

## Congress Election Manifesto Steers Away From Art 370

Calls For Restoration Of Statehood To J&K



### Agencies

Srinagar: In its manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress on Friday promised to restore full statehood to Jammu & Kashmir, but the party remained silent

on abrogation of the Article 370 and revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the Union Territory.

The manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha polls was released by Congress | [More on P6](#)

### Dr Farooq Welcomes Congress Manifesto

National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah on Friday welcomed the Congress manifesto for the Lok Sabha polls and expressed hope that it gets fulfilled. "It is a good manifesto. What else do you want?" Abdullah told reporters after offering Jumatul Vida prayers at Hazratbal Shrine here. The National Conference president said that it would be a good thing if national

### Bundle Of Lies, Aimed At Creating Confusion: BJP

The Congress released its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections on Friday, focusing on the five 'pillars of justice'. The party emphasised restoration of statehood for J&K, cash | [More on P6](#)



## Jumat-ul-Vida Observed With Religious Fervor Across J&K

### Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Jumatul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month

of Ramadan was observed with religious reverence and devotion across Jammu and Kashmir. The largest

congregation on the occasion was held at Dargah Hazratbal here, where thousands of devotees including men,

women and children offered Friday prayers. The shrine that holds the holy relic of | [More on P6](#)

## Work Done In 10 Yrs Just An Appetiser, Main Course Yet To Come: PM

### Press Trust Of India

Jaipur: Highlighting the work done by his government in the last 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said it was just an "appetiser" and the main course is yet to come.

Addressing a rally in Churu, his second election rally in Rajasthan in three days, Modi also accused the Congress of insulting the Army and dividing people and said this



represented the "identity" of the opposition party. He further said that the

country now is a "new India", which strikes within enemy territory - an apparent reference to counterstrikes in Pakistan after terror attacks in India. "Naya Bharat ghar mein ghus kar maarta hai."

"Today even the enemy knows that this is Modi, this is the new India," the prime minister added.

"No matter how much has happened, whatever has happened till now | [More on P6](#)

## Kejriwal Cannot Be Given Special Privileges: ED To Court

### Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Friday opposed the plea moved by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal before a city court for more time with his lawyer, saying special privileges cannot be extended to him merely because he wants to run the government from inside the jail.

The ED made its submissions before the special judge for CBI and ED cases Kaveri Baweja,

## UNHRC RESOLUTION India Votes In Favour Of Palestine

### KO Web Desk

Srinagar: India has voted in favour of the UN Human Rights Council's Resolution, supporting the "right to self-determination for Palestinian people", whereas it abstained from voting on the resolution on the "human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice."

The UNHRC on Thursday adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice, ANI reported on Friday.

The intergovernmental body shared a post on X, stating, "Draft resolution A/HRC/55/L.30 on the Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability | [More on P6](#)



who reserved the order on Kejriwal's plea for Monday.

Kejriwal's counsel told the judge that multiple cases were pending against the politician and that one | [More on P6](#)

## FAI Terminates Membership Of JKFA

### Agencies

Jammu: The Fencing Association of India (FAI) has de-affiliated and terminated the membership of the Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Fencing Association (JKFA), in view of the ongoing "dispute" between the bodies.

A circular issued by the Fencing Association of India reads that the national body has de-affiliated and terminated the membership of JKFA Amateur Fencing Association.

A letter issued on April 3, 2024 by the General Secretary, Fencing Association of India, Rajeev Mehta said, "This is to inform you that the Fencing Association of India in its Annual General Meeting held on 30.12.2023 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh has unanimously passed a motion to de-affiliate and terminate the membership of J&K Amateur Fencing Association and accordingly the J&K Fencing Association is de-affiliated and ceases to be a member of the FAI w.e.f. 31.12.2023." (KNO)

## SONAM WANGCHUK'S PASHMINA MARCH Sec 144 Imposed, Internet Speed Reduced In Leh



### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities in Leh district of Ladakh Union Territory have imposed section 144 of CrPC 1973 and reduced the internet speed to 2G to maintain peace in the area.

The decision was taken in the wake of Sonam Wangchuk's planned Pashmina march on April 7.

The District Magistrate Leh, Santosh Sukhdeva, citing reported reliable inputs of apprehension of breach of peace and public tranquility in the district, received from Senior Superintendent of Police Leh, said in an order that it is desirable that any

breach of peace, disturbance to public tranquility and danger to human life should be immediately prevented.

Exercising the powers vested in him under Section 144 of CrPC, 1973, the DM said that there shall be no procession/rally/march etc. taken out by anyone without the prior approval from the District Magistrate Leh, in writing.

"No procession/rally/march etc. shall be taken out by anyone without the prior approval of the District Magistrate, Leh, in writing. No one shall use the vehicles mounted or other loudspeakers without prior approval from the competent authority. No public gathering. | [More on P6](#)

## Occupation Of Govt Accommodations In J&K Hear Overstayers Before Initiating Action: HC Directs Admin

### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Thursday directed the administration to hear the former legislators who are overstaying at government accommodations before taking any action.

A bench of Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice M A Chowdhary issued the direction while hearing a petition seeking eviction of former ministers and legislators overstaying in government accommodations in Jammu and Srinagar. It directed the directors of estates in Jammu and Srinagar to deal with each of the 43 occupants and pass specific individual orders, either for cancellation of accommodation and eviction or for allotment, thereof, by giving specific reasons for doing so.

"We make it clear that if the



accommodation of any individual mentioned in this report is continued, specific reasons supported by necessary materials must be provided before this court so that this court will examine whether the authorities have taken an appropriate and fair decision regarding the government accommodation being presently provided to these 43 persons," the bench said.

After hearing advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed and others,

appearing for the petitioner, and Senior Additional Advocate General S S Nanda, representing the Jammu and Kashmir government, the bench also directed that the directors of estates in Jammu and Srinagar will hear these 43 people individually before passing any order.

It directed the officials to inform the court of the rentals these 43 people have been paying as they have ceased to hold offices and why they have not been charged rental at commercial rates since they are not holding any office as of now.

The court said while passing separate orders for the occupants, authorities will keep in mind the provisions of the J&K Estates Department (Allotment of Government Accommodation) Regulations, 2004, and various orders passed by the court.

When the petition | [More on P6](#)



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# What Is Sugar And What Would Happen If I Stopped Eating It? A Scientist Explains

**Grace Marie Jones**  
 The Conversation

The world has declared a time-out on sugar consumption. The harmful link between disease and dietary sugar was recently outlined in a comprehensive assessment of published studies.

Recognising this link between widely consumed food and disease is essential in marshalling forces to change harmful outcomes. These include coronary heart disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes, tooth decay and some cancers. For over a decade, my research has focused on the mechanisms by which fructose intake plays into disease.

A growing number of African countries have joined the worldwide efforts to reduce sugar intake. For instance, in an attempt to address obesity, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, South Africa introduced a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks in 2018.

It's hard to avoid sugar when it's become a normal part of diets and when we celebrate special times with sweet treats. But being more aware of what sugar is and how it can affect our health is the first step.

### What is sugar?

Sugar is a class of naturally occurring sweet-tasting molecules found in fruits, vegetables, plants and the milk of mammals. It can be extracted from these natural sources and concentrated in processed foods.

The sweet-tasting molecules in sucrose (table sugar) are glucose and fructose.

Sucrose is a disaccharide. This is a molecule made of two simple sugars - glucose and fructose - in a 1:1 ratio and chemically bound. Sucrose is used in many processed foods.

High fructose corn syrup, also used in processed foods, is a mixture of

monosaccharides glucose and fructose. Usually the combination is 45% glucose and 55% fructose.

Sucrose and high fructose corn syrup are more concentrated in processed foods than in fruits and vegetables.

Both are considered added sugars when they are added to foods and drinks. Besides the sweet taste, they may be added for colour and texture, as a preservative or to aid fermentation.

There are other natural sugars found in the foods we eat. Lactose, or milk sugar, is a disaccharide made of two simple sugars - glucose and galactose - in a 1:1 ratio. It's found in mammals' milk and produced naturally to provide nutrition to offspring, and in other dairy products, such as cheese and ice cream.

Honey, made from nectar by honeybees, is primarily a mixture of glucose and fructose monosaccharides with some maltose, sucrose and other carbohydrates. Maltose, which is found in breakfast cereals and breads, is a disaccharide of two glucose molecules.

Naturally occurring sugars are made by plants, bees or mammals based on their needs.

The human body needs glucose as a fuel for every cell, especially brain cells. That's one of the reasons why we need a stable blood glucose level throughout the day and night.

The way our bodies use fructose is different. It can be turned into glucose, used as fuel, or processed into fats, called triglycerides. Excessive fructose in our diets can lead to increases in blood triglycerides, liver fat, blood glucose, body mass index and insulin resistance (where the body cannot easily remove glucose from the bloodstream).

Increases in these markers can lead to an increased risk for metabolic dysfunction, type 2 diabetes and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (or metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease).

Because of the difference in how the body uses glucose and fructose, and evidence that a higher consumption of sugar leads to worse health outcomes, we must be mindful of the added sugar we eat.

### What would happen if we quit eating sugar?

A group of scientists performed a study and published a set of research papers that detailed exactly what happened when over 40 children (aged eight to 18) stopped eating sugar and fructose for 10 days. The participants didn't stop eating bread, hotdogs or snacks. They stopped eating fructose. These studies found significant reductions in:

- newly made triglycerides (or fats)
- fasting blood glucose
- blood pressure
- fat stored on organs, including the liver
- AST, which is a marker of liver function
- insulin resistance, as their cells were better able to remove glucose from the bloodstream
- body mass index.

The participants also reported feeling better and were better behaved.

The World Health Organization has made recommendations for adults and children to reduce their sugar intake to about 58 grams, or 14 teaspoons, per day or between 5% and 10% of total caloric intake.

### This is not a lot of sugar.

Consider that a 300ml bottle of Coca-Cola or 240ml cup of sugarcane juice contain about 30 grams of sugar. One piece of mandazi, a popular deep-fried Kenyan wheat snack, has about 4 grams of sugar, or about 6% of the WHO's recommended intake contained in each small piece.

**اندرابی خاندان کو صدمہ عظیم**

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جا رہی ہے کہ سید ظہور احمد اندرابی ولد سید محمد حسین اندرابی ساکن ایل ڈی کالونی، گوری پورہ راوی پورہ 5 اپریل 2024 بروز جمعہ المبارک بمطابق 25 ماہ صیام 1445ھ اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے (انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون)۔ اس سلسلے میں اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی سوموار 8 اپریل 2024 صبح 11 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ ملکہ کھاد عقبہ مسجد غزالی میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ مابعد اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی تقریب مجلس رہائش گاہ واقع ایل ڈی کالونی، گوری پورہ راوی پورہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

**سوگواران**

**9419008475, 7889654609**

**Bhat family of Chattabal Srinagar bereaved**

Our condolences on the passing of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, son of Late Ghulam Hassan Bhat resident of Chattabal Srinagar. He left for the heavenly abode during the intervening night on 5th April Thursday 2024. May his soul rest in peace under the shadow of Ahlul Bayat (as), and may Allah give his family patience and determination to bear this irreparable loss.

He shall be laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard at Babapora, Habba Kadal, his congregational Fatah shall be held on Sunday 7th of April 2024, 7 am at Babapora, Habba Kadal, post Fatah a day long congregational sitting will be held at his residence situated Chattabal Srinagar.

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Executive Magistrate 1st class Palhallan**

Subject: Application of Han Knshan S/o Ram Chand R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir A/P Govt. Qtr No 261 Block O Jampur Jammu (2) Cianesh Lal razdan s/o Lassa Ram Ra/dan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir A/P presently Residing at ward no 66. sec ist, Vinayak Nagar Muthin Jammu (3) Makhan I. at Razdan S/o L'issa Ram Ra/dan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir presently residing at Vivek vihar paloura Jammu (4) Hriday Nath Razdan s/o Lassa Ram Ra/dan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir presently residing at house no 6 se4 I. Vivek vihar paloura Jammu (5) Moti Lai Ra/dan S/o L'assan Ram Ra/dan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir presently residing at Vivek vihar paloura Jammu (6) Kanhaiya Lai Ra/dan S/o Lassa Ram Razdan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir presently residing at Vivek vihar paloura Jammu (7) Shuban Lal Razdan S/o Lassa Ram Ra/dan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir presently residing at Vivek vihar paloura Jammu (8) Avtar Knshan S/o Lassa Ram Ra/dan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir presently residing house no 2/131 vikas nagar. subash Nagar Jammu (9) Ritu Razdan and Renu Razdan D/o Late Chaman Lal Razdan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir presently residing at Vivek vihar paloura Jammu (here in after called the vendors / party of the first part) for alienation of land measunng 3 kanal 12 maria under survey no 2860 situated at Village Palhallan Tehsil Pattan through attorney namely Haji Fayaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Qadir Bhat R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla under provisions of J&K migrants immovable property (prevention protection and restraint distress sales act 1977).

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Shri Hari Knshan S/o Ram Chand R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan Distinct Baramulla Kashmir A/p Govt Qtr No 261 block O Jampur Jammu and others have authorised Haji Fayaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Qadir Bhat R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir alinethe land measuring 3 kanals 12 marlas under survey no 2860 situated at Village Palhallan and the said land owner have exceeded irrevocable general power of attorney duly registered attested by Sub Registrar 3rd additional Munsiff Jammu 29-11-2017 subsequently the said land owners have alienated 19 marlas out of said survey no 2860 by virtue of agreement to sell duly attested by the notary public Jammu City as per copy of the same produced by Bashir Ahmad Lone S/o Ghulam Mohammad Lone R/o Palhallan. The Said Land Owners have moved an application addressed to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Srinagar for according permission in favour of the said Bashir Ahmad Lone and accepted to have received commendation from the said vindca ( Bashir Ahmad Lone) The said Fayaz Ahmad Bhat has already I landover the possession of 19 Marla of land to the said Bashir Ahmad Lone and the rest of the land is possession of the said attorney holder. Now the said Bashir Ahmad lx-ne require permission of competent authority empowered under migrant act. As such the land owners and . any other person having interest in the said portion of land may file objections, if any within seven days from the date of publication of this notice and no objection will be entertained after the stipulated date. This may be treated final notice issued under my seal & Sign.

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Imran Ahmad Wani And Aabid Ali Wani S/o Ali Mohammad Wani R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate

**Public Notice**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. In this matter report of Patwari Halqa Wanigam Bala records that the applicant is a permanent resident of said village and is residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 240,000/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. NO	Name	Parentag	Age	Occupation
1	Ali Mohd Wani	Gh Nabi Wani	64	Retired Employee
2	Naseema Begum	W/o Ali Mohd	58	h/w
3	Parvaiz Ah	S/o Ali Mohd	33	Labour
4	Shahzada Begum	W/o Parvaiz Ah	30	H/W
5	Shugufza Akhter	D/o Ali Mohd	27	Student
6	Imran Ah Wani	--	26	--
7	Aabid Ali Wani	--	21	--

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

fko Naib Tehsildar

**NOTICE**

I intend to rectify my name from Shahid Rasool to Shahid Rasool Dar and the name of my wife from Nusrat to Nusrat Shahid in the School Records of my son Salth Shahid Grade 9th, Section Lotus, of G.D. Goenka Public School, Srinagar. If anyone have any objection regarding the matter, kindly contact the Principal's Office.

**Shahid Rasool Dar**  
 F/o Salth Shahid Media Line

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name in school records has been wrongly written as Aaminah while my correct name is Aaminah Asif which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the SRM Welkin High Secondary School Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aaminah Asif  
 D/o Mohd Asif Tantry fko  
 R/o Palhallan Tantrypora

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name of my daughter in school records has been wrongly written as Binsha Mohi-u-Din while her correct name is Aisha Mohi-u-din which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Headmaster Govt Primary School Hazarpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohi-u-Din Wani  
 F/o Aisha Mohi-u-Din bmg  
 R/o Hazarpora Aripanthan Magam

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HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
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Ramazan Best Opportunity For Smokers To Quit, Say Doctors

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The holy month of Ramazan is a hope for smokers to quit smoking and other bad habits, as it can generate willpower among them, doctors said.

They said that smoking can have an adverse impact on health, and smokers are at risk of having lung cancer. Fasting in Ramazan is the best opportunity for them to get rid of smoking.

Dr Showkat Ahmad, working in south Kashmir, said that besides having enormous health benefits, fasting is the best opportunity for smokers to quit cigarette smoking.

"Fasting develops willpower among people, and a smoker can take that if he can leave smoking for 14 hours while fasting, why not for a full 24 hours and accordingly, forever," he said.

Dr Showkat said that diabetic patients, who wish to fast, must take special care as it is not advisable for them to take long food breaks. He said taking frequent meals after certain durations helps in maintaining their blood glucose level smoothly.

"Diabetic patients must check blood sugar levels frequently during fasting. If someone feels symptoms of hypoglycemia, an instant blood sugar test should be done to prevent any untoward complication," he added. "Diabetic patients could have slow-absorbing foods, which have a low glycemic index before they begin the fast. These types of food keep your blood glucose level more stable and smooth during the course of the fast."

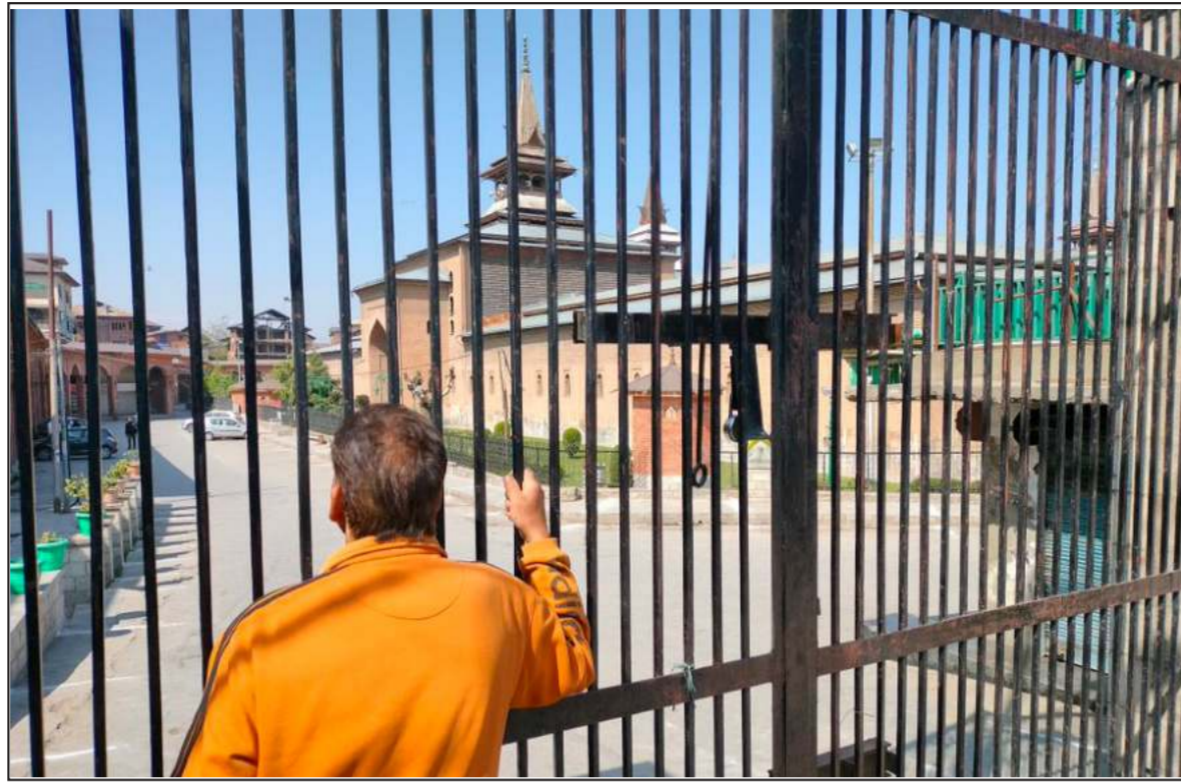
Dr Ahmad said that diabetic patients must avoid long brisk walks while they are fasting to avoid hypoglycemia and dehydration; however, they can go for a walk once they break their fast in the evening.

He said patients suffering from chronic diseases must consult their treating doctor before starting fasting, as many heart, liver and kidney disease patients have to take diuretic medicines leading to frequent urination, which can lead to dehydration.

The general population who are fasting must stay hydrated, take enough proteins, eat a fibre-rich diet, and eat foods containing essential micronutrients like iron, calcium, and vitamin B12, he advised.

Dr Mir Mushtaq, spokesperson of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP), said that Ramazan is the best opportunity for people to leave bad habits like smoking, as fasting develops a sense of patience in the person.

Ramazan is an opportunity to make significant changes in one's lifestyle and develop the resolve to make healthy living choices, he said, adding, "The diet should be simple and not differ too much from one's normal everyday diet. It should contain foods from all the major food groups - like fruits and vegetables; bread, other cereals, and potatoes; milk and meat; fish and dairy food alternatives; foods containing fat and foods containing sugar."



Jamia Masjid Locked, Mirwaiz Put Under House Arrest

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The gates of Central Jamia Masjid located in the Nowhatta area of the old city, according to the Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, the mosque's overseeing body was locked by the authorities on Jumatul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramazan.

Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, the head priest of Kashmir, was reportedly placed under house arrest and was thus unable to deliver the Jumatul-Vida Sermon at the revered mosque.

It's worth mentioning that the historic Jamia Masjid hosts largest congregational prayers on Jumatul-Vida. Due to mosque closure people headed to Dargah Hazratbal, eyewitnesses said.

The grand mosque was to host a Friday sermon by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq against the rising drug abuse in Kashmir. But he was upset at what he saw as 'unjustified' restrictions over his freedom of movement and speech on Jumatul-Vida.

The grand mosque was to host a Friday sermon by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq against the rising drug abuse in Kashmir. But he was upset at what he saw as 'unjustified' restrictions over his freedom of movement and speech on Jumatul-Vida.

A spokesman of Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, in a statement, said that the authorities disallowed congregational Jumatul-Vida prayers at Jamia Masjid, with police and paramilitary forces deployed in strength around the grand mosque.

The spokesman said that authorities later barred Mirwaiz from addressing media at his Nigeen residence, prompting him to circulate a video message to condemn the move.

Mirwaiz in his message circulated on social media, said that thousands of worshippers who were denied entry to Jamia Masjid on Jumatul-Vida were disappointed and distressed by the actions of the government.

DEO Srinagar Joins Vibrant Electoral Awareness Program Under SVEEP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With a view to enhance public participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha, 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat joined a Vibrant Voter Awareness program organized by District Election Authority at the world famous Tulip Garden under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

On the occasion, the District Election Officer Srinagar, who is also the Returning Officer (RO) for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency along with Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Nodal Officer SVEEP/AMF, A.H.Fani, Deputy CEO Srinagar, Anjum Raja other Officers from Chief Education Office Srinagar, School Students, hundreds of Locals and Tourists visiting from

across India captured memorable selfies at the SVEEP Selfie Stand set up by the District Election Authority Srinagar.

While interacting with the participants, District Election Officer Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat urged every citizen to maximize voter turnout and highlighted initiatives like the Pink Booth established for Women Voters and Vote-from-Home facility for Senior citizens aged 85 and above.

The DEO said that the primary objective of organizing such events is to enhance voter awareness and boost the public participation in the electoral process in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

The DEO urged Students to spread the message to their parents, relatives and community underscoring the significance of their participation in nation-building through elections. He said that a well-informed electorate is funda-

mental to ensuring a vibrant and representative democracy. He also interacted with the tourists visiting Tulip Garden and hoped that they all will also cast their vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz while interacting with the students, teachers and locals urged them to act as ambassadors of SVEEP in their locality and encourage others to participate in upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

District Nodal Officer, SVEEP/AMF, A.H.Fani also urged the students to carry forward the message regarding right to vote to their family and participation in nation-building through elections. He emphasized the role of SVEEP in educating people about the electoral process. He added that SVEEP's primary goal is to build a truly participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote.

First Quarterly UTRC Meeting Sets Benchmark For Criminal Justice

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority convened the inaugural quarterly meeting of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) in the office Chamber of Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by the Jawad Ahmed, Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar and

witnessed active participation from key stakeholders, including Ashish Mishra, S.S.P Srinagar; Syed Ahmad Kataria, ADC Srinagar; Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, SSP, Central Jail Srinagar; Aijaz Ahmad, Chief Prosecuting Officer, Srinagar; Dr. Sheikh Athar Senior Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar; Saad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel and Zulfi Tasneem, Deputy Legal Aid Counsel.

Pahroo Chowk, Nowgam Residents Demand E-Bus Service

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Pahroo Chowk, Nowgam in Srinagar have demanded the authorities to launch e-bus service in the locality.

The demand for e-bus service comes as a response to the increasing need for efficient and eco-friendly public transportation options in the locality.

The locals said that with growing concerns about pollution and traffic congestion, they believe that the adoption of electric buses could significantly improve the quality of life in Nowgam. They added, "We need modern transportation solutions that not only address our mobility needs but also contribute to reducing our carbon footprint."

A resident said, the induction of e-buses is the way forward. "These buses are clean, quiet, and offer a sustainable alternative to conventional diesel vehicles. Also, there is a higher need for these buses in our area, as we are worried because of no transport being available for several hours," he said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. No:- 770-W/169/WA/FZR/2024-25 Date: 05.04.2024. 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 with closing date-30/04/2024 up to 15:00 Hrs.

SPECIAL TRAIN. In order to clear extra rush of passengers on the occasion of Somavati Amavas, Northern Railway will run the following Special Train between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra & Haridwar as per details given below:-

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.

PRAYERS. FAJR 4:47, ZUHR 12:34, ASR 5:06, Magrib 6:57, ISHA 8:21. HIJRI CALENDAR 26 Ramzan 1445.

This Day In History. 402 - Battle at Pollentia: Roman army under Stilicho beats Visigoten. 1320 - The Scots reaffirm their independence by signing the Declaration of Arbroath. 1327 - Italian poet Petrarch 1st sets eyes on his beloved Laura. 1362 - Tard-Venus robber bands strike at Brignais, France. 1385 - John, Master of the Order of Avis, is made King John I of Portugal. 1516 A Willaert installed as singer of cardinal Ippolito I d'Este. 1664 - France & Saxony sign alliance. 1672 - France declares war on Netherlands. 1722 - Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, ends tax on men with beards. 1859 - US recognizes Liberal government in Mexico's War of Reform. 1869 - 1st plastic, Celluloid, patented. 1896 - 1st modern Olympic games open in Athens Greece [3/25 OS] American, James Connolly, wins 1st Olympic gold medal in mod history. 1905 - Germany receives invitation from Sultan of Morocco to an international conference to discuss matters relating to Morocco. 1906 - 1st animated cartoon copyrighted. 1912 - Electric starter 1st appeared in cars. 1916 - German parliament approves unrestricted submarine warfare. 1917 - US declares war on Germany, enters World War I. 1919 - Bavaria proclaims itself a soviet republic. 1920 - To force German evacuation of the Ruhr area, the French occupy Frankfurt, Darmstadt, and Hanau. 1924 - 4 planes leave Seattle on 1st successful around-the-world flight. 1924 - Italy fascists receives 65% of vote of parliament. 1930 - 1st transcontinental glider tow completed. 1930 - Hostess Twinkies invented by bakery executive James Dewar. 1934 - 418 Lutheran ministers arrested in Germany. 1936 - Tornado, kills 203 & injuring 1,800 in Gainesville Georgia. 1938 - Teflon invented by American chemist Roy J. Plunkett at DuPont [1]. 1939 - Great Britain & Poland sign military pact. 1939 - US & UK agree on joint control of Canton & Enderbury Is (Pacific). 1941 - Beginning of operation Bestrafung - German bombers attack Belgrade (17,000 die). 1941 - British major general Michael Gambier-Parry captured in North Africa. 1941 - German bombardment of Piraeus (munitions ship explodes). 1941 - Italian forces holding Addis Ababa surrender to British & Ethiopian forces. 1943 - British & US armies link up in Africa during WW II. 1943 - British offensive at Wadi Akarit, South Tunisia. 1945 - Battle of Okinawa: Giant Japanese battleship Yamato heads to Okinawa with orders to beach herself and be destroyed defending the island. 1945 - The Holocaust: Nazis begin evacuating prisoners from Buchenwald concentration camp. 1945 - World War II: Dutch city of Coevorden freed from German occupation by Canadian forces. 1955 - Yemen: failed coup by Abdullah Seif el-Islam. 1956 - Polish communist Gomulka freed from prison. 1957 - USSR performs nuclear test (atmospheric tests). 1964 - Egypt & Belgium restore diplomatic relations. 1966 - Mihir Sen swims Palk Strait between Sri Lanka & India. 1967 - Premier Georges Pompidou forms new French government. 1968 - 94.5% of East German voters approve new socialist constitution.

# Beyond Forbidden Watermelons

Is watermelon the solitary edible which is allegedly contaminated? Are all other things pure and safe for human consumption?

Mushtaq Hurra

Consumption of fresh fruits including dates, shoots up during Ramazan. Fruit vendors and shopkeepers bump up their sales during the holy month. Even unfair surcharging and excessive profiteering becomes a norm of the day here. Yet people spend hefty amounts on culinary delights to make their Iftaars and Sehris scrumptious and savoury. But, this Ramadhan, watermelons came in the line of fire. People abandoned the fruit as if it was the same forbidden fruit which Adam (AS) had eaten in paradise. Sales of the fruit dwindled drastically. Social networking sites went abuzz with posts and videos, debating the alleged harmful chemical contamination of the fruit. Medicos kept issuing decrees, and cautioning commoners not to include the fruit in their diets. Facebook journalists resorted to media trialling, that too without having the requisite knowledge and required expertise to comment on the same. Commoners found themselves in a fix because a paradox of theories was pouring in from various quarters.

Well, a billion dollar question pops up here, Is watermelon the solitary edible which is allegedly contaminated? Are all other things pure and safe for human consumption? The most probable answer is a big NO.

Packaged spices and condiments including edible oils are not meeting the requisite standards. According to studies conducted by pesticide residue research and analysis laboratory under Kerala agricultural university, spices like coriander, dried ginger powder, dried red chilli, cardamom, cumin powder, pickle masala powder, fennel seeds, kashmiri chilli powder and curry powder available in the market, are laced with toxic chemicals. Even toxic arsenic was found in turmeric. And locally, we often suspect brick dust contamination in many powdered condiments and spices.

Edible oil is an indispensable and inseparable part of our diet. We can't imagine a dish or a cuisine without a tempering (Tadka) of hot oil, coupled with onions or shallots. But, the tadka oil is not quite pure and safe for consumption.

According to surveys conducted by reputed researchers and institutions, edible oils are polluted with adulterants like argemone and rice bran oils. Cooking oils are contaminated with illicit carcinogenic food colourants like metanil yellow. Ironically, the verboten food colourant is extensively used in India which jeopardises our lives terribly.



This is an AI generated image. For representational purposes only.

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The noxious metanil is believed to cause a surge in serotonin, dopamine and nor-adrenaline levels which consequently reduces our brain's ability to learn and grasp things well.

Now, let's have a cursory look at our pharmaceutical market. The industry is growing exponentially with a whopping

turnover of 2.89 lakh crores in 2019-20. It is worth mentioning here that the same industry was lingering at 1750 crore turnover during the 1970s. India is now a big exporter of medicine. But, spurious and substandard drugs have brought disrepute and indignity to it.

Last year, a joint team of central and

state regulators inspected various Pharma companies spread over the length and breadth of the country, and allegedly cancelled the licences of some eighteen companies for manufacturing of spurious and adulterated drugs. Twenty other Pharma companies were served with show-cause notices for violating

good manufacturing practice (GMP).

The scenario is no different in Jammu and Kashmir. A former health minister of Jammu and Kashmir had revealed in the then state assembly that some 83 drugs were found spurious by his department. And interestingly, he had not over-ruled the alleged nexus between doctors and Pharma companies. I believe the river continues to flow with the same deluge, and there is hardly any let off for commoners. Some unscrupulous and conscienceless medics sell their Eeman for a few bucks. They prescribe substandard drugs to win perks, privileges and lucrative gifts from pharmaceutical companies. A spurious or substandard drug does more harm than any good to patients. Ah! Innocent people are murdered in the name of potions.

Our own indigenously grown fruits and vegetables are lashed by dozens of deadly pesticide sprays. Relentless usage of chemical fertilisers removes and reduces the magical powers and vitality of our veggies. Chemicals like calcium carbide are used as artificial fruit ripeners though prohibited by law. Now, people have begun to realise the harmful and adverse effects of these vegetables and fruits on human health. So, organic farming is gaining momentum, with every passing day, the demand for organically grown vegetables is touching new highs. Vegetable vendors dealing with organically grown vegetables and fruits sell their produce like hot cakes because people are becoming health conscious, but most of the masses are gullible, and fall prey to the toxins.

The alleged food adulteration and immoderate use of chemicals in agricultural operations has risked our lives to pernicious ailments. Malignancy, diabetes, hypertension and different metabolic disorders are taking dangerous proportions in our valley. Rising cancer incidence in Kashmir valley has sent shockwaves among commoners and doctors. According to health experts, a sedentary lifestyle coupled with adulterated foods is probably one of the potential causes of the surge in many non-communicable diseases. The illicit trade of adulteration goes unabated in the Peer Vaer. Strong system of checks and balances is the need of the hour. Imaams and orators should inform masses about the religious perspective of the menace.

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The pilot crisis at Vistara, which has led to scores of flight cancellations and spiralling delays this week, is likely to erode public perception of an airline that is synonymous with premium economy in India. The airline's management did precious little to nip the problem in the bud when flights were disrupted a month earlier due to mass sick leave (the aviation sector's version of strikes) taken by pilots. At the root of the crisis lies a new wage agreement that has upset pilots by decreasing the flying hours allotted to them from 70 to 40 per month, resulting in a substantial pay cut. The new contracts were necessitated by Vistara's pending merger with Air India, a wholly-owned Tata Group subsidiary. It is true that along with changes in internal structures and potential loss of jobs, corporate mergers pose challenges for existing employees over compensation. Vistara does not have a significant buffer of pilots on standby, primarily because it has not been hiring in large numbers ahead of its Air India merger. Therefore, getting the protesting pilots on board by addressing their concerns is of utmost urgency to regain a sense of loyalty among employees as well as patrons.

Vistara's problems are, however, not unique. Shortage of staff has hit the Indian aviation sector time and again—both incumbents as well as new entrants. For instance, in Febru-

ary, Akasa Air, which debuted in 2022, cancelled flights. And last year, one-tenth of Akasa's pilots resigned to join rival airlines, resulting in hundreds of flights getting cancelled. In 2019, market leader IndiGo was saddled with a pilot crunch after a majority of its per-

sonnel had exceeded the annual cap on flying hours. To contain the staff shortage, the airline inducted expat pilots. In the same year, many Air India pilots resigned citing low pay.

Such examples, experts suggest, are unlikely to end anytime soon as

Indian airlines have placed orders for the addition of 1,115 new planes to the existing fleet over a decade until 2033. This will push up the requirement of pilots to an estimated 17,000-18,000. Currently, Indian carriers have a pilot strength of approximately 9,000. How-

ever, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issues an average of only around 750 commercial pilot licences annually. The Indian aviation market, which is the third largest and the fastest-growing in the world, has a stiff challenge of ensuring enough pilots. Earlier this year, the DGCA did well to recognise the fatigue faced by overworked pilots as it revised rules to stipulate an increase in weekly rest periods for flight crew from 36 to 48 hours. But it hasn't helped that the regulator deferred the date for implementing the amended rules after objections from airlines.

One cannot ignore serious anomalies in India's training infrastructure as reflected by the presence of licensed but inadequately skilled pilots whose number runs into thousands. Aspiring pilots also end up taking longer than the 18-24 months expected to complete training and get a licence because of a dearth of trainer aircraft and simulators. In some cases, schools fulfil the mandate of 200 hours of flight time without enough solo flying experience for students. A low number of DGCA-approved flying training organisations and simulators are also viewed as a reason for students choosing to go overseas, many of whom do not return. A concerted effort to rectify these deeper issues is therefore essential to prevent a recurrence of problems plaguing pilots.

The article was originally published by Financial Express

## Trouble In The Air

Financial Express



# Unveiling the Dynamics of 21st Century Islamic Scholarship

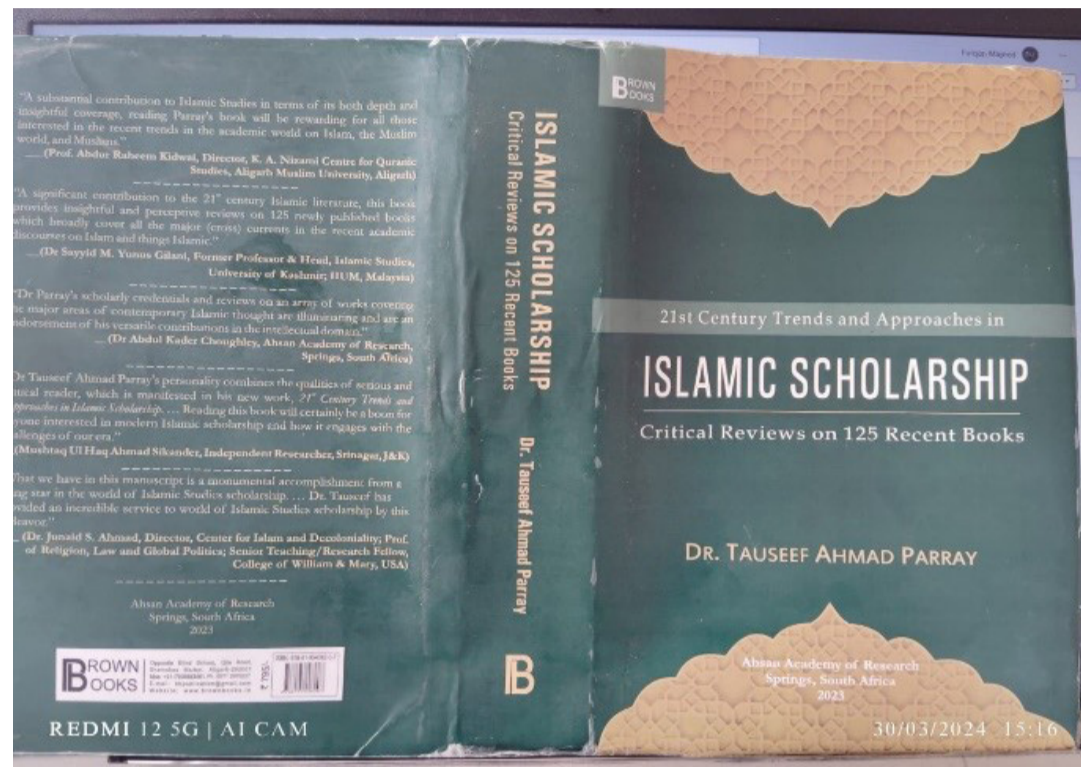
A Review of Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parry's Recent Work

Ab Majeed Ganaie

The reviewed book is a comprehensive collection of 125 critiques covering diverse 21st-century works on various aspects of Islam, including Qur'anic Studies, the Sirah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Islamic History, Politics, Contemporary Issues, and the Contemporary Muslim World. Organized into nine sections, beginning with the Prologue and concluding with the Appendix, which features reviews of the author's books (pp. 571-619), the work has received a commendation from Dr. Junaid S. Ahmad, Director of the Centre for Islam and Decoloniality, USA, who describes it as a "monumental accomplishment" in scholarly documentation and analysis (pp. 12-13).

The Prologue, titled "Islamic Sources and Thought and Contemporary Issues in the 21st Century" (pp. 15-18), provides an overview of the vast literature produced globally in the past two decades on Islam. Similarly, the Introduction (pp. 23-39) delves into the "Quantum of (the Western) Scholarship on 'Islam' in the 21st Century," emphasizing recent publications and reasons for the surge in literature production, highlighting the necessity and significance of reviewing contemporary works (p. 32).

The first section scrutinizes English translations of the Qur'an (pp. 40-71), assessing translations by various scholars and noting the shift from non-Muslim Western dominance in translation to Muslim scholars' prevalence in the 21st Century (p. 42). The reviews employ a detailed analysis of each translation, focusing on style, content, themes, language, and methodology. For instance, a review of the M.A.S. Abdel Haleem's translation of the Qur'an has been reviewed in this section. The author has provided a comprehensive analysis of the style and methodology of the said work. He says, "Abdel Haleem's translation is in modern and plain English... and he has opted for contemporary usage and sentence structure and avoid confusing phrases" (p. 45). Consequently, one of the notable aspects of this section is that it provides a comparative analysis of different English translations and cites examples in comparison with previously published, well-known,



**Title:** 21st Century Trends and Approaches on Islamic Scholarship: Critical Reviews on 125 Recent Books  
**Author:** Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parry  
**Publication Details:** Aligarh: Brown Books and Springs, South Africa: Ahsan Academy of Research, 2023  
**Pages:** 616  
**ISBN:** 9781-81-954082-0-7  
**Price:** ₹795

and authentic translations. Mostly, examples from the translations of *Sūrah al-Fāṭihah* from different translations reviewed in this work have been compared to one another (pp. 45-53), and a few examples have been provided from the other verses of the Qur'anic text also.

Besides the individual translation works, a few publications have been incorporated in this volume published by the Western publication houses, edited volumes, or Encyclopedias, such as *Blackwell Companion to the Qur'an* (2006) edited by Andrew Rippin (p. 84). The author highlights such works' main features, contributions, and methodological debates. However, the central focus of this section remains on the six-volume *Encyclopedia of*

*the Qur'an (EQ)* published in 2006. The author highlights the reviewed work's strengths and weaknesses and says, "The EQ is unique, distinctive, and is first of its kind, as there was no such reference work in the field of Qur'anic Studies until its publication (pp. 91-92)." The scholarly opinions presented in this section make this work a more valuable and lucid contribution.

Dr Parry has dedicated the second section of this work under review to the biography of the prophet Muhammad (SAW) titled "Books on Seerah: Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) Biography" (pp. 148-181). The significant contribution of the section is the comprehensive analysis of the work of Muslim authors, particularly the works of M. Yasin

Mazhar Siddiqui. Dr. Parry argues that Siddiqui has brought into the limelight one of the ignored perspectives of *Sirah* of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), particularly the Makkani period and the Muslim minority vis-a-vis plural society. Dr Parry has criticized the use of some of the terms by Siddiqui, such as "Makkan Islam, Medinan Islam, and Makkani Muslims," because he believes that it hints at a division of Muslim history, likewise classical Islam, Medieval Islam, and Modern Islam. However, he states that "the book [*Prophet Muhammad—A Role Model for Muslim Minorities*] has been written from a refreshing new angle and with a different perspective—the Minority perspective (p. 150)" that makes a significant contribution to the field. The review of J. V. Tolan's *Faces of Muhammad: Western Perception of the Prophet of Islam* (2019) is one of important addition of this section. After giving a brief background of Tolan and his works, the author states that, Tolan presents the overall perception of the West towards the image of the prophet Muhammad (SAW) (p. 165). The author scrutinizes Tolan's arguments by providing a chapter-to-chapter

analysis. He concludes the review by arguing that "Tolan's work is perceptive, meticulous and unbiased critical assessment of the prophet of Islam in European and American literary works (p. 175)."

The book's subsequent sections delve into Islamic history and civilization, theology and sufism, Islam and politics, Islam and contemporary issues, and the contemporary Muslim world, offering a comprehensive critique of literature in these domains. Each section evaluates works from both Muslim and non-Muslim Western scholars, emphasizing strengths, weaknesses, and contributions to the respective fields.

Dr. Parry's endeavor shows a

tion reviews the works on a diverse range of contemporary issues, such as discourses on Islam and modernity, Islamic thought, Islam and Gender Issues, and Islam in the European context. Therefore, this section is rich in content that discusses contemporary scholarship and delves into the new paradigms surrounding the present challenges and perspectives. Dr. Parry's analysis of the works reviewed in this section, highlighting the authors' major discussions, contributions, strengths, and weaknesses. This section provides insights into modernity, reformist thinkers, dialogue and diversity, reformation and civilization renewal in Islam, women in Islam and gender issues, prophet Muhammad (SAW), and women empowerment. Moreover, several reviews of the works discussing Islam and Europe, Muslims in Europe, human rights for migrants, Islamic radicalism, and multicultural politics are some valuable additions to this work.

Subsequently, the contemporary Muslim world is a second major contribution of the work, presenting the ideas and ideologies and social and political issues into the limelight. This section reviews the works examining the different political scenarios in Muslim countries and their democratic setup. The section personalities/personality studies delve deep into the ideologies and theories of different personalities discussed by Muslim and non-Muslim authors.

The miscellaneous section encompasses reviews on various topics, including comparative politics, Islam in South Asia, Orientalism in English literature, self-Identity in Indian Muslim English fiction, and Islamic *Da'wah*. The final section features reviews of the author's own works.

In sum, the book serves as a valuable guide for students and researchers in Islamic and religious studies, offering insights into contemporary literature, methodologies, and approaches. Dr. Parry's scholarly acumen is evident in his meticulous analysis, critical examination, and reviews, making this compilation a noteworthy contribution to the field.

The author is a Doctoral Candidate Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir

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significant contribution in section VI. This section is pertaining to "Islam and Contemporary Issues." This sec-

## The Perplexing Status Quo for Muslim Fiction

Mona Zaneef

In the category of young adult (YA) fiction, one can find a relatively solid number of Muslim-oriented novels, some of which are consistently championed in the Muslim novel-reading community for their positive representation of Muslims. Through mass marketing, these portrayals are lauded and viewed as authentic. Though I do not personally read young adult fiction, it recently occurred to me that I could perhaps curate a small Muslim fiction collection in the library of the school where I work. I began to research the most popular YA novels which were repeatedly garnered praise across social media. The project was exciting, I hoped that teenagers seeing themselves in such novels would not only lead them to read more books, but also aid them in feeling proud and confident in their identities.

As it did not take long before I came across the very un-Islamic elements in these novels. Given that this was alien territory to me, perhaps such elements stood out even more. These novels are not liberal in an ideological sense. The authors seamlessly weave Islam onto the pages, enabling the reader to discern the characters' love for Islam and their unashamed observation of the religion. References to their Islamic identity include characters praying salah, declaring faith in God, reciting the Qur'an, and wearing the hijab. For example, in Zoufka Katouh's recently-published novel *As Long As The Lemon Tree Grows*, the female protagonist Salama ensures that her hair is only visible when

there are no non-mahrams (men permissible to marry) around. She leaves her hair out in the presence of her sister-in-law, as is permissible in Islam. In this way, the author highlights the character's adherence to the obligations of the hijab.

While such incorporations of Islam are praiseworthy, these novels, so venerated by Muslim reviewers, do in fact contain several un-Islamic elements. They include some amount of swearing, characters lustfully gazing at the opposite gender, and a casual acceptance of mainstream music. Furthermore, freemixing is so pervasive in some novels that its impermissibility seems to have been swept under the rug for the "greater good" of portraying an Islamic ethos. Even if such content, when compared to other material available, may be the lesser of two evils, Muslim readers must be more critical in order to ensure that the Muslim publishing world flourishes with Allah's blessings. If these novels are touted to the extent that they become benchmarks of Muslim fiction, we can expect it to negatively impact teenage Muslim readers. By normalizing sinful acts, it can undermine their consciences and make it seem acceptable, a grave danger.

In *As Long As The Lemon Tree Grows*, the main love interests, Kenan and Salama, develop their bond over time, prior to marriage. The novel includes several scenes featuring the unmarried couple indulging in each other's company. In one scene, they are alone on a rooftop, watching the sunset. In another, Kenan's "fingers skim [Salama's] sleeve," as he sits

"closer than ever before" to the point where Salama can "glance up at him." Such inappropriately close proximity between the two is further detailed in the following passage:

"He comes closer, his fingers touching the edge of my lab coat, and everything stills... and I stare at his long fingers grasping the top of my pocket... His emerald eyes drop to my lips for a few seconds, and then he looks away. 'Salam,' he whispers, and then he's gone."

This, might I add, was not the only instance of the characters glancing down at each other in obviously inappropriate and unacceptable ways. This is especially disappointing considering how much emphasis Islam has placed on lowering one's gaze—it should be obvious that this does not mean lowering one's gaze only to meet the other gender's lips.

Such juxtaposition of inappropriate gender relations and Islamic acts is immensely misleading, especially for impressionable teenagers. The issue here is that the characters' actions are never textually condemned. In fact, they are even light-heartedly brushed aside: the male love interest in Katouh's novel unabashedly confesses to flirting with her from the get-go. This laxity is reminiscent of another piece of popular Muslim-centric fiction, S.K. Ali's *Love from A to Z*. Although the novel makes explicit references to the Qur'an and Sunnah, it is not without its faults and is just as saturated with un-Islamic elements. For example, the female protagonist Zayneb describes a man's physical features before remembering that her sister would perhaps chastise her to "lower your gaze like a good Muslim, Zu-zu." Yet, with the detailed description of the man and the inclusion of relatable vernacular ("I think what pinged CUTE GUY ALERT..."), Zayneb's internal rebuke falls flat.

Throughout the novel, the characters are conflicted between their lustful desires and the Islamic code of conduct. However, these conflicts do not culminate in endeavors to please Allah, nor do they result in a well-developed character arc. Rather, they are often presented in a humorous manner, weakening the seriousness of succumbing to one's desires. For instance, after seeing Zayneb for the first time, her love interest Adam conspires to encounter her again under the pretext of using the airplane bathroom nearest to her seat. He undergoes a series of failings (and successes) to accomplish this goal, all meant to amuse the reader. Though the characters are evidently practicing Muslims, their behaviors grossly misrepresent the appearance of a union pleasing to Allah. As Ibn Qayyim says, "It is not possible for the love of al-Rahman and lust for images to gather in one heart. They are opposites that cannot coexist. One will certainly evict the other."<sup>1</sup>

In other instances, such as in S. K. Ali's novel, there are two particular moments when the characters suggest that they could needlessly freemix so long as they are in the presence of others. Not only do Adam and Zayneb disclose what they initially found physically attractive in each other, they also pronounce their mutual feelings in a highly suggestive metaphor. Zayneb is symbolized as water, and after Adam

admits that he wants "to know all about the water. Everything about it. 'Cause I... like the water," he admits to being "really thirsty" for Zayneb. This conversation is ultimately justified to the reader by the fact that the two are in a public place.

The gender relations depicted in these novels occur in stark contrast to the Qur'anic story of Prophet Musa<sup>a</sup> and the two women who wanted to water their herd. As Sheikh Alomgir Ali expounds: "The two women withheld from watering their flocks because they did not want to intermingle with the men and so wanted to wait until the men finished watering their flocks. Musa<sup>a</sup> out of his kindness and wanting to help others, offered his assistance to them. When their father heard of his integrity and good character, he wanted to hire him as a worker" (<https://www.islam21c.com/islamic-law/gender-relations-in-islam/>). In addition, Allah mentions the shyness by which one of the women approached Prophet Musa<sup>a</sup> when her father wanted to reward him for his kindness.

These elements of shyness and abstention from unnecessary freemixing are absent in novels like *As Long As The Lemon Tree Grows* and *Love from A to Z*. In the Author's Note of her novel, Katouh expresses her desire for the love story to be reminiscent of a Jane Austen novel. However, even Western classical literature is not puritanical in an Islamic sense for Muslims to borrow from wholesale. With this in mind, it raises the question of why these un-Islamic acts are even considered necessary to include? Is it

because writers themselves are unaware of the sinful nature of such acts, or do they consider this a lesser evil in the larger mission of crafting relatable characters for the youth of today?

While there certainly is value in Zoufka Katouh and S. K. Ali's novels, we must ask ourselves: is this the standard we must accept for Muslim fiction? While many justify the more positive examples as outweighing the bad, it is nonetheless frustrating to see these novels marketed on a large scale within the book-reading Muslim community, sans any cautionary disclaimer. If a young impressionable mind consumes content in which haram acts are committed by a Muslim character, romanticized by the author, and publicly brushed aside by reviewers, it will only cause confusion in understanding religious boundaries.

This is not the first time that Muslim representation in the media has been questioned, particularly in media produced by Muslims themselves. For example, consider the Marvel Studios' series *Ms. Marvel*: many showrunners, including executive producer Sana Amanat, are Muslims, yet they fail to clearly distinguish between Islam and the unlawful acts in the dominant, Western culture of the show's setting. As a result, music, free-mixing, and even dating become common occurrences despite them being haram.

In *Surah Kahf*, Allah says, "And the record [of deeds] will be placed [open], and you will see the criminals fearful of that within it, and they will say, 'Oh, woe to us! What is this book that leaves nothing small or great except that it

has enumerated it?' And they will find what they did present [before them]. And your Lord does injustice to no one. [18:49] (The Quran, *Surah Kahf* [18:49])"

We will be held accountable for every one of our small and great deeds, including what we propagate. While it may seem unrealistic to expect every Muslim novel to be stripped clean of un-Islamic elements, it is the task of Muslim reviewers to do their due diligence and highlight them. Reviewers must be more transparent with what they publicize, especially when that would not only benefit a parent, guardian, or educator, but teenagers themselves. Moreover, Muslim writers themselves should do better by writing against the current Muslim fiction status quo. Writers should research and study the Shariah regarding the different elements present in their stories. I do not believe that Muslim writers must engage their characters in the haram to satisfy the genre or their target audience, but this is not to say that Muslim characters must be one-dimensional, with no flaws. As long as their negative traits or shortcomings are not narratively condoned, these traits can always serve as part of a larger character arc. Ultimately, the gravity of these issues should not be diluted for the sake of Muslim representation or in an effort to conform to existing markets or industries. Instead, we should always consider the Shariah our standard in producing all media, including YA novels.

The article was originally published by Traversing Tradition. Views expressed are the author's own.





## 'Kohli Under Lot Of Pressure This IPL'

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Virat Kohli is "under a lot of pressure" in the ongoing IPL owing to the collective failure of Royal Challengers Bengaluru batters, feels former Australia captain Steve Smith who wants the Indian superstar's RCB teammates to come good in the supporting act.

Kohli has waged a lone battle for RCB this IPL season with 203 runs in four matches at 67.66 with two fifties. The second-best batter, Dinesh Karthik, is way behind with 90 runs in as many games.

Despite Kohli's consistency, RCB have faltered with three losses in four matches throwing them as far back as the seventh spot in the points table. The likes of Glenn Maxwell, skipper Faf du Plessis and Cameron Green have been underwhelming so far with the bat.

"He needs the other key batters to stand up with him, and if they do that, they can turn things around for their season. But, at the moment, they're not, so a lot of pres-

sure is on Virat," Smith, a member of the Star Sports Incredible Star Cast, told PTI in an exclusive interaction at the channel's studio in Mumbai.

"I doubt he'd be putting extra pressure on himself. (But) some of the other top-order and middle-order (batters) need to help Virat," he said.

Smith warned that Kohli is not going to score runs in every match and RCB batters must get their act together.

"He started the campaign really well in the IPL and he needs some support. He's not going to score runs on every occasion," he said.

"But, I doubt he'd be thinking that way. I don't think he'd go out and put extra pressure on himself. He'd just go out and play and see what happens in that game."

Smith rubbished the criticism which Kohli has faced time and again in his career over his batting strike-rate saying that no player in the world can read situations as well as the Indian batter. Kohli has been hitting at over 140 in this year's IPL.



## IPL 2024: RCB, RR Look To Tackle Similar Worries



Press Trust of India

**JAIPUR:** Struggling Royal Challengers Bengaluru and high-flying Rajasthan Royals bizarrely have similar worries to address when they face each other in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

The eighth place where RCB are currently on the 10-team table is a fair indication of their troubles, but Rajasthan's all-win record so far and the resultant second place do not necessarily mirror their turmoil.

An underwhelming top-order is the intertwining factor between them.

The RCB top-order comprising skipper Faf du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Cameron Green and Rajat Patidar is a storehouse of talent and explosiveness. But none of them have fired either in isolation or in unison, except star batter Virat Kohli, the current Orange Cap holder with 203 runs, who has made two fifties.

Patidar showed a glimpse of his clean shot-making abilities while registering 29 in their 28-run defeat against Lucknow Super Giants, but he needs to do a lot more to prop up the RCB middle-order.

But the aforementioned RCB quartet has company in the Royals' ranks.

Yashasvi Jaiswal entered this iteration of IPL on the back of some excellent recent efforts, but the left-handed opener has made just 39 runs from three matches, and Jos Buttler offers a similar story.

The England T20 captain is yet to be in his intimidating self, and has managed 35 runs from three outings and his strike-rate across these matches is a mere 85.

The Royals' batting has largely revolved around captain Sanju Samson (109 runs, one fifty) and the highly-improved Riyan Parag (181 runs, 2 fifties) and at some point, the duo will require solid support from others.

However, Rajasthan have an edge over their opponents in the bowling department.

Pacers Trent Boult and Nandre Burger and veteran leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal have worked up a nice early rhythm and have shared 16 wickets between them.

The out of touch Bengaluru batters might just find it tough to tackle the trio at its home turf. Match starts at 7.30 PM.

## Is IPL Using Up Bengaluru's Water Supply?

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Amidst the worsening water crisis in the city, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Karnataka State Cricket Association and other state authorities concerned to furnish details of water being used at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium during the IPL matches in Bengaluru.

Apart from the state cricket association, NGT has also asked the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to submit the particulars about the quantity and source of the water by May 2.

"We are studying the notice, and as such the stadium complies with the NGT norms. So, we are confident of going ahead with the matches," said Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) CEO Shubendu Ghosh.

The Tribunal has taken suo motu cognizance after reports emerged that the Chinnaswamy Stadium has been getting treated water supply for IPL matches.

The NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Dr A Senthil Vel (expert member) registered the case.

Three matches have already been held at the venue, and it has been estimated that each of those games received 75,000 litres of treated water.

The stadium is scheduled to hold four more IPL matches on April 15 (vs Sunrisers Hyderabad), May 4 (vs Gujarat Titans), May 12 (vs Delhi Capitals) and May 18 (vs Chennai Super Kings).

"We may require around 15000 litres of water for match purposes and it can be generated from the in-house STP plant," Ghosh had said earlier.

However, the NGT took note of the claims that BWSSB has permitted the supply of treated water to the stadium upon the request of KSCA, particularly from the nearby Cubbon Park area.

But the KSCA officials had maintained that they were not using either groundwater or potable water for purposes like watering the pitch or outfield.

The Karnataka government has imposed a strict ban on using potable water for miscellaneous purposes such as gardening and washing vehicles, among others.



## Short TAKES

### Real Kashmir Take On TRAU FC In I-League Today

Real Kashmir FC will take on TRAU FC on Saturday in an I-League 2023-24 match. The game will kick off at 4:30 PM from Kalyani Stadium.

With two games left in the season, the Snow Leopards aim to secure a top three finish are currently third in the I-League table with 40 points from 22 matches. Real Kashmir came out on top in its previous game, beating NEROCA FC 3-0. TRAU is last on the table, taking 10 points from 21 games.

### FAI Terminates Membership Of J&K Amateur Fencing Association

The Fencing Association of India (FAI) has de-affiliated and terminated the membership of the Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Fencing Association (JKFAA), in view of the ongoing "dispute" between the bodies.

The circular number FAI/2024-25/48/04 issued by Fencing Association of India General Secretary Rajeev Mehta on April 3 reads that the national body has de-affiliated and terminated the membership of J&K Amateur Fencing Association.

### MI Get Suryakumar Boost Ahead Of DC Clash

In a big boost for struggling Mumbai Indians, world number one T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav trained with the team here on Friday after a long injury layoff and unleashed his trademark shots without any visible discomfort, raising hopes that he could compete in the team's next IPL match against Delhi Capitals.

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians are languishing at the bottom of the 10-team table, having lost all three matches so far.

### DC Spinner Kuldeep Yadav In Doubt For MI Clash

Delhi Capitals (DC) spinner Kuldeep Yadav has been advised to rest as a precautionary move as the 'chinaman' picked up a groin niggle, which has cast doubt on his participation in the clash against Mumbai Indians, as ESPNcricinfo reported. According to ESPNcricinfo, there is no confirmation yet on when the 29-year-old spinner will be ready to play again.

Given that Kuldeep has been travelling with the Capitals team and is presently in Mumbai, the injury is most likely not significant.

### British PM Unveils GBP 35M Investment In Grassroots Cricket

Rishi Sunak, who has often spoken of his love for cricket and described hitting a few balls with the England cricket team in the Downing Street garden as a highlight of his tenure as British Prime Minister, on Friday unveiled GBP 35 million investment in grassroots cricket facilities and widening access to the sport within schools.

The total government investment is expected to deliver around 2,500 pieces of new equipment to every school involved in the programme.

### England's Archer Targeting T20 World Cup, Says Key

England pace bowler Jofra Archer could play in this year's T20 World Cup but will not play test cricket until 2025, according to England managing director Rob Key. The 29-year-old has not played for England in any format since March 2023 because of an elbow injury.

"The whole plan with Jofra is he is going to play white-ball cricket this summer," Key told Sky Sports on Friday.

## Under-Strength Not Under-Confident: Allen On NZ v Pak

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Eight of their senior players are missing from the line-up due to IPL duties but young New Zealand batter Finn Allen is confident that the new-look side would still be a handful for hosts Pakistan when the two sides clash in a five-match T20 International series starting April 18.

Trent Boult, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner and Kane Williamson are all missing from the line-up for the away engagement due to the ongoing league.

"It is an awesome opportunity with players being away at the IPL, for young guys such as Tim Robinson, who have shown their talent and had a good Super Smash tournament here in New Zealand during the summer," Allen told PTI Videos in an interaction facilitated by Sony Network which has acquired broadcast rights



of New Zealand cricket's home engagements.

"...it is rewarding for those guys and allows them to get an opportunity at the top level to see where they stand against a formidable Pakistan side," he said.

All-rounder Michael Bracewell will be leading the side. He has not been seen in international cricket since March last year following a ruptured Achilles and a broken finger and returned to domestic engagements only recently.

"I guess with the upcoming series, we batted out with them at home not too long ago but it is on their turf now and we know from tours in the past, that they are pretty tough to beat at home," the 24-year-old said.

## Bilbao Hoping To End 40-Year Trophy Drought In Spanish Cup Final

Agencies

**SEVILLE:** Athletic Bilbao will look to put two disappointing Copa del Rey finals behind them and triumph at their third attempt in five seasons when they face Real Mallorca in Seville on Saturday to end a painful 40-year title drought.

After losing to Basque rivals Real Sociedad in 2020 and Barcelona in 2021, Bilbao have reached their 40th Spanish Cup final and are also bidding for a top-four LaLiga finish under the calm guidance of ex-Barca manager Ernesto Valverde. Unbeaten at home since early August, the Basque club are fourth in the table and in a rich vein of form which has cheered their fans set to invade the streets of the southern city.

More than 82,000 Basque supporters are expected to travel to Seville, half of them without tickets, for the match at a sold-out La Cartuja stadium which holds 60,000 spectators. Bilbao fans will outnumber Mallorca's four to one, according to Spanish



authorities who have set up a special operation with 1,500 officers to police just over 100,000 supporters expected, with hotels and restaurants fully booked for the weekend.

Mallorca are aiming

for only the second major trophy in their history after their Copa del Rey win in 2003. Bilbao last won silverware in 1984, when they beat Barcelona 1-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu to lift their 23rd Copa del

Rey, which is still the second most behind Barca with 31.

Bilbao are the fourth oldest Spanish club and among three never to be relegated, alongside Real Madrid and Barcelona.