachin Ravindra will need to be ready for the moving ball after being found wanting on that front against Delhi.

The majority of cricketing world wants M S Dhoni to bat higher than number eight, especially after his 16-ball 37 in

his very first outing with the bat this season.

However, that is unlikely to happen as Dhoni would want the likes of Shivam Dube and Sameer Rizvi to finish the job ahead of him.

In the bowling department, CSK will need to rethink their combination with Mustafizur back in Bangladesh to process his visa for the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean.

The overseas combine of Mustafizur and Matheesha Pathirana had been working well for CSK who could bring in a like-for-like replacement for the Bangladesh cricketer in Mukesh Choudhary. Shardul Thakur is also yet to get a game thus far.

Their opposition Sunrisers Hyderabad will be looking to make the most of home comforts in their second game at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium.

The batters will take immense confidence from their

record showing against Mumbai Indians here. The pressure is piling up on opener Mayank Agarwal who is yet to make an impact.

The game against Gujarat Titans was Sunrisers' first batting failure in the tournament and they would be looking for immediate course correction.

Even on the bowling front, the likes of Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande and Bhuvneshwar Kumar have proved expensive. The seasoned Bhuvneshwar has especially been disappointing with the new ball and is yet to pick up a wicket in three games.

Skipper Pat Cummins have kept things tight with a sub 8 runs per over economy rate to complement his four wickets in three games. He will need support from others on Friday night.

The pitch in the opening game here produced more than 500 runs, raising hopes of another six-hitting slugfest.

## DYSS Hosts Zonal-Level Sports Activities At Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports organised several sports activities across Zone Anantnag on Thursday, showcasing the talents of young athletes at the zonal level.

Hosted at SRJ Higher Secondary School, Khanabal, the event featured competitions in volleyball, chess and carrom for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls. Over 454 students representing various institutions across the Anantnag, participated in these competitions.

The event began with a ceremonial inauguration by DYSSO Anant-



nag Mohd. Yaqoob, who led the participants in an anti-drug pledge, emphasizing the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Following the spirited contests, certificates were awarded to the deserving winners and runner-ups by DYSSO Anantnag and Convenor Syed Talib Hussain, amid the presence of physical education staff.

## PSG Coach Enrique Being Proved Right As He Stands Firm In An Era Of Player Power

Agencies

**PARIS:** Kylian Mbappé could find himself on the bench again when run-away French league leader Paris Saint-Germain faces rock-bottom Clermont on Saturday.

Mbappé is the league top scorer with 24 goals and Clermont has the second-worst defense of the 18 top-flight teams with 46 conceded. It is a golden opportunity for Mbappé, PSG's all-time leading scorer with 251 goals, to add to his tally.

But PSG coach Luis Enrique does not think that way.

His priority is next week's showdown against Barcelona in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals at Parc des Princes.

Enrique showed his

authority in recent weeks by either putting Mbappé on the bench or taking him off during important games. It seemed perplexing.

Mbappé was substituted at halftime away to high-flying Monaco on March 1 with the score 0-0.

Last Sunday, the France striker could not believe it when Enrique took him off against Marseille midway through the second half. Mbappé was not the only one stunned by the audacity of Enrique's move.

To some PSG fans it was akin to sacrilege to substitute PSG's best player in a match against its arch foe, even more so with the score delicately poised at 1-0 and with PSG already a player down following a sending off.

A dismayed Mbappé appeared to mutter an

obscurity at Enrique as he left the rain-soaked field, with the apparent insult quickly doing the rounds on social networks and the French media latching onto it in a flash. Enrique looked unflustered as Mbappé walked past him at Stade Velodrome and then calmly batted away questions in his post-match news conference.

He was also proved right as Mbappé's replacement, the Portugal striker Gonçalo Ramos, finished off Marseille with PSG's second goal in a 2-0 win.

If it is a power struggle between Enrique and Mbappé, which some French media is linking to Mbappé's departure next season, then Enrique is more than holding his own in an era of immense player power.

Enrique, the former

Barcelona and Spain coach, has statistics on his side.

PSG has not lost since early November and a defeat away to AC Milan in the Champions League group stage.

PSG is unbeaten in 26 games, 12 points clear in the French league, and rotating Mbappé has also paid off. Four days after the Monaco game, he scored both goals as PSG beat Real Sociedad 2-1 to reach the Champions League quarterfinals.

Three days after his substitution against Marseille, he scored as PSG beat Rennes 1-0 to reach the French Cup final, taking his total to 39 in 39 games overall this season.

If Enrique does rest Mbappé against Clermont, it may just be to make him more hungry for Barcelona.

