

TODAY

Figah Hanfia 6:58 pm 4:43 am

Figah Jaffaria 7:12 pm | 4:43 am



KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Sunday 07 April 2024 | Srinagar | Vol: 27 | Issue: 84 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

Kashmir Outpaces Jammu In Corruption

70% of Cases Concentrated In Valley



Agencies

Srinagar: Cases of government employees accepting bribes remain rampant in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite efforts by the Anti-Corruption Bureau to curb corruption, 70 percent of cases of corruption by government employees registered since 2021 are from Kashmir with Jammu amounting to mere 30 percent.

Over the past ten years, numerous scandals have emerged, wreaking havoc on the careers of many young individuals. Among these, the Sub Inspector Recruitment and JE Recruitment scandals stand out. Also notable among these are the Roshni Scheme scam, the Rs 3,000 crore scandal involving the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, the distribution of four lakh fake gun licenses, and recruitment scams within the Police Sub Inspector and JE Civil departments.

However, a senior ACB official said that there is some relief in the fact that national investigating agencies like the CBI and ED are taking stringent action. "Over the last three years, the CBI has exposed numerous scams, registering more than 40 cases related to corruption. This marks a significant departure from the past, where only four such cases were registered in the preceding 70 years," the official divulged. Some of the most notorious scams include:

The Roshni Scam, which has seen the registration of 11 FIRs by the CBI, implicating prominent figures such as former minister Lal Singh's wife, former minister Abdul Ghani Kohli, and former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. The scam involves approximately Rs 25,000 crore and spans about 25 lakh kanals of land. | More on P6



Children attend Quran recitation classes during Ramazan in the interiors of Dal Lake. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Conversion Of Non-Local At Dargah **J&K Police Registers FIR**

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police have registered an FIR into an incident that took place on Jumat-ul-Vida, wherein a non-local reportedly converted to Islam, termed by the police FIR as a "forced conversion."

The video of the conversion incident went viral on social | More on P6

Mosques, Shrines In Kashmir Reverberate With Prayers On Shab-e-Qadr

Agencies

Srinagar: The auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Qadr, also known as 'Lailatul Qadr,' was observed with religious fervor and devotion across Jammu and Kashmir.

The air was filled with a sense of spiritual anticipation and devotion as devotees thronged mosques and shrines across Kashmir valley for prayers and recitation of the Quran as the Muslim fasting month of Ramzan is about to end.

Dargah Hazratbal and other mosques and shrines across the valley were brimming with devout Muslims, late night reports reaching Kashmir Observer said

The Night of Qadr can fall on any of the odd-numbered nights of the last ashra of Ramazan. While most people believe it is likely to fall on the 27th night, some also believe that it falls on the 23rd night.

Muslims across the world perform night-long prayers to celebrate the first revelation of the Holy Quran to Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh).

Preachers and religious scholars highlighted the teachings of Islam and various aspects of the life of the Prophet and urged Muslims to follow the same.

Speaking about the significance of Shab-e-Qadr, local resident of Hazratbal, Mohammad Umer | More on P6

Dry Weather Till April 10 In J&K: MeT

Agencies

Srinagar: Generally dry weather has been forecasted in Jammu and Kashmir till April 10 even as night temperature recorded a drop at most places barring Gulmarg and Jammu on Saturday.

A meteorological department official said that on April 11-12, weather is likely to be generally cloudy with possibility of light rain/snow at isolated places.

From April 13-15, he said, generally cloudy weather is expected with likelihood of intermittent light rain/snow at many places.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 4.5°C against 7.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.4°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for | More on P6

3.8 Magnitude Quake **Jolts Kishtwar** 3rd In Two Days

Agencies

Srinagar: An earthquake of magnitude 3.8 struck the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, the National Centre

for Seismology (NCS) said.
"Earthquake of Magnitude:3.8,
Occurred on 06-04-2024,
14:53:21 IST, Lat: 33.33 &
Long: 76.73, Depth: 5 Km Region: Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir," the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) posted on X

According to the National Centre for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at 2:53 pm at a depth of 5 km. Earlier on Friday, an earthquake of magnitude 3.2 struck the Kishtwar | More on P6

Muslim Daughters Will Bless Modi For Centuries: PM

KO Web Desk

Saharanpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said Muslim women will bless him for centuries to come as he has removed the "sword" of triple talaq hanging over them and their families. Addressing an election rally in Saharanpur, PM Modi reached out to the Muslim community, which has a sizeable population in the Lok Sabha constituencies of western Uttar Pradesh, saying real secularism is when all get the benefit of government welfare schemes irrespective of their caste and religion as has been seen during the BJP rule.

"The BJP government has ended the evil practice of (instant) triple talaq. We enacted a strong law in the interest of crores of Muslim sisters" and protected their families, he said.

Some are saying Muslim women



have benefitted but "they do not have a complete understanding. It is not that only Muslim women have benefitted" but also their parents and brothers who were always worried as to what would they do if their daughter or sister had to go through triple talaq, | More on P6

"INDIA Bloc Is About **Commission, NDA About Mission**"

rime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a blistering attack on the opposition INDIA bloc, saying their aim is to earn power while the BJP-led NDA is working with a "mission" to make India a developed nation. Addressing an election rally in Saharanpur, which goes to polls in the first phase of general elections on April 19, Modi said the opposition alliance was fighting just to stop the BJP from winning more than 370 seats. He cornered the main opposition party | More on P6

Electoral Bonds 'World's Biggest Scam': Rahul

n a scathing attack against the BJP-led Central government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the electoral bonds scheme was the "world's biggest scam" and claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "his people" in the election commission. The Supreme Court had struck down the electoral bonds scheme as unconstitutional in a ruling in February. Addressing a rally on the outskirts of Hyderabad a day after the release of Congress's

Prevented Further Bloodshed In J&K: BJP

Accuses Abdullahs, Muftis & Gandhis Of **Ruining J&K**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh who is also party in-charge of J&K, said here today that three prominent families the Abdullahs, Muftis, and Gandhis – have exploited and ruined the lives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for an extensive period.

Addressing the media during 44th party foundation day of the BJP here, Chugh said that the trio of families remain unashamed despite



the considerable bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir during their tenure, showing no mercy.

"The dirty politics of these three families no longer resonate with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have opted for the path of development, | More on P6

'Central Leadership **Candidates'**

ammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday said the party's central election committee Will Decide On will take a call on fielding candidates in the three parliamentary constituencies in Kashmir Valley. | More on P6

2022 SI Recruitment Scam In J&K

ED Attaches Properties Worth 1 Cr

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday attached movable properties in the form of bank balances to the tune of Rs one crore related to some of the accused, including mastermind Yatin Yadav, in the 2022 police sub-inspector scam in Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the examination in March 2022 but the selected list of 1,200 candidates was cancelled by the administration in July following allegations of



paper leak and malpractice. The CBI, which was handed over the case, filed its chargesheet against 33 accused, including Yadav from Haryana, in November 2022. Subsequently, the ED, Jammu, registered a case against the accused under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

"ED, Jammu has attached movable properties in the form of bank balances relating to accused Yatin Yadav, M/s New Global Fumigation Corporation, | More on P6



Here are our top Eid beauty tips and treatment recommendations to perfect your Eid look instantly.













KINDLY VISIT US AT OUR CLINIC.

GOGJI BAGH MAIN ROAD, VINTAGE PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, NEAR KARIM'S, **SRINAGAR**

Appointment based TIMINGS: MONDAY TO SATURDAY 3.30 to 6.30

For appointments Contact: 9797703533 Receptionist: +91 95969 87949 +917780-969328

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir KASHMIR OBSERVER O Srinagar | Sunday | 07-04-2024

Scholarships This Week

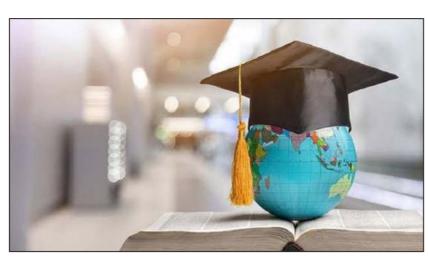
Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Goonj Setu Fellowship 2024-25

Description: Goonj Setu Fellowship 2024-25 is an opportunity offered by Goonj, a non-profit organisation to graduates aged between 21 to 30 years by 31st July 2024. This programme provides an opportunity to individuals to develop an understanding about themselves and the larger social ecosystem, the dynamics, innovations, and how small things can bring about significant changes.

Eligibility: Open to applicants between 21 and 30 years as on July 31, 2024, having graduated from a recognised institution by the same date. A basic understanding of English or Hindi and proficiency in Microsoft Office and other relevant computer tools are required.

- Prizes & Rewards: A fixed monthly fellowship stipend ranging between 20,000 and 22,000, depending on
- Last Date to Apply: 22-04-2024 Application mode: Online applica-
- tions only www.b4s.in/observer/



Scholarship Name 2: Vardhman

Description: An initiative of Vardhman Textiles Limited that aims to support the educational needs of diploma/ITI students.

They were further "surprised" to see

that two plant species originating from

Eligibility: Students studying in any year of diploma/ITI courses after Class 10 and/or 12 are eligible.

amination.

6,00,000 from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards:

Last Date to Apply: 20-04-2024 Application mode: Online applica-

www.b4s.in/observer/

Scholarship Name 3: The Cadence **Scholarship Program 2024-25**

Description: Cadence Design Systems Private Limited & Concern India Foundation invites applications from students pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate courses in the Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Pune, or Ahmedabad regions to continue their

Eligibility: Open to applicants residing and studying in Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Pune, or Ahmedabad (Indian nationals only) pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

- Prizes & Rewards: Financial support
- for key educational expenses Last Date to Apply: 30-05-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TCSP4

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K), Ph.0194-2477949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Migration Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Nusrat Nabi Paretnage: - Ghulam Nabi Sofi

Registration No: 30328-IC-2011 Migration Certificate no:- 54979 dated: 6/7/2017

Roll No/s:- 41270, 33199,26786

Session/ Year 2013, 2014, 2015 Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled No: F(Duplicate/) KU) **Assistant Controller**

of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice I have lost the number plate of my Motor Cycle bearing regd no: JK01AG3274 while travelling from Gumboora to Magam . 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.

2nd Owner: Zahid Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Gumboora Beerwah

bmg

First Owner: Umar Farooq

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my scooty bearing regd no: JKO4F- 7353 while travelling from Yaripor to Magam . Now I Have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

S/o Zahoor Ahmad Ganaie R/o Paripora Magam

bmg

Mohammad Igbal Ganaie

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank Account

Mohd Asadullah Rather S/o Mohd Oasim Rather

as Asadullah Rather while my correct name as per Aadhaar is Mohd Asadullah Rather 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 JK Bank Sumbal Sonawari within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ratherpora Mohalla Sarai Dangerpora

ازعدالت ایکزیکیچومجسٹریٹ بااجلاس تحصیلدار نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام عنوان: درخواست رئيس راجي ولدحبيب الله حجام ساكنة موضع و دُون مختصيل ناره بل ضلع بدُرگام بمراد اجرائی سوشل کاسٹ سرٹفیکیٹ بحق سائلہ اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معامله مندرج عنوان الصدرمين سائل نے ايک درواست بغرض حصول سوشل کاسٹ سرٹفيکيٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیرکاروائی ہےاس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہےجس ہے عیاں ہے کہسائل موضع وڈون میں کاسکونت دار ہے وارحجام زات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

حبيبي الله حجام ولدغلام امدحجام 72سال مزدوري والدسائل سكينه بيكم زوجه عبيب لله 165 كال العربيوكام والده سائل 31سال زرتعلیم سائل خود س کےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنہمہ نہیں ہے ساکل کے کنہ کی سالانہ آمد فی تقریباً ایک لاکھ دس ہزار رویے تک ہے۔ سرففیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہر اخبارسات دن کے اندراندرآ یخ عذریاعتراض ودالت هذاکودفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں _ بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عذر باعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

درخواست از جانب عاشق حسين شيخ ولدمحر قاسم شيخ ساكنه گوم احمد پور مختصيل پيڻن بار ہمولہ بمراد حصول D.O.B سرٹفکیٹ محمد عباس شیخ۔ . اشتهار بمراداً گابی خاص وعام معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر کے نبیت رپورٹ پنچایت سکڑی ونمبردارد ہدو چوکیدار علاقه وآشاميدم سے موصول ہوئی۔مطابق رپورٹ عملہ فیلڈ سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کے پیر مجرعاس شخ کی پیدائش مور خد2012-07-10 کو ہوئی ہے اور سائل مذکورنے تا حال کوئی بھی سند D.O.B حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔سائل مذکور ا پنے پسر کے قق میں D.O.B حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اس بارے میں بذر یعدا خباراشتہار مشتھر کیا جاتا ہے آگر کشی تحض کوکوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹفکیٹ ہوتو دفتر ھاڑ میں اندرسات یوم پیش کریں ۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد كوئي عذريااعتراض قابل قبول نہيں ہوگا۔

fko

SD

نائب تخصيلدار

Foundation Shakun Oswal Scholarship

Applicants must have secured at least 50% marks in their Class 10 and/or 12 ex-

The annual family income of the applicants must be less than or equal to

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO 01 OF R&B/Dooru/2024-25 /E-TENDERING/_EED/T-1/89-96 DATED:_05-04-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K , Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invited e-tenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	Providing of Assured minimum facilities to CAPF coys deployed in Govt Degree college and wherever required in constituency-41 for conducting of Lok Sabha Election 2024.(Stage contract)	8.34 (7.08+1.26)	600	16680	Entire election	DEE , CEE Class
2	Construction of strong for storage of EVM/VVPAT in view of Lok-Sabha Election 2024 (3 No) at Govt Gegree College Dooru	7.47 (6.34+1.13)	300	14940	07 days	DEE , CEE Class
3	Allied works wherever required in constituency-41 for conducting of Lok Sabha Election 2024.(stage contract)	9.98 (8.48+1.5)	600	19960	Entire election	DEE , CEE Class

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated			
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		05/04/2024		
_	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	05/04/2024	01:00 pm)	
2		To	11-04-2024	(04:00 PM)	
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	05/04/2024	(1:00 pm)	
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	11/04/2024	(04:00 PM)	
			12/04/2024	(11.00AM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.			

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH-0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date (NIT No and Name of work/ Item No. should be mentioned on Treasury Challan) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD/R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority). All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD/@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD/@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within olDays before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
 c) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
 d) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.
 e) The tenders shall be opened and allotted to 1st lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/application in Pearlies.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kir" on website www.jktenders.gov.in. to acquaint bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form. d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons

In a capariment will not be responsible for dealy in online submission due to any reasons.

Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) clearly mentioning name of work and NIT No and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract. 11. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to

create similar BQ manually.

12. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

14. In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be follood.

15. Instruction to bidder (ITB) All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.

a. All bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence Address.

b. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and Earnest Money/Bid Security.

All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration with renewal (Latest), Valid GSTIN No. & Valid PAN No. But the registration card issued by the PWD(R&B) should be renewed by the issuing Department i,e PWD(R&B).

d. All Bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate/Acknowledge. bload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate rn Copy "FORM GSTR-3B" Latest Quarter (OCT-DEC) /Latest Month (Feb)

It is mandatory for all the Contractors/ bidders that their Registration Cards are registered and renewed on JKPWDOMS portal otherwise their bid shall be rejected bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

16. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the stire of works.

17. All the documents relating to the bid shall be in English language.

18. All construction materials shall be supplied by the contractor at his own cost as per the prescribed specifications.

19. If the bidder does not quote for any item of the rate list / quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of overall total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

10. It is the bidder does not quote for any item of the rate list / quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of overall total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

11. All the entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of

overall total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

20. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document(s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

21. Being the emergency nature of work, the contractor should kept man and machinery ready 24x7 and should utilize the resources when and wherever asked with hi an hour failing which the work shall be taken in hand by department under the risk and cost of the contractor and the Security deposit shall be forfeited also the contractor be debared from further tendering in the department in future.

No. EED/T-1/89-96 DIPK-39/24 DATED: 06-04-2024 Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division DOORU

Press Trust Of India by "progressively covering more ground" and increasing number of species", the team led The melting of glaciers in a warming cliby the UK's Durham University said. mate exposes new ground that are then Native plant species apart, exotic colonised by invasive species, a new replants and invertebrates are also taking advantage of the newly-uncovered bare ground, the researchers found.

How Invasive Species Colonise New

Ground Exposed By Melting Glaciers

The study, conducted by UK-based researchers, looked at how living organisms colonise new ground laid bare by retreat-



ing glaciers, called "forelands", on the Brit-

ish Overseas Territories. Surveying glaciers on the island of

South Georgia in the Atlantic Ocean, the researchers found that invasive species -one of the main causes of the ongoing biodiversity crisis -- will likely spread as fast as the glaciers are retreating. They explained that similar to cold re-

gions around the world, climate change is melting many of the sub-Antarctic island's glaciers, exposing large areas of newly uncovered bare ground.

This exposure of bare ground is followed by the arrival of pioneer plants, which remain low on the ground to maximise sunlight intake and are known to grow quickly.

These plant species "colonise" the area

Mr. Showkat Ali Malla

Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Beigh

Mr. Akhter Ali Para

Mtr. Sakeena Bano

Mr. Mohd Amin Bhat

03.

05.

07.

09

temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere had colonised the sites faster than any other species.

The two species -- annual meadow grass and mouse-ear chickweed -- "are widespread on South Georgia and have successfully invaded most islands in the sub-Antarctic", the researchers wrote in their study, which has been published in the Neobiota journal.

The team also wrote that the temperate plant species are "more abundant in recently rather than in older deglaciated sites, indicating that these species are effective pioneers on glacial forelands along South Georgia's coast". The flowering specimens of the mouse-ear chickweed were found in areas deglaciated less than five years prior to the survey, they noted.

Office Of The Chairman Madina Public High School Nooripora, Pattan

In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing body dated 22-02-2024 elections were held for the Managing body through secret ballot on 05-03-2024. The following persons have been elected for the Managing body of Madina Public High School Nooripora, Pattan.

02. Mr. Altaf Hussain Rather

06. Mtr. Kaunsar Abdullah

08. Mr. Mohammad Magbool Wani

04. Mr. Zulfikar Ali Para

S.NO	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualifica- tion	Occupation	Designation
01	Mr. Showkat Ali Malla	Mohd Abdulla Malla	Magam	10+02	Pvt. Service	Chairman
02	Mr. Altaf Hussain Rather	Mohammad Yousuf Rather	Matipora	M. Sc B. Ed.	Principal of school	Member
03	Mr. Akhter Ali Para	Gh. Hussain Para	Ager Danger- pora	M.A., M. Ed.	Staff-Repre- sentative	Member
04	Mr. Zulfkar Ali	Mohammad Akbar Para	Nooripora	Matric	Business	Parent Member
05	Mtr. Sakeena Bano	Ghulam Mohidin Lone	Shippora	M.A., B. Ed.	Teacher	Member
06	Mtr. Kaunsar Abdullah	Mohammad Abdul- lah Dar	Magam	M. A.	Pvt. Service	Member
07	Mr. Ghulam Mo- hammad Beigh	Ghulam Hussain Beigh	Nooripora	11th pass	Business	Parent Member
08	Mr. Mohammad Magbool Wani	Gh. Ahmad Wani	Nooripora	B. A., B.Ed.	Pvt. Service	Member
09	Mr. Mohd Amin Bhat	Ali Mohd Bhat	Nooripora	10+02	Business	Member

Chairman

Major Shrines In Kashmir Revamped, Old Furnishings Replaced Ahead Of Eid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Eid ul Fitr, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has started replacing 'matting' in major shrines across Kashmir, sources said here.

They added matting has been changed at three prominent locations with plans underway to complete the process at four additional sites in the coming days.

Reliable sources in Jammu and Kashmir Wagf board informed that almost after three decades, J&K Waqf Board has commenced the replacement of "matting" of major shrines including Dar-gah in Hazratbal, Char-E-Shareef, Pathar Masjid Srinagar and Baba Reshi

shrine among others. A Board official said the decision to undertake this extensive renovation underscores the commit-

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Apni Party

President Syed Moham-

mad Altaf Bukhari Satur-

day called upon the J&K

administration to ensure

all necessary arrange-

ments are in place for the

upcoming auspicious oc-

said, "I urge the admin-

istration to ensure all

necessary arrangements,

including adequate avail-

ability of essential com-

modities in the markets,

and uninterrupted water

and power supply to con-

sumers, for the occasion

must remain vigilant

to ensure that essential

commodities such as ra-

tion, mutton, chicken,

vegetables, fruits, bak-

remain available in ad-

equate quantities in the

taf Bukhari also urged the

concerned departments

to ensure arrangements

for sanitation facilities.

especially at the places

Syed Mohammad Al-

ery products. LPG

markets," he added.

"The administration

of Eid-ul-Fitr."

In a statement, he

casion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Bukhari Urges Admin

Arrangements On Eid-ul-Fitr

To Ensure Adequate

ment to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the region.

"With Eid on the horizon, these efforts promise to offer worshippers and visitors a renewed spiritual experience as they visit these revered sites,' he added.

"We also have many more development projects in frame at shrines and at Dargah Hazratbal. We are also looking forward to curb dog menace, and stop them of entering Hazratbal premises and also many more development projects of the shrine are also in place," he said adding as off now the matting of all the three levels of Hazratbal has been changed, while the mating of outhouse has also been refurbished.

On special occasions like Eid, the Board is now mating for tents as well,

congregational

prayers are to be held. He

also emphasized facilitat-

ing hassle-free transport

service for the people on

ident of the Apni Party

emphasized the need for

conducting market inspec-

not be any complaints

about hoarding, black-

marketing, and profiteer-

ing in the markets. Shop-

keepers and traders found

ticularly key department

officials, should be acces-

sible to the public in case

they have any complaints

to bring to the notice of

hammad Altaf Bukhari

stressed the administra-

tion to ensure uninter-

rupted power and water

supply for the people dur-

Moreover, Syed Mo-

these officials."

ing the Eid days.

tions during these days.

Furthermore, the Pres-

He said, "There should

auspicious occasions.



As springtime arrives, people stroll across a daisy field at the Emporium Garden in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

Jamia Masjid Shut On Shab-e-Qadr, Mirwaiz Continues To Be Under House Arrest

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar was again closed for night long prayers on the eve of Shab-e-Qadr, leaving thousands of faithful disappointed on Saturday.

Mirwaiz Umer, the head priest of Kashmir, was placed under house arrest for the second day in a row while the gates of the central mosque, the site of a significant gathering on Shab-e-Qadr, were locked to worshippers.

A Spokesman of the mosque's governing body, Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, in a statement said, the gates of the grand mosque were

A Spokesman of the mosque's governing body, Anjuman Augaf Jamia Masjid, in a statement said, the gates of the grand mosque were locked by the police as soon as the (Fajr) morning prayers were offered.

locked by the police as soon as the (Fajr) morning prayers were offered.

The governing body, he said, was informed by the police that Taraweeh or nightlong prayers on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Qadr will not be allowed

Anjuman Augaf expressed disappointment over the decision of the authorities for not allowing nightlong prayers and Taraweeh, calling it a repressive measure.

It may be in place to mention Central Jamia Masjid located in the Nowhatta area of the old city, was locked by the authorities on Jumat-ul-Vida, the day signifying the conclusion of the holy month of Ramazan.

Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, the chief cleric of Kashmir, was reportedly placed under house arrest and was thus unable to deliver the Jumat-ul-Vida Sermon at the revered mosque.

DC Srinagar Greets People On Shab-e-Qadr

Observer News Service

failing to maintain the quality of food items, sell-Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner ing expired products, or (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Udnot displaying rate lists Din Bhat has felicitated people on of essential commodities the auspicious occasion of Shabshould be dealt with ace-Qadr. also known as Lylat-ulcording to the law. Also, Qadr, the holy night when people the administration, parcongregate to pray to Almighty Allah to seek his forgiveness.

DC Srinagar in his message, stated that the holy night in which Almighty Allah gives us an opportunity to seek His mercy and blessings

Dr. Bilal prayed for better-

ment of the people and hoped that the holy night would bring Allah's blessings. He also prayed that the auspicious occasion would strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood and be a harbinger of peace and prosperity.

Office Of The Chairman Madina Public School Ahmadpora, Pattan.

In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing body dated 15-02-2024 elections were held for the Managing body through secret ballot on 01-03-2024. The following persons have been elected for the Managing body of Madina Public School Ahmadpora, Pattan.

01. Mr. Gh. Hassan Rather 03. Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Dar 05 Mr. Ghulam, Mohammad Joo 07. Mtr. Sadaf Sakeena

02. Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat Mr. Gh. Hassan Rather 06. Sajad Hyer Wani

Parentage Residence Qualification Profession Designation Ali Mohammad Rather Ab. Aziz Bhat Mr. Gh. Hassan Rather 10+02 M.A. B.Ed Pvt. Service Chairman Principal Member Matipora Mr. Favaz Ahmad Bhat Agrl Kalan Tantraypora BCA Mr. Aljaz Ahmad Dar Mohammad Qaslm Dar Staff-Representative Ghulam, Hassan Rather Mohd Abdulla Rather Tantraypora Parent Shop Keeper Member OS Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Joo Ali Mohammad Joo P.U.C Tantraypora Shop Keeper | Parent Member Mr. Saiad Hyder Wan! Ghulam Mohammad Wani 10+02 Teacher Goom- Ah-Member madpora Mtr. Sadaf Sakeena Ali Mohammad Malik Goom- Ah-M.A., B.Ed. Pvt Service

Chairman

PDP Nominates **Umar Dar As Organizational Secretary For Srinagar**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday nominated Umar Dar as Organizational Secretary for district Srinagar. This was disclosed

by the party today and best wishes to Dar for the assignment. The entire district

unit of PDP and constituency in-charge Lal

Chowk Zuhaib Yusuf Mir congratulated Dar for being nominated as the party's Organizational Secretary.

Umar Dar has earlier worked as district Secretary for Youth and had an overwhelming contribution to enhance the party structure in Srinagar.

Meanwhile Dar thanked the party for appointing him as organizational Secretary for Srinagar district.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son's mothers name wrongly mentioned in school records as Syed Masrat Bukhari instead of Masrat Mohi ud Din. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may Contact Principal Hanfia ModelHr Sec School Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

SYED SHOWKAT HUSSAIN BUKHARI F/O SYED HUJATULLAH BUKHARI R/O KREERI

J&K Services Selection Board No:JKSSB-COE0EXAM/10/2022-04(7055504) DIPK-42/24

to this notice.

detailed notice.

Dated:06.04.2024

kri

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

J&K Services Selection Board

CPO Chowk Panjthirthi, Jammu/ZamZamComplex, Rambagh, Srinagar

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Sub: Advance Notice for conduct of Examinations to various Posts.

candidates that the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection

Board(JKSSB) is going to conduct written test for various posts

tentatively as per the details given in Annexure "A", "B" and "C"

candidates. The exact dates along-with the schedule of down-

loading of Admit Cards shall be notified separately in due course

This is an Advance Notice for the information of concerned

The candidates are advised to visit www.jkssb.nic.in for the

Reyaz Ahmed Malik (JKAS)

Controllerof Examinations

It is hereby notified for the information of aspirants/



Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited **Estates Department** Zonal Office Srinagar Website: www.jkbank.com

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from owners of premises for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing its Branch at Brein, Nishat, Srinagar.

Carpet Area of Premises	Location
Approximately 1500-2500 Sft	In the vicinity of erstwhile Branch Brein, Nishat, Srinagar.

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers at Estates Dept Zonal Office Srinagar, M.A Road Srinagar by or before **28-04-2024**.

The tender documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office mentioned above during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from

The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof

Note: Only those parties having valid commercial permis-

sion of the offered premises need to apply.

Ref: jkb/zo sgr/Est/24-03 Dated: 03-04-2024

Zonal Head

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info@jkbmail.com; W : www.jkbank.com

dated: 06-04-2024

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-26668
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 4:45 **ZUHR** 12:34 ASR 5:07 Magrib 6:58 ISHA 8:22

This Day In History

- 1946 Syria's independence from France is officially recognised.
- 1953 1st west-to-east jet transatlantic nonstop
- 1954 US President Dwight D. Eisenhower in news conference is first to voice fear of a "dominoeffect" of communism in Indo-China
 - 1956 Spain relinquishes her protectorate in Morocco
- 1964 IBM announces the System/360.
- 1967 Israeli Syrian border fights
- 1969 Supreme Court strikes down laws prohibiting private possession of obscene material
- 1978 US President Jimmy Carter defers production of neutron bomb 1982 - Iran minister of Foreign affairs Ghotbzadeh
- arrested
- 1983 Oldest human skeleton, aged 80,000 years, discovered in Egypt
- 1983 STS-6 specialist Story Musgrave & Don Peterson 1st STS spacewalk 1988 - Russia announces it will withdraw its
- troops from Afghanistan 1996 - Sri Lanka's Sanath Javasuriva hits fastest
- ODI fifty off 17 balls v Pakistan, Singapore 1996 - Pakistan beat Sri Lanka to win Singer Cup
- 1999 The World Trade Organisation rules in favor of the United States in its long-running trade dispute with the European Union over bananas
- 2001 Mars Odyssey is launched

From KO Archives

Blazing Start To Historic Bus

Observer News Service

RINAGAR - With barely hours left for the Muzaffar-abad bag to roll and despite unprecedented security measures, militants attacked the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), where the passengers have been lodged under heavy armed guard. The front building of the complex was on fire within

minutes of the initial shots ringing out at around 3:45 this afternoon. A union of four militant groups that have issued threats

against the bus service has claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place hardly 200 yards away from the venue the prime minister will flag off the bus service from.

An officer of the security forces said that militants had entered the building with guns blazing and later set it on fire. Seven employees, including a woman, were injured in the heavy firing while the building which houses several government offices was being evacuated. Security officers said that Muzaffarabad-bound passen-

gers were safe as they had been lodged in a different wing of the complex. They put the number of attackers at two and said the

one of them was killed soon after the attack and the other in the subsequent action by security forces. Evacuation of the civilians from the building was carried out swiftly by the police as fire tenders went into action to control the blaze that spread from the attic to the lower floor within no time.

Reports said that the militants attacked from the main gate opening indiscriminate fire as they stormed into the complex.

The state police, BSF and CRPF immediately surrounded the site and launched the operation against the militants. Among the injured were Roushan Ara of Hyderpora, Va-

Ahmad Pandith of Tangmarg, Basheer Ahmad of Wanabal Records or nearly score of government offices housed in the building have been lost in the fire. The losses in terms of property are expected to run into crores.

Even though the fire tenders and firemen desperately fought the flames, the building mainly constructed of timber was reduced to a burning hulk.

The building also housed an office of the State Road Transport Corporation, which has to operate the Indian sector of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service. The other offices that were located in the building, in-

clude the branches of Jammu and Kashmir Bank and the

Stale Bank or India: an office of Tourism Development Corporation, Indian Airlines, post office, offices of fisheries and wild life departments, and the tourist police office.
(Kashmir Observer, 07 April, 2005)

he Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh grabbed headlines in the last few weeks over Chinese

protestation against PM Modi's

visit to the state on March 11 and again

on March 25 in response to Indian Ex-

ternal Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

rebuffing Beijing's claims as ludicrous.

Following closely on this recent tussle,

Beijing on March 28 commemorated the 'Democratic Reform Day' in Xi-

zang (Mandarin term for Tibet) which

marked the 65th anniversary of Tibet's

'liberation from earlier feudal serfdom'.

What is of significance is that the above

mentioned celebrations were held in the

newly built Xiaokang (well-off) villages

constructed along the borders of India

and Bhutan. This action, in the light of

recent events including the India-China

border stand-off since 2020 and negotia-

tions over settling the Sino- Bhutanese

boundary (with implications for India),

can be seen as a grey zone warfare tactic

the methods of indirect warfare or com-

petition between nation states which lie

in the area between peace and full-scale

war. It includes a vast array of option

such as economic coercion, blockade

of vital supplies, cyberwarfare, disin-

formation, and narrative building and

influencing campaigns. China is no

stranger to such warfare given its pre-

eminence in ancient Sinic military

treatises such as The Art of War and the

application of such tactics against India

Grey zone warfare broadly refers to

by Beijing.

and Taiwan.

'Democratic Reform Day'

New Chinese Gray Zone Warfare Against India

ANURAAG KHAUND



With respect to the Chinese celebrations above, the first aspect to note is the location i.e. the Xiaokang villages. These villages, numbering around 628, have been built along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) straddling the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and the Indian territories of Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh under the ostensible purpose of poverty alleviation and development in border areas; however, it is alleged that they are dual-use in nature and has been built with the purpose of stationing PLA troops and equipment. In addition to the LAC, these villages have also been constructed along the disputed Sino-Bhutan boundary in the backdrop of negotiations between Beijing and Thimphu. More worrying for India is the fact that such villages have also cropped up in the strategically sensitive Doklam tri-junction which has the potential implications for the Siliguri Corridor connecting the Indian mainland to its North-Eastern region. It is also to be underlined that Doklam is one of the main areas of dispute between Bhutan and China and of strategic importance for India which saw a tense 73 days standoff between New Delhi and Beijing in 2017.

In terms of grey zone warfare, the celebrations in the villages situated along the above disputed areas were meant to substantiate China's claims over the latter and in a way, normalise the occupancy of the same. Moreover, the celebration of the Democratic Reform Day provides an occasion for Beijing to highlight the 'development and prosperity' of these villages and thereby

buttress its claims towards the seemingly non-military character and aims of the settlements. At the same time, the timing of the celebrations immediately following the Chinese response to Indian to the rebuttal on Arunachal Pradesh are also aimed at reinforcing and reiterating Beijing's claim over the region which it refers to as Zangnan or southern Tibet. In addition, the emphasis on 'continuous, rapid development' of the border as well as announcement of 'promoting frontier prosperity, reinforcing border defence, border security, and the happiness of border residents' can be seen as an apparent jibe aimed at recent Indian attempts at strengthening border infrastructure along the LAC including recently inaugurated all-weather Sela Tunnel reaching the strategic region of Tawang which drew the Chinese uneasiness on 9 March. Similar messages have also been conveyed through celebrations in villages to Bhutan and indirectly to India by holding events in villages at the Yadong county situated in the tri-junction. What should India do?

Along with the current efforts at addressing the infrastructure deficit along the border, India should learn and adopt

similar tactics of grey zone warfare. For starters, there should be frequent visits by the Prime Minister and other Central Ministers to Tawang a region coveted by China both for its strategic location as well as its importance in Tibetan Buddhism. Such regular visits would help in reinforcing the already evident Indian sovereignty over not just Tawang, but the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh. This would also serve as a corrective to the earlier administration's stance of not undertaking frequent high-profile visits to Tawang during official tours of the state of Arunachal Pradesh due to apprehension over Chinese actions. Along with this, such high-level delegation including the PM should actively take part in the Statehood Day celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh on 20th February every year to further buttress the above action. Along with the implementation of the Vibrant Village Programme aimed at bolstering the development of remote villages along the LAC, in a way similar to the Chinese celebrations, India too should regularly highlight the achievements and development of these areas to not only stem the migration from these areas but also counter Chinese attempts at psychological warfare.

On the diplomatic front, India should use its current international weight and multiple partnerships to influence its partners to issue statements similar to the US reiterating Indian sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh while condemning baseless Chinese irridentist claims. In this regard, New Delhi can reach out to countries like Philippines whose sovereignty claims in the South China Sea (SCS) has been supported by India including calls to adhere to the 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the same. Similarly, India can seek out other partners such as Japan and Vietnam to do the same in exchange for stronger support to their claims in the SCS and other

Narrative constitutes a vital stratagem of grey zone warfare which China has never shied away from using. In response to its narrative of historical control over Xizang (Tibet) since time immemorial, India should invest its cultural resources in developing its own narrative highlighting the historical, religious and cultural links between Tibet and the Indian subcontinent as well as recognising the existence of separate Tibetan kingdom and culture militarily

occupied and annexed by the People's Republic of China in 1950. In addition, as a response to the commemoration of 28 March, the Government of India can participate in the official events organised by the Tibetan Government in Exile such as the annual anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising of 1959 on 10 March and unofficial presence during Tibetan Independence Day celebrations on 13 February, thereby highlighting the violent history of the Chinese occupation often brushed under the carpet. Moreover, the proposal of granting Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama should also be considered along with allowing the latter to make frequent visits to the historic Tawang monastery an important seat of Tibetan Buddhism which would also bolster the legacy and connection of India with the same. At the same time, as a rebuff to the usage of terms like Xizang and Zangnan, India should use the term Tibet to refer to the region and should even skilfully utilize the term 'Indo-Tibetan border' to refer to the LAC in unofficial responses as done by certain quarters of the government in 2020. Consideration should also be given to counter-measures such as re-naming places in Tibet as a signal of stronger Indian assertiveness.

With regard to Bhutan, while India has increased its outreach and level of support to the country, New Delhi also should also strive to increase the level of its commitment and re-assurance to backing Bhutan's claims including supporting Thimphu's voice in the international fora. Such strong support would not only help India's own strategic concerns but also raise its standing in its near and extended neighbourhood as a trusted and reliable partner vis-a vis China. New Delhi should especially try to channelise robust assistance towards aiding Bhutan in developing its own border areas with China and its military capabilities. Such efforts would perhaps encourage Thimphu to emulate similar grey zone tactics as mentioned above on its own accord.

As outlined by Dr S Jaishankar in his book Why Bharat Matters the crux of the positive development of the Sino-Indian ties lie in 'three mutuals- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests'. A cursory glance at the history of the ties since 1950 will show that while New Delhi has adhered to the three 'mutuals', Beijing has and continues to violate them till date. Hence, it is time, to employ the same tactics from China's own playbook to make Beijing realise that 'it would get as hard as it gives' which should hopefully make it curtail its ambitions and exhibit responsible behaviour.

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

Anuraag Khaund is pursuing PhD in International Politics (IP), School of International Studies (SIS), Central University of Gujarat (CUG)

Malice of 'Mullah' Bashing

Amir Suhail Wani

video has been making rounds on Facebook and people have been indiscriminately sharing and commenting upon it. The video is in itself the trailing of a growing paradigm of thought which insists upon ascribing all evils, the causes of decadence and the pervasive presence of all sorts in a Muslim society to Mullahs, Maulanas, religious clerics and the preachers in general. A consensus seems to have been built around the narrative that religious figures or Mullahs, as they are heuristically called, are intrinsically evil, retrograde, mischief makers and embodiments of evil. To worsen the situation and to win the argument, irrespective of truthfulness and consequences, Sufis/Mystics/Sages have been portrayed as standing parallel and in opposition to Mullahs and their openmindedness, liberating praxis, love for and hatred for none have been posited as the ultimate antithesis to the theory and practice of Mullahs. This has served the dual purpose of deepening fault lines between the mystic and Mullah and has been a tremendously successful tactic to malign and mischaracterize Mullahs and to create among masses the image that is repugnant, disrespectful and demeaning. It is intended here to look at the contours and consequences of this mischaracterisation, its deviation from facts, the covert intentions behind the ploy and the impact it has on religious and spiritual consciousness in general.

Every facet of life derives its legitimacy and rulings from the men of expertise and specialisation who dedicate their

lives to the particular field and thereby qualify themselves to form an opinion or take the custodianship of that particular enterprise of human life. A layman is not supposed to propose a scientific theory or disagree with a particular scientific view on the mere pretext of his "feeling" for he lacks the necessary training and requisite qualification to make any judgements to this effect. This respect for specialisation is maintained everywhere except in matters of religious import where every one of us takes liberties to express him/herself on the issues of utmost complicity and sensitivity.

It has happened, unfortunately, that each one of us feels entitled to the religious opinion – an uninformed opinion without giving a prior thought to our abilities in these matters and without caring an iota about the consequences of these ill formed opinions. This trend was set in motion long ago, when Muslims were reeling under colonial pressure and every attempt was made by the colonisers to deface and efface the identity of Muslims and for the fact that Mullahs were the foremost symbols of Islam, they were indiscriminately maligned and presented in bad colours. These are not the conspiracy theories but hard historical facts which authors like Edward Saeed et Al have well commented upon and traced the pedigree of this line of thinking. Religion in general and the religion of Islam in particular was antidote to all placebos of progress and Modernity West was peddling across the globe. Leaving apart if the progress has been real or hallucinatory, but it is an agreed upon fact that the West mobilised its men and machinery to present the image of religious scholars in worst terms possible and made words like Mullahs, Maulvis, Maulanas synonymous to regress, backwardness, inhumanity and all colours of evil. Mullahs were, as history shows, at the forefront of rebellion against the imperial powers and no wonder that they faced a strong backlash and were so presented in their societies that the word itself became abusive and derogatory. A more profound historical reason is to be traced to the spread of Islam beyond the boundaries of Arabia. In an attempt to fight and deter the spread of Islam, cultures like Persia and India created a dichotomy of Rind O Zahid, Shaikh O Salik, Sufi O Mulla and many other binaries. In this binary, an attempt was made to posit Zahid/Shaikh/ Mulla with artificiality, narrow mindedness and anti-intellectual tendencies and to associate Rind/Salik/Sufi with progression, enlightenment, universalism, inclusion and all elements of human nature. This approach, to say the least, is both historically falsifiable and factually incorrect. Let us recall Maulana Rumi, Imam Ghazali, Mohiuddin Ibn Arabi, Mulla Jami, Mulla Sadra and countless others. These are the names Muslim modernity and western scholarship have come to take special interest in and have come to be identified as the icons of Progress, Enlightenment, Universal message of salvation and as the exemplars of highest manifestation of religion. But how many of us know or bother to know that all these were scholars in the traditional sense of the word and were actually what we now derogatorily label as Mullahs. They were all taught and brought up in traditional and

orthodox schools of learning and had a strong and rigorous training in the sciences of Shariah. It is left to the judgement of the reader to judge if this upbringing and training played a positive or negative role in making them what they became and it makes us rethink if the category of Mullah is truly so bad as to demonise and derange it?

There is another subtle and deeper aspect of the problem which, as raised in the above quoted video, needs immediate response. Time and again it has been said that Mullahs represent the harsher, legalistic and "wrathful" aspect of God as opposed to their Sufi compatriots, who represent mercy, grace, forgiveness and the "Jamaali" aspect of divine. What this line of thinking and these people demand in effect is that there shall be no norms of behaviour, no laws of ethics and morality, no bounds on human behaviour in any way conceivable. But what religion shall it be that does not discourage evil and promote virtue, define the contours of acceptable and normal paradigms and patterns of behaviour, draw a line of distinction between the good and the evil and forewarn people of the consequences thereof. It is said that the Mullahs emphasise the "Jalaali" or the majestic aspect of God and thereby generate fear and repulsion in the hearts and minds of people. But is not jalaal an aspect of divinity and if it is so, on what grounds shall it be discounted and seen in a negative framework and haven't Sufis said that divine wrath is actually a different manifestation of divine mercy.

What is wrong if Mullahs remind us of divine laws and the consequences of the violations thereof, the laws and regu-

lations which are enshrined in the scripture itself? And divine wrath is not what people usually make out of it. It is not a bloodthirsty and revengeful God spying upon his creatures with a whip in his hand. It is not a dictator who is annoyed and irked at the disobedience of his orders. It is nothing like that and what it is in reality has been well explicated by our scholars and Sufis in their valuable texts. And what do these people mean (as has been well articulated in the link given above) that Mullahs push people away from God, whereas Ibn I Arabi, the greatest of the sufi theoreticians asked surprisingly "Is there anything, anywhere away from God"? Even when we think, by our finite human minds that this and that is farther and away from God, we are actually ignoring the basic ontological principle that the Quran says " I am, where you are", also "Wherever you turn, there is the Face of God". So Mullahs and Maulvis do not push anyone away from God, they wake us to the aspects of Divine which compensate for and equilibrate the liberty and infinite mercy preached by sufis, which if allowed to run its course freely, can usurp the normative order of the world. Human and Muslim well being lies not in positing Mullah and sufi against one another, but to look at them as complimentary and to benefit from the sobriety of Mullah and the intoxication of Sufi, for partialities are always incomplete and the whole includes all opposites in its perfection.

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

Aitikaaf

A Sacred Journey Towards Spiritual Refinement and Divine Grace

Aubaid Akhoon

In the serene ambiance of the last ten days of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide immerse themselves in an ancient and deeply spiritual practice known as Aitikaaf. This period of seclusion and intense devotion offers a unique opportunity for believers to strengthen their faith, seek divine forgiveness, and reconnect with their Creator away from the distractions of daily life.

"The one who secludes himself for worship in the mosque during Ramadan with sincere faith and hope for a reward from Allah, all of his previous sins will be forgiven."—Sahih Bukhari

Origins and Significance of AitikaafAitikaaf is highly recommend-

ed, during the last ten days of Ramadan, which are considered the most blessed and spiritually charged days of the month. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to observe Aitikaaf every year during the last ten days of Ramadan, and it is recommended for Muslims to follow beloved Prophet's Sunnah (way of life).

Aitikaaf, rooted in the Islamic tradition, finds its significance in both the Quran and Hadith. It is a time-honored spiritual retreat aimed at fostering a closer relationship with Allah through dedicated worship, contemplation, and the recitation of the Quran. This practice exemplifies the profound commitment to faith and the pursuit of spiritual purity.

The Essence of Aitikaaf

At its core, Aitikaaf is more than just physical seclusion; it is a journey of the heart and soul towards divine presence. By withdrawing from the chaos of worldly engagements, believers embark on a spiritual voyage to purify their hearts, reflect on their lives, and seek the mercy and blessings of Allah. It is an opportunity to transcend earthly desires and attain a state of peace and contentment.

Enhanced Spiritual Connection

Aitikaaf serves as a conduit for deepening one's connection with Allah. In the tranquility of the mosque, away from worldly disand compassion of Allah towards His servants.

The Social and Community Aspect of Aitikaaf

While Aitikaaf is a personal journey, it also reinforces the sense of community and brotherhood among Muslims. Observing Aitikaaf together in a mosque creates a powerful sense of unity and shared purpose, as all participants are bound by their common goal of seeking Allah's favor.

kaaf is upheld without causing undue hardship.

A Journey of Spiritual Renewal

Aitikaaf remains a profound spiritual practice that offers Muslims a pathway to divine closeness, introspection, and spiritual growth. It is a testament to the timeless nature of Islamic worship practices and their relevance in guiding the faithful towards moral and spiritual excellence. As we observe



tractions, worshippers can engage in sincere supplication, meditate on the meanings of the Quran, and perform additional prayers. This uninterrupted devotion allows for a profound spiritual awakening and reinvigoration of faith.

A Means of Divine Forgiveness

One of the most cherished outcomes of Aitikaaf is the opportunity for forgiveness. The Hadiths promise immense rewards for those who dedicate these days to worship with pure intentions, highlighting that even previous sins can be forgiven. This prospect of spiritual cleansing and renewal underscores the mercy

It is a reminder of the Ummah's collective spiritual aspirations and the strength found in unity.

Updated Guidelines and Considerations

In observing Aitikaaf, it is essential to approach with sincerity and adhere to its traditional practices while remaining open to contemporary interpretations that respect the essence of this spiritual retreat. Participants should ensure that their seclusion does not hinder their responsibilities towards their families and communities. It's crucial to maintain a balance, ensuring that the spirit of Aiti-

Aitikaaf, let us embrace the opportunity to renew our faith, purify our hearts, and contribute positively to our communities, holding firm to the rope of Allah.

By embracing the spirit and practice of Aitikaaf, we not only follow in the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) but also partake in a transformative experience that elevates our spirituality and brings us closer to achieving inner peace and divine favor.

The author is a educational columnist, motivational speaker

Shab-e-Qadr: The Night of Decree in Islam



Waris Nissar

hab-e-Qadr, also known as the Night of Decree or Power, holds immense significance in Islam. It is believed to be the night when the Quran was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by Allah through the Angel Gabriel. This sacred night falls within the last ten days of Ramadan, with particular emphasis on the odd-numbered nights, especially the 27th night. Muslims around the world observe this night with intense devotion, prayer, and seeking forgiveness.

Historical Context

The importance of Shab-e-Qadr is emphasized in the Quran itself, where it is described as "better than a thousand months" (Surah Al-Qadr, 97:3). This indicates the extraordinary value and blessings associated with this night. According to Islamic tradition, the exact date of Shab-e-Qadr was intentionally concealed to encourage believers to seek it earnestly during the last ten nights of Ramadan.

Spiritual Significance

Shab-e-Qadr is a time for Muslims to engage in various acts of worship, seeking spiritual closeness to Allah and seeking forgiveness for past sins. It is believed that during this night, angels descend to the earth, bringing blessings and mercy. Muslims spend the night in prayer, recitation of the Quran, supplication (dua), and reflection. It is considered an opportunity for

believers to purify their hearts and strengthen their connection with Allah.

Observance and Rituals

Muslims observe Shab-e-Qadr with special prayers known as Taraweeh, which are performed in congregation at mosques. Many Muslims also engage in I'tikaf, a spiritual retreat where they seclude themselves in the mosque for the last ten days of Ramadan, focusing solely on worship and contemplation. Additionally, charitable acts and acts of kindness are encouraged during this blessed night.

Seeking Laylat al-Qadr

While the 27th night of Ramadan is commonly associated with Shabe-Qadr, Islamic tradition holds that it could fall on any of the odd-numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. Therefore, Muslims are encouraged to seek Laylat al-Qadr fervently throughout this period, dedicating themselves to worship and supplication.

Conclusio

Shab-e-Qadr holds immense spiritual significance in Islam, representing a night of divine mercy, forgiveness, and blessings. Muslims around the world observe this sacred occasion with devotion and sincerity, seeking spiritual elevation and closeness to Allah. Through prayers, recitation of the Quran, and acts of charity, believers strive to make the most of this auspicious night, hoping to attain its countless blessings and rewards.

What Is Zakat al-Fitr, the Special Ramadan Zakat?

Zakat Foundation

akat al-Fitr, or the Zakat of Breaking the Fast of Ramadan, is the special obligatory alms paid by all Muslims at the end of the Ramadan fasting month.

It is also called Sadaqat al-Fitr, "the Charity of Breaking the Fast" of Ramadan, and Zakat al-Fitrah, the Alms of Human Nature, or the Human Creation, because it is a mandatory charity due on every Muslim at the end of Ramadan, regardless of age or gender.

Its obligatory payment is termed fitrah, derived from the Arabic term fitr, a word which signifies the "nature" upon which God created the human being, related also to the Arabic word for "fast-breaking" (iftar), eating after a period of abstention from this "natural" and defining human activity.

Zakat al-Fitr's Background

Zakat al-Fitr comes into existence as an obligatory alms in Sha'ban, the eighth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, in 2H, or the second year of the Hijrah.

(The Arabic word hijrah (sometimes represented as Heigra or Hiira in English) means "migration." or "emigration." It denotes the migration of the Prophet, on him be peace, and his followers away from the persecution of the idolaters of Arabia's central trade and holy city of Makkah. From there, they went north to the agrarian city of Yathrib, which then became known as Al-Madinah Al-Nabi, or the City of the Prophet, shortened to simply The City, or Al-Madinah. The Muslim hiiri calendar, or Hjrah year, begins with that migration.)

The obligation to pay the alms of Zakat al-Fitr at Ramadan's end coincides with God's revealed commandment in 2H for Muslims to memorialize the beginning of the Quran's revelation to the Prophet Muhammad, on him be peace, 15 years before. It was revealed in the month of Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic lunar year, by reestablishing a primordial worship form, fasting (from dawn to sunset), for the entire month whenever its new crescent appears.

O you who believe! Fasting is

prescribed for you as it has been prescribed for those who have believed before you, so you may be ever God-fearing.

It is for a specified number of days. ... It was the month of Ramadan in which the Quran was first sent down as guidance for all people, having in it clear proofs of divine guidance and the criterion for right and wrong. So whoever among you bears witness to the month shall then fast it. (Surat al-Baqarah, 2:183-85)

Zakat al-Fitr differs from other kinds of alms or charity in that it is imposed on the individual Muslim and not on his or her measures of wealth or earnings.

Muslims?

The Prophet, on him be peace, specifically called the Ramadan Fast-Breaking Alms "Zakat," and the Quran says:

And duly establish the Salah-Prayer and give the Zakat-Charity. (Surat al-Baqarah, 2:110 and Surat al-Nisa', 4:77)

The Companions of the Prophet on him be peace report:

et, on him be peace, report:
The Messenger of Allah, God
bless him and grant him peace,
"imposed" the Zakat of FastBreaking [at the close of Ramadan] at the measure of one sa' (4
double-handfuls) of dates or one
sa' of barley, on every Muslim,
free or bondsman, male or female.

The vast majority of scholars recognize this wording as enjoining an "obligatory" alms levy. Similar prophetic reports use other language that directly "commanded" every Muslim to give a required alms payment at the conclusion of Ramadan.

There is a technical difference between the four major schools of Islamic Law only in that Hanafis distinguish the "obligatory" as two categories: an explicit prescription of Revelation that relates to the soundness of one's belief they term fard, obligatory, and non-explicit practical instructions they call wajib, mandatory.

So all schools hold Zakat al-Fitr as religiously compulsory, carrying a strength of legal ruling similar to scholarly consensus, or ijma'.

What is the Purpose of Zakat al-Fitr?

Zakat al-Fitr has two primary purposes, one spiritual for the in-

dividual worshiper and the other communal. The Spiritual Function of Zakat al-Fitr

As a worship form, fasting constitutes, if you will, a "spiritual technology" that God has taught the human being. Its purpose is to help someone unfetter his or her soul for an interim from the worldly appetites that preoccupy it, to free its heavenly nature somewhat from its clay confines so that it may draw itself nearer in consciousness to God. This, as we've just seen, the Quran itself tells us: So that you may be ever God-fearing.

God-fearing.
Practically speaking, the Arabic word that "God-fearing" translates is the unique religious term taqwa, meaning, in its essence, to keep mindful of God so that one becomes habituated to doing what He commands and resolute in holding back from what He forbids.

back from what He forbids. As such, the perfection of fasting, the worship rite, demands of one more than merely depriving his or her body of drink, food and passionate fulfillment. It aims to train the human spirit to master the physical nature that frames it. So fasting also requires us to hold our tongues from unseemly speech (In the past, fasting meant to some no speech at all. See Mary, mother of Jesus, peace on him: Indeed, I have vowed a fast to the All-Merciful. Thus, I shall not speak today to any human being (Surat Maryam, 19:26)); and to keep our hands from bad action; as well as to deny our hearts impure thought.

This is fasting in its purity — an ideal, perhaps, no human being can attain. Zakat al-Fitr, the obligatory alms at the breaking of Ramadan's month-long fast cleanses our fast from the adulterations we have accumulated in the course of observing it.

The Communal Function of Zakat al-Fitr

Ramadan's fast concludes with one of the two great celebrations in the Muslim year, Eid al-Fitr, the Commemoration of Fast-Breaking.

On this day of joyful prayer and gathering (may Allah return it to us soon), every Muslim in every locality is to receive it with an obligatory charity, communal Salah-Prayer, and a feast.

Zakat al-Fitr infuses the fasting

and believing poor with the food resources to whole-heartedly glorify God, celebrate the Eid Prayer, and share the day's merriment and delight with their children and families. The Prophet, on him be peace, famously said in this regard: "Gratify [the poor] on this day" (Al-Shawkani, Nayl Al-Awara)

Who Must Pay Zakat al-Fitr?

Every Muslim: A number of the Prophet's Companions, God be pleased with them — particularly some associated with preserving and conveying the statements of the Prophet, on him be peace, like Abu Hurayrah and Ibn 'Umar — note that Zakat al-Fitr is a universal Muslim obligation. That is, every Muslim is liable for its payment. In the words of Abu Hurayrah, it is due on "every Muslim, free or bondsman, male or female, young or old, poor or rich"

(Bukhari). Married Muslim women: The vast majority of scholars hold that Zakat al-Fitr falls due for every single Muslim, with no exception. The Hanafis (and Zahiris) believe that the individual obligation for its payment includes Muslim women, married or unmarried, from their own wealth. The other legal schools require husbands to pay Zakat al-Fitr on behalf of their Muslim wives. The Hanafi position, here, seems stronger in light of the hadith just cited, but bear in mind that, in the end, the Zakat al-Fitr payment must still be remitted for each individual.

Children: If children possess wealth, Zakat al-Fitr comes due out of their individual holdings, otherwise the child's guardian pays on behalf of his son or daughter.

Some scholars say only a father as guardian must pay it for his child, while it is not due on the orphan (in Islam, the fatherless). A few scholars rule that Zakat al-Fitr amounts to only a faster's obligation, as it amends the faster's mistakes or purifies one's fast from moral contaminants.

But the position that the Zakat al-Fitr payment is due for every Muslim, "young or old," is the stronger and more widely held opinion. This does not include the unborn child still in the womb, according to the vast majority

of scholars, though the practice of some of the most prominent Companions, like 'Uthman ibn 'Affan, God be pleased with him, seems to encourage fathers to pay it for their babies unborn

The poor: Most scholars say each Muslim bears the obligation to pay Zakat al-Fitr, even if they are poor, because the obligation falls on the person and not on a person's wealth, unlike Zakat Al-Mal, the Obligatory Alms of Wealth. The only exemption is for one who does not possess food sufficient for the day of Eid, shelter, clothing and similar essentials. (For a discussion on basic needs see What Requirements Qualify Wealth for Zakat?) Nor does deferred debt exempt one from paying Zakat al-Fitr, unless that debt is due the day of Eid and its payment reduces one to an insufficiency of food for the day and

basic needs, as just described. Can the Payment of Zakat al-Fitr Be an Equivalent Value of Money?

Yes, according to most contemporary scholars.

The report from the Companion Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri (and other Companions, God be pleased with them) forms the basis for the amount and kinds of Zakat al-Fitr.

"We used to pay Zakat al-Fitr at the end of Ramadan when the Messenger of Allah, God bless him and grant him peace, was among us with one sa' of food, one sa' of dates, one sa' of barley, one sa' of raisins, or one sa' of dried yoghurt. We continued to do this until Mu'awiyah came to us in Madinah and said: 'I think two mudds of Syrian wheat is equivalent to one sa' of dates.' People accepted this." Most hadith collections add to this that Abu Sa'id then said: "But I continued paying it the

same way I used to."

Recall that a sa' is a volume measure equal to four double-handfuls and a mudd is a quartersa', one double-handful. Here's a chart of volume measures used at the time of the Prophet, on him be peace.

The point most scholars today make is that this hadith clearly shows value equivalency, as wheat, at the time, was rare in Arabia and deemed of comparatively higher worth.

Traditionally, most scholars did

not approve payment of Zakat al-Fitr in money, but either restricted its payment to the food items the Prophet, on him be peace, mentioned, or to food staples common to the Muslims of the region in which it was being paid. But Abu Hanifah, and some other prominent individual scholars, did allow for payment of Zakat al-Fitr in value.

Payment in value is now widely accepted among Muslims, with many Zakat-collecting agencies, like Zakat Foundation of America, converting that currency payment into foodstuffs for distribution at the time of Eid to the destitute, refugees, the displaced and the egregiously poor.

Note that Zakat al-Fitr must be transported to reach the poor, even in other countries, to reach its most desirable recipients on the day of Eid.

Zakat al-Fitr paid in money is simply much more useful today than donations of food items. In addition, most scholars consider the foodstuffs mentioned by the Prophet, on him be peace, to have been common among the community of the time, and, therefore, most beneficial and useful to its poor. Thus, they view these items as exemplary suggestions, establishing the relative value and purpose of Zakat al-Fitr.

In addition, most scholars now establish the value of Zakat al-Fitr as equal to what will "gratify" or "enrich" a poor person in food for the day of Eid based on the cost of a common food staple or type in the place where that poor person lives.

The Hanafi position here, again, has seemed to carry, in that the legal school does not rule as to which type of Zakat al-Fitr is better to give — food items (as expressed in the hadith or analogized based on it) or its value in money. Rather, the Hanafi ruling emphasizes the payment method that proves most beneficial to the poor recipient of the Zakat al-Fitr. **Can the Payment of Zakat al-Fitr. Be**

Can the Payment of Zakat al-Fitr Be More than the Minimum?

Yes. In fact, one is encouraged to pay more than the minimum Zakat al-Fitr required, if one is able. "Ali, God be pleased with him, reportedly said that 'when Allah gives you prosperity, you too should give more' " (see Zad

Al-Maʻad, also Fiqh az-Zakat, 586). **When Should Zakat al-Fitr Be Paid?**

Scholars have traditionally focused the question of Zakat al-Fitr's time for payment on its last allowable time. The Shafi'is, Malikis and Hanbalis say its due time is sunset of Ramadan's last fasting day. The Hanafis and others (including another Maliki position) say before the Eid Salah-Prayer.

say before the Eid Salah-Prayer.
Some hold that the best time for payment is early on the day of Eid. Others allow payment a day or two before. Still others say it is obligatory to pay Zakat al-Fitr before the Eid Prayer, based on a statement of the Companion Ibn 'Abbas: "It is accepted as Zakat for one who pays it before the Eid Prayer. It is a charity like other charities for one who pays it after"

(Al-Shawkani, Nayl Al-Awtar).
Al-Shafi'i says Zakat al-Fitr can be paid anytime in Ramadan. Abu Hanifah rules it can even be paid at the beginning of the year, like Zakat al-Mal, Obligatory Alms on Wealth. All scholars deem it sinful to delay its payment until after Eid day.

Abu Sa'id, God be pleased with him, said: "We used to pay, during the lifetime of the Messenger of Allah, God bless him and grant him peace, on the day of fast-breaking" (meaning the day of Eid, without specifying any time marks, like the Eid Prayer or sunrise).

The point of these late-date payments is to ensure the happiness and distribution to the poor on Eid day, for their gratification, in compliance with the Prophet's instruction, on him be peace.

Instruction, on nim be peace.

In our current context, distribution of Zakat al-Fitr to its intended recipients, the poor, for its intended social reason — to "gratify" them on Eid day — becomes much easier to manage when it is paid early in Ramadan. Alhamdulillah, the latitude for this option in the unparalleled enlightenment of Islam's multiple schools of Law seems now a mercy and a sign.

Who Can Receive Zakat al-Fitr? All Muslim scholars agree that poor Muslims are legitimate recipients of Zakat al-Fitr (Ibn Rushd, Bidayat Al-Mujtahid).

The article was originally published by Zakat Foundation America

GM Northern Railways Inspects Srinagar-Sangaldan Section Of USBRL Project

KO WEB DESK

New Delhi: Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railways recently visited the Srinagar-Sangaldan Section of the USBRL Project in J&K. During the visit, CAO/USBRL S C Gupta, Senior Officers of Firozpur Division, IRCON and KRCL were also present.

The inspection encompassed various aspects of railway operations, including passenger train maintenance, infrastructure development, and passenger satisfaction. During the visit, GM/NR meticulously inspected the DEMU Passenger Train 04618, from Srinagar to Pampore, focusing on the upkeep and cleanliness of the rake. Interacting directly with passengers, he sought to understand their expectations from Indian Railways, emphasizing the importance of timely and punctual train services.



Shobhan Chaudhuri undertook a comprehensive review of ongoing projects within the section, including the development of new traffic facilities, goods sheds, and the repair and enhancement of passenger amenities. This assessment aimed to ensure that

infrastructure projects align with the evolving needs of the region and enhance overall operational efficiency.

The visit also entailed an examination of newly opened stations in the Banihal-Sangaldan Section, specifically Khari, Sumber, and Sangaldan.

Chaudhuri scrutinized the facilities provided to passengers at these stations, engaging with both passengers and staff to gauge their experiences and address any concerns Shobhan Chaudhuri directed the project authorities to closely monitor all balance works.

Leh Apex Body Calls Off Border March In Ladakh

Says Peaceful Agitation To Continue

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Accusing the administration of turning Leh into a "war zone" ahead of its march to the China border on April 7, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) on Saturday said it is withdrawing the proposed event to "avoid any sort of confrontation with the lawenforcement agencies".

Addressing a press conference here, LAB leaders, including its chairman Chering Dorjay and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, said they have already achieved their objective of creating awareness among the people of the country about the plight of farmers, who are allegedly losing prime pasture land to huge industrial plants in the south and to "Chinese encroachments" in the north.

The LAB, along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), is

spearheading an agitation to demand statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The LAB leaders said they will continue with their struggle in a peaceful manner through chain hunger strikes and protests.

"Looking at the prevailing situation (in Leh), this government acts like a mad elephant having no care for national security or people's sentiments and their problems. Its only concern is winning elections and it can stop people from marching even at the cost of using violence.

"We are concerned about national security and the peaceful atmosphere. Secondly, our aim to generate awareness in the country about the ground situation in Ladakh has been achieved, so we are withdrawing the proposed border march in the interest of people and to avoid confrontation with the law-enforcement agencies," Wangchuk told reporters. The LAB had announced the "border (Pashmina) march" to Changthang, near the China border, to highlight the

condition of grazers.

In a move apparently aimed at countering the march, Leh District Magistrate (DM) Santosh Sukhadeve said on Friday that prohibitory orders issued under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) would be in force on April 7 and directed that no procession, rally or march should be taken out without his prior approval.

The DM said the senior superintendent of police has reported about reliable inputs indicating a possible breach of peace and public tranquillity in the district.

"No one shall use vehicle-mounted or other loudspeakers without prior approval from the competent authority. No public gathering without prior approval of the competent authority shall be allowed. No one shall make any statements which have the potential to disturb communal harmony and public tranquillity and which may lead to law-and-order problems in the district," the DM's order said.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Kashmir Outpaces

The gun license scam, which saw IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan and several prominent gun dealers distributing four lakh fake gun licenses. The ED is now investigating this case, having seized assets worth crores of rupees belonging to Rajeev Ranjan.

The J&K Bank Scam, which involved Bilal Rather, son of former minister Abdul Rahim Rather, misappropriating Rs 700 crore from the JK Bank. The scam also includes a rice export fraud worth Rs 1,100 crore, orchestrated with the connivance of JK Bank officials.

Recruitment scams, including those involving 1300 Sub Inspectors and 700 JE civil recruits, which have been exposed by the CBI.

J&K Police

media platforms, particularly Facebook.

The FIR copy states, "According to reliable sources, the video, shared by certain individuals associated with News Portals, depicts a person named Sandeep, residing in Haryana, purportedly converting his religion during Friday prayers at the Hazratbal shrine."

"The dissemination of this video has stirred unrest among the public and raised concerns about religious harmony and tolerance. The incident has also evoked strong reactions beyond the borders of Jammu and Kashmir and UT, potentially fueling sectarianism and communal discord," the police mentioned in the FIR.

"Further investigation revealed that Sandeep was allegedly mentally manipulated by the owner of the house, Anayat Muntazir, a resident of Nowhatta, who employed Sandeep as a domestic worker at his home in Srinagar. Anayat reportedly took Sandeep to the Hazratbal shrine, where he allegedly coerced him into reciting the Kalma during congregational prayers to convert his religion," the police FIR further elaborated.

Meanwhile, an official told Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Dot Com that FIR no. 55/2024 has been registered at Police Station Nigeen under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), 298 (Uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings), 153 (Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), and 153-A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony).

Moreover, a Sub-Inspector ranked official has been assigned the task of completing the case file and submitting the investigation report to the Superintendent of Police for further section.

The Jammu and Kashmir police have urged the public to remain calm as they work to address the matter diligently and ensure justice prevails.

Mosques, Shrines

said that this night holds immense importance in Islam. "It is believed to be better than a thousand months and marks the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). We spend this night in prayers, seeking forgiveness, and asking for blessings," he said.

Furthermore, political leaders and officials extended their warm greetings to the people on this auspicious occasion.

"All district SSP's and police officials were instructed to facilitate the movement of people and provide support for the smooth observation of the blessed night," IGP Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi said. "I would also like to extend my greetings to the people of J&K on this blessed occasion and ask people that we are always to help and facilitate them during these concluding days of Ramadan including Eid."

Soon after Maghrib prayers, faithful were seen rushing towards the revered shrine of Hazrabal and Charar-e-Shareef for nightlong prayers. Many people were seen climbing the stairs of the shrine of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Arifeen (RA) in downtown. The biggest night-long congregation was recorded at Hazratbal and Charar-e-Shareef shrines besides other shrines and masjids across the Valley.

Meanwhile, Anuman-e-Auqaf Jamia Masjid said that following Asr prayers authorities closed the gates of Jamia Masjid while the police asked people to vacate the mosque premises.

"The Auqaf was informed that the observance of taraweeh or Shab Khani on the auspicious occasion of Shab-E-Qadr will not be permitted at the Jama Masjid. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was again placed under house arrest earlier this afternoon," the statement said. The Anjuman Auqaf expresses profound disappointment at the decision of the authorities.

Dry Weather Till

this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.5°C against 6.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.2°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 2.7°C against 4.7°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 3.8°C against 1.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.6°C below normal, the official said.

official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 2.4°C against 5.4°C on the previous night and it was

2.8°C below normal there, the official said.
Gulmarg recorded a low of 1.0°C against 0.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.5°C for the world skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 17.1°C and it was below normal by 0.7°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 5.8°C, Batote 8.5°C and Bhaderwah 4.8°C, he said.

3.8 Magnitude

district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday

According to the National Centre for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at 11.01 pm at a depth of 10 km.

In a post on X, NCS said, "Earthquake of Magnitude: 3.2, Occurred on 05-04-2024, 23:01:30 IST, Lat: 33.34 & Long: 76.62, Depth: 10 km, Location: Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, India."

Another earthquake of 3.8 magnitude occurred at 5:20 pm. The depth of the quake was 10 kilometres from the earth's surface at 33.37 degrees latitude and 76.69 degrees longitude, the NCS said.

Muslim Daughters

PM Modi said.

"By ending this practice of triple talaq, we have saved the entire Muslim family and liberated it from the fear of the sword hanging over them. For centuries to come, Muslim daughters will continue to bless Modi," the prime minister said.

The Lok Sabha constituencies in western UP with a sizeable Muslim population are Rampur (42 per cent), Amroha (32 per cent), Saharanpur (30 per cent), Bijnor, Nagina and Moradabad (28 per cent each), Muzaffarnagar (27 per cent), Kairana and Meerut (23 per cent each) and Sambhal (22 per cent).

Apart from this, Muslim voters constitute 19 per cent of the electoral population in Bulandshahr, Baghpat and Aligarh.

Around 15.34 crore people are eligible to

Around 15.34 crore people are eligible to vote in Uttar Pradesh - a politically crucial state with 80 Lok Sabha seats where the elections will be held in seven phases beginning April 19.

According to the election schedule, eight parliamentary constituencies will vote in the first phase on April 19. These are Saharanpur, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Nagina (SC), Moradabad, Rampur and Pilibhit.

In the 2019 general elections, the BJP won 62 seats and its ally Apna Dal (S) two seats, brushing aside the challenge of the SP-BSP-RLD alliance.

The BSP was the biggest gainer in the alliance with 10 seats. Akhilesh Yadav's SP won five seats while the RLD couldn't open its account in the polls. The Congress won the lone Raebareli seat from where Sonia Gandhi had contested.

This time RLD has joined hands with the BJP while BSP is going it alone.

"INDIA Bloc

Congress and the INDIA bloc on the issue of corruption. "During its rule, the Congress' focus was on earning commissions. The INDI

Alliance too aims to earn commission after coming to power but the NDA and Modi sarkar is on a mission."

"We are engaged in the mission of making India a developed nation. On the other hand, our opponents are yearning to get power."

The prime minister also took a dig at the Congress apparently for not yet naming its candidates for Rae Bareli and Amethi seats --traditionally considered their bastions. "The Congress does not have the courage to field candidates even in those seats which are considered its stronghold," he added.

Modi said the Congress manifesto carries a Muslim League imprint and a part of it is dominated by leftists.

He said that the INDIA bloc has become synonymous with instability and uncertainty and the people of the country were not taking them seriously. He also said it is a misfortune that the opposition alliance is talking about "fighting against 'shakti".

"Worshipping shakti is a part of our natural spiritual journey. But, the people of the INDI Alliance say their fight is against 'shakti'," Modi said, in a reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks. Gandhi had accused the BJP of twisting his statement.

He also said the BJP government has ended the practice of instant triple talaq. "We enacted a strong law in the interest of crores of Muslim sisters, and re-established their families," he said.

"I am seeing the first election in the country, where the opposition is not claiming victory, but is only contesting the elections, so that the tally of the BJP can be kept below 370 and those of the NDA fewer than 400," he said.

Recalling his earlier visit to Saharanpur, Modi said he had come for an election rally 10 years ago. "At that time, the country was going through a period of great despair and crisis. Then I had given you a guarantee that I will not let the country bow down, I will not let the country stop."

"I had taken a pledge that with your blessings, I will change every situation, every circumstance, transform despair in hope, and hope into confidence. You were generous in showering your blessing, and Modi did not leave any stone unturned in his hardwork," he

At the rally, the prime minister also spoke about his party BJP on its foundation day on Saturday.

"The BJP has won the trust of people, the BJP has won the hearts of people. The biggest reason for this is that the BJP does not work for rajniti, but 'raashtraniti'. For the BJP, nation comes first. It is not a slogan, but an 'article of faith' for the BJP," he said.

He said today there is a growing chorus of voices across the country: "Phir ek baar Modi sarkaar, 4 June ko 400 Paar (Once again Modi government. NDA will get 400-plus seats when results are announced on June 4."

Referring to the newly-constructed temple in Ayodhya, Modi said the grand temple of Ram Lalla "was not an election announcement but our mission".

"This year on Ram Navami, our Lord Shri Ram will not be seen in a tent, but in a grand temple. What a great pride this is for our generation," he said.

Talking about the abrogation of Article 370, the prime minister said, "It has been our mission to remove Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. This mission has also been accomplished. The stones that were pelted in Kashmir, Modi has gathered them all and is building a developed Jammu and Kashmir."

He also said the BJP government works without discrimination. "we believe that the government schemes should reach every class, every caste and every person. A beneficiary getting his rights is true secularism and social justice," he said.

He also praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying "our Yogi ji is not going to compromises at all on the law and order front".

The BJP government has controlled criminals and rioters. "Along with security, an environment has also been created for investment. This area is also known for its agricultural products."

"Our government has been working for the farmers for 10 years. Our government is sensitive towards the small needs of the farmers. Small farmers in the country are being helped through PM Kisan Nidhi," he said.

Electoral Bonds

manifesto for the Lok Sabha polls, he termed the Enforcement Directorate as "Extortion Directorate".

"What earlier used to be called as Enforcement Directorate, has become Extortion Directorate today. BJP is running the world's biggest washing machine," he said.

"The country's most corrupt ministers and most corrupt leaders stand with Narendra Modi ji. Narendra Modi ji has his people in the Election Commission also," he said.

The list of electoral bonds scheme shows that a company is threatened by the CBI and then the company hands over crores of rupees to the BJP. The company then gets infrastructure projects worth crores of rupees, he alleged.

The bank accounts of Congress have been frozen, but the Congress does not fear the BJP, he said.

Congress has defeated BJP's "B team" (BRS) in Telangana and it is now going to defeat the "A team" in Delhi (BJP) in the coming elections, he said.

Further charging that the BJP wants to scrap the Constitution, he claimed that the Congress would never let that happen. "This fight is for safeguarding the

Constitution and democracy. Narendra Modi ji works for three-four per cent of people. He has the media, money, intelligence agencies, CBI, ED and everything. We have truth and people's love. Truth and people achieve victory," he said. Attacking the previous BRS regime in Telangana over the phone-tapping allegations,

Telangana over the phone-tapping allegations, Gandhi alleged that Modi and BJP is doing what the previous Chief Minister of Telangana (K Chandrasekhar Rao) did. Rao had put the police and other agencies to wrong use, he alleged. Phones of thousands of people were tapped

and the government data and computers were thrown into a river following the change of government, he said.

Gandhi also claimed that 30 farmers commit

Gandhi also claimed that 30 farmers commit suicide in the country every day. He alleged that Modi has waived loans to the tune of Rs 16 lakh crore of the rich, while not even one rupee of farmers' loans was waived.

Prevented Further

peace, and prosperity, disregarding the legacy of these families, which only brought graves

for the youth of J&K," he said.

Pointing out to Farooq Abdullah, he drew an analogy between treating a disease and addressing issues, highlighting that the BJP's actions in Jammu and Kashmir have prevented further bloodshed, which could have escalated.

"People have come to realize that NC, PDP, and Congress have perpetrated significant injustices upon them, and they now acknowledge that the BJP has ushered in peace and development in J&K while effectively curbing violence." he added.

He condemned the Congress manifesto as a blatant fabrication, predicting that the people will reject it and reaffirm their support for the Narendra Modi-led government.

Chugh said the list of workers who made the supreme sacrifice is very long from T L Tiploo in 1990s to Waseem Bari last year.

"S P Mookherjee made the sacrifice in this land so that people of Jammu and Kashmir get more rights and also liberation from Article 370 and 35A," Chugh told reporters here.

workers who worked selflessly for the BJP over the past several decades," he added. The BJP on the occasion paid tributes to its

"I pay tributes to the large number of party

The BJP on the occasion paid tributes to its workers and leaders from Kashmir who laid down their lives for the country's unity and integrity.

'Central Leadership Will Decide On Candidates'

BJP president Ravinder Raina meanwhile said the party's central election committee will take a call on fielding candidates in the three parliamentary constituencies in Kashmir Valley.

He was responding to a question on the speculation that the BJP will not field its candidates in these three seats and will extend support to regional parties -- the Democratic Progressive Azad Party of Ghulam Nabi Azad in the Anantnag constituency, the Sajjad Loneled Peoples Conference in Baramulla, and the Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari in Srinagar.

"The BJP has already announced its candidates for Udhampur and Jammu Lok Sabha seats (in Jammu region) and we are winning both the seats with huge margins," Raina said.

"A massive campaign is going on in support of party candidates across the two regions (Jammu and Kashmir). BJP is strong in Jammu as well as Kashmir but the final decision on fighting the elections from three seats of Kashmir - Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla will be taken by the CEC of the party under the leadership of BJP president (JP Nadda)," he said.

He declined a direct answer to a question on he being among the probable candidates for the Anantnag seat.

The BJP has renominated Union minister Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore from Udhampur and Jammu, respectively. Both Singh and Kishore are eyeing a third straight

victory from their respective seats. Earlier, Raina led the party's Foundation Day celebrations at the party office here.

Raina accompanied by party leader Ashok Khajuria, former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta and other senior leaders hoisted the party flag.

"BJP is celebrating its 44th Foundation Day today. On this day in 1980, the BJP was established to provide a strong nationalist voice in the national political space," Raina said.

He said that today the party has established itself as a unique voice of the people of the country due to the hard work of its cadre and the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Today BJP has strengthened the nation and empowered the people..., thus effectively fulfilling the aim of BJP stalwarts who dedicated their whole lives to the nation," he said.

Central Leadership

He was responding to a question on the speculation that the BJP will not field its candidates in these three seats and will extend support to regional parties -- the Democratic Progressive Azad Party of Ghulam Nabi Azad in the Anantnag constituency, the Sajjad Loneled Peoples Conference in Baramulla, and the

Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari in Srinagar.

"The BJP has already announced its candidates for Udhampur and Jammu Lok Sabha seats (in Jammu region) and we are winning

both the seats with huge margins," Raina said.

"A massive campaign is going on in support of party candidates across the two regions (Jammu and Kashmir). BJP is strong in Jammu as well as Kashmir but the final decision on fighting the elections from three seats of Kashmir - Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla - will be taken by the CEC of the party under the leadership of BJP president (JP Nadda)," he said.

He declined a direct answer to a question on he being among the probable candidates for the Anantnag seat. The BJP has renominated Union minis-

The BJP has renominated Union minister Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore from Udhampur and Jammu, respectively. Both Singh and Kishore are eyeing a third straight victory from their respective seats.

Earlier, Raina led the party's Foundation Day celebrations at the party office here.

Raina accompanied by party leader Ashok Khajuria, former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta and other senior leaders hoisted the party flag

ed the party flag.

"BJP is celebrating its 44th Foundation Day today. On this day in 1980, the BJP was established to provide a strong nationalist voice in the national political space," Raina said.

He said that today the party has established itself as a unique voice of the people of the country due to the hard work of its cadre and the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Today BJP has strengthened the nation and empowered the people..., thus effectively fulfilling the aim of BJP stalwarts who dedicated their whole lives to the nation," he said.

ED Attaches

Prop Yatin Yadav and his associate Lokesh Kumar, to the tune of Rs 1 crore (approx) under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002 in a case relates to paper leak of examination conducted by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for the recruitment of 1200 Sub-Inspectors of J&K Police, against monetary benefits by the accused Yatin Yadav and others," the agency said in a post on X.

Amit Shah Hits Out At Congress Chief Over His Remark On J&K In Rajasthan

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday hit out at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge over his remark on Jammu and Kashmir at a rally in Jaipur.

"It is shameful to hear that the Congress party is asking, "Kashmir se kya waasta hai (What is the relation with Kashmir)?" I would like to remind the Congress party that J&K is an integral part of India, and every state and citizen has the right over J&K, just as the people of J&K have the right over the rest of India," Shah said in a post on social platform X.

"The Congress doesn't know that many brave sons of Rajasthan have sacrificed their lives for peace and security in Kashmir. But it is not merely the fault of the Congress leaders. It is mostly the Italian culture of the Congress party that is to blame for not



understanding the very idea of India. Such statements hurt every patriotic citizen who cares for the unity and integrity of the nation. People will certainly answer Congress," he had said.

On Saturday, Kharge had hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for mentioning Article 370 abrogation in Raiasthan's Churu.

"Yesterday PM Modi addressed a rally in Rajasthan's

Shah further said,"And for the kind information of the Congress, it was not Article 371, but Article 370, that was abrogated by the Modi government. However, it is only expected of Congress to make such horrendous mistakes. Such blunders made by it have haunted our nation for decades now.'

The Congress held a rally day after unveiling its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Modi hit out at the Congress poll promises, dubbing it an 'imprint of Muslim League'.

"Every page reeks of breaking India into pieces. The Congress manifesto reflects the same thinking that was prevalent in the Muslim League during the freedom movement. "It completely bears the imprint of the Muslim League and whatever is remaining is completely dominated by the Leftists," Modi said.

Multiple Births In First Delivery

Children Education Allowance To Cover All: J&K Admin

SRINAGAR: The J&K administration has clarified that in the event of multiple births more than two in the first childbirth, reimbursement of Children Education Allowance may be allowed for all children born in the first childbirth.

The explanation was provided after the references were received seeking clarification regarding the admissibility of Children Education Allowance in case of multiple births in the first childbirth event.

The Finance Department in a notification provided clarifica-

tion regarding Grant of Children Education Allowance (CEA) and Hostel Subsidy to the Employees of Union Territory of J&K.

"Sanction has been accorded to the grant of Children Education Allowance and Hostel Subsidy in favour of Employees of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, at par with the Central Government Employees," it

"The reimbursement of Children Education Allowance/ Hostel subsidy can be claimed only for the two eldest surviving children with the exception in case the second child birth results in twins/multiple birth."

In case of failure of sterilization operation, the CEA/Hostel Subsidy would be admissible in respect of children born out of the first instance of such failure beyond the usual two children norm".

References have been received seeking clarification regarding the admissibility of Children Education Allowance in case of multiple births in the first childbirth event, it added.

"Multiple Birth in first child birth' is out of human control, accordingly, in case of multiple births (more than 02) in first birth, reimbursement of CEA may be allowed for all children born in first childbirth," it said.

CEO J&K Assures Smooth Election Readiness

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Jammu and Kashmir, P.K. Pole, has reassured that election preparedness is progressing smoothly according to the schedule.

Non-Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) materials are currently being dispatched to their respective locations, and kits are being assembled in preparation

for the upcoming elections. Also, arrangements have

been made to provide postal ballots for voters with disabilities exceeding 40%.

Emphasizing the adherence to the established timeline, Pole affirmed that the distribution of Non-EVM materials to their designated destinations is underway, ensuring that all necessary resources are in place for a successful electoral process.

Furthermore, as part of the meticulous planning, election officials are diligently assembling kits essential for the smooth conduct of the elections.

These kits are being tailored to meet the specific requirements of polling stations and election personnel, aiming to streamline operations and enhance efficiency during the voting process, he added

JAMMU LOK SABHA SEAT

Nomination Of 3 Candidates Rejected, 23 Found Valid

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The nomination of three candidates were rejected during scrutiny of papers for Jammu Lok Sabha constituency on Saturday, leaving 23 candidates in the fray, officials said.

The Lok Sabha polls in Jammu constituency will be held in the second phase of elections on April 26.

Returning Officer for Jammu parliamentary constituency Sachin Kumar Vaishya, conducted the scrutiny of nomination papers submitted by the candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, they said.

After thorough scrutiny, the nomination forms of 23 candidates were found valid, while the candidature of three candidates, two covering candidates - Chanranjeet Chargotra (BSP) and Indra Bhalla (Congress)

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The BJP workers

have worked tirelessly to en-

sure the agenda of Pakistan and

China does not succeed in Jam-

mu and Kashmir, party general

secretary Tarun Chugh on Sat-

foundation day, Chugh said the

list of workers who made the

supreme sacrifice is very long

from T L Tiploo in 1990s to

"S P Mookheriee made the

sacrifice in this land so that

people of Jammu and Kashmir

get more rights and also libera-

Waseem Bari last year.

Presiding over the BJP's 44th

urday said.

and Independent Ravinder Singh, were rejected as per norms, the officials said.

A covering candidate is fielded as a back up by parties in case the main nominee's papers get rejected by the return-

Among the 23 candidates, BJP's incumbent MP Jugal Kishore and Raman Bhalla of Congress are engaged in a direct fight. Kishore is looking for a hat-trick of wins after he successfully retained the Jammu Lok Sabha seat in the 2014 and 2019 polls.

Jagdish Raj of Bahujan Samaj Party and Ankur Sharma of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal are the other prominent candidates from the seat.

As per the issued election notification, the candidates can withdraw their nomination before 3 pm on April 8 in the office of the returning officer.

tion from Article 370 and 35A,"

"I pay tributes to the large

number of party workers who

worked selflessly for the BJP

over the past several decades,'

he added. The BJP on the occa-

sion paid tributes to its workers

and leaders from Kashmir who

laid down their lives for the

country's unity and integrity.

Chugh told reporters here.

Committed To Restore Statehood, **Hold Assembly Polls In J&K: CPI(M) Manifesto**

Agencies

Churu. There are a lot of is-

sues related to the farmers.

The farmers are suffering and

thousands of them have died

by suicide. Instead of speak-

ing about their issues, PM said

he removed 371. What do the

people here have to do with it?"

"You go to Jammu and

Kashmir and say about Article

370 abrogation. But here, tell

us what you did for the farm-

ers?" the Congress president

SRINAGAR: The CPI(M) has released its manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections 2024, promising to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and holding assembly elections immediately in the Union Terrorist.

The CPI(M) said that it is the bounden duty of every patriot to first and foremost ensure the defeat of the BJP and its allies. The CPI(M) pledges to do everything in its capacity to strengthen this collective duty and to help the establishment of a secular government at the centre. For this, and to ensure pro-people policies, a stronger presence of the CPI(M) in Parliament is essential.

The CPI(M) pledges to fight for an uncompromising adherence to the principle that relithe State, the government and administration. It will fight for a law against hate speech and crimes. It is committed to

scrapping the CAA. The CPI(M) stands for the scrapping of all draconian laws like UAPA and PMLA; for steps to protect and strengthen the autonomy of independent institutions, for defence of the

democratic rights of the people. The CPI(M) is committed to policies to protect India's economic sovereignty. It holds that privatization of the public sector must be revisited and reversed. A tax on the superrich along with a general wealth tax and an inheritance tax must be legislated, workers' rights reflected in proworker laws must replace the labour codes; food security depends on ensuring security of the farmers of India though a legal guarantee of MSP according to the Swaminathan Commission recommendations.



The CPI(M) stands for the inclusion of the Right to Work as a constitutional right. The vacancies in government and public sector posts must be filled urgently. Strengthen and expand MSMEs which can generate jobs. The budgetary allocations for MGNREGA must be doubled; a new law guaranteeing urban employment must be legislated and an unemployment allowance must be provided. The destruction of India's demographic dividend must be reversed through a change in current policies of job loss growth.

Strengthen the Univ Right to Education, Stop Privatization of Higher Education.

The CPI(M) stands for an increase to at least 6 per cent of GDP in budgetary allocations for education; It stands for a reversal of the policies of commercialization, communalization and centralization

The CPI(M) stands for the restoration of the constitutional rights of the states which have been severely diluted by the Modi government. The CPI(M) stands for devolution of 50 per cent of the total collection of Central taxes to the states, including share of surcharges and cesses levied by Centre.

It stands for a Governor to be chosen out of a panel of three eminent persons proposed by the Chief Minister; for an end to policies which promote centralization at the expense

The CPI(M) stands for a law for reservations in the private

sector and for immediate filling of vacancies in reserved posts without dilution; for protection of constitutional and legal rights of adivasis and an end to cultural assimilation. In order to acquire proper

data on the OBCs in the country it is necessary to conduct a caste census along with the 2021 general census that is overdue. It stands for the immediate implementation of one-third reservations for women; for strengthening processes of justice for women victims of crimes.

The CPI(M) stands for urgent electoral reforms to curb the use of money power in the electoral system. For this, the Party wants State funding of elections and a ban on corporate donations to political parties. Corporates must fund to strengthen democracy and such contributions must be credited in a State electoral fund and used for State funding.

The CPI(M)'s continuing commitment to the autonomous status granted by Sec 370 of J&K is reflected in its using every fora to defend the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The CPI(M) stands for immediate elections to the State Assembly and also for the restoration of full statehood as a first step.

The CPI(M) stands for a nonaligned foreign policy which best serves the interests of our own country. It stands for good relations with our neighbours while defending every aspect of our country's security.

Given the grievously deteriorating living conditions of the people the current policy direction of crony capitalism and the communal-corporate nexus must be reversed.

The alternative policies that the CPI(M) is placing before the people is detailed in the Part II of the Manifesto.

Advocating Statehood, Raising People's Issues DPAP's Agenda: Azad

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Advocating restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and raising people's issues, including land and job rights, are the agenda of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party, its chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Saturday.

Addressing a public meeting in the Hiranagar area of Kathua in the Udhampur parliamentary constituency, from where senior leader G M Saroori is seeking election, the former I&K chief minister appealed to voters to carefully consider candidates who are committed to representing public interests in the Parliament.

"A strong presence in the Parliament is essential to advocate for the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The people should unite and support DPAP's efforts to secure statehood and protect their rights," he said. Azad, who himself is fight

the Lok Sabha elections from resigned from the Congress and Anantnag-Rajouri seat, highlighted his record of raising matember 2022, said.

the leader of opposition during his long association with the Congress, contrasting it with the "silence of the members of Parliament from other parties (from J&K). "The other MPs have failed.

jor issues in the Parliament as

What do you expect from them? If you need public issues to be raised, you should vote for our party, whose symbol is a bucket," he said referring to the role of the National Conference MPs, including its president Farooq Abdullah, after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K into two Union Territories in August 2019.

He reiterated his stance against the revocation of statehood and his efforts to safeguard land and job rights in the region.

"We must reclaim our statehood and fight for our land and job rights in the Parliament. My sole purpose is to serve my people and that is why I have returned to my state Azad who formed his own party in Sep-

Army Opens Fire After Noticing Suspicious Movement In J-K's Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Army troops opened fire and subsequently launched a search operation after noticing suspicious movement near their camp in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district early Saturday, officials

There was no report of any casualty in the firing at the Srotha Morha village in the Darhal area, the officials said.

They said a sentry fired a few rounds on seeing the movement of a group of unidentified persons towards the camp un-

der the cover of darkness.

The group retreated into the nearby village, following which a search operation was launched, the officials said, adding the operation was going on when last reports were received but there was no clue of the suspected persons.

The officials said security forces also carried out a search operation in the Sharda Sharief area of Rajouri on Saturday morning

Shrine Board Inks Pact To Set Up Health ATMs On Vaishno Devi Temple Track

BJP Workers Ensured Agenda

Of Pak, China Does Not

Succeed In J&K: Chugh

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the installation of nine cloud-enabled health ATMs along the pilgrimage track in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Saturday.

The shrine board inked the pact with Hewlett Packard Enterprise for health ATMs and one Telemedicine Studio at Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine, the official said.

He said the move is part of the board's commitment to providing good and easily accessible health care services to the pilgrims.

"This initiative is being undertaken by the Shrine Board as per

the directions of (Lt Governor) Manoj Sinha who is also its chairman, in collaboration with HPE as part of its CSR to enhance Health Care accessibility for the pilgrims, stakeholders, besides, local inhabitants on the yatra track round the clock," the official said.

In addition, he said the installation of one telemedicine Studio at Katra shall bridge the gap and enhance patient outcomes by enabling seamless virtual consultations between pilgrims and Health Care providers through high definition video conferencing regardless of geographic barriers.

The health ATMs can instantly check 50 plus parameters within 10 minutes which include blood pressure (BP), sugar, body temperature, oxygen level, BMI, body fat index, dehydration and pulse rate.

POOR MAINTENANCE OF POLICE RECORDS **DIG Orders Action Against 3 Cops In Jammu**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Authorities on Friday issued a show-cause notice to a sub divisional police officer, ordered an inquiry against a station house officer and recommended the suspension of a head constable for not maintaining police records, officials said on Friday.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Jammu-Samba range, Dr Sunil Gupta paid a surprise visit to the police station in Janipur, inspected the record room and 'malkhana', they said. On checking, most registers were not found to be maintained properly, an official said. A show-cause notice is being issued against SDPO,

Bakshi Nagar on the directions by the DIG, a departmen-

tal enquiry is ordered against SHO, Janipur for his poor supervision, and a head constable of Janipur Police Station is recommended for suspension, the official said. During the inspection, the DIG stressed upon the SDPO and SHO, other staff to maintain extra vigil in their area due to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

He also directed the SDPO and SHO to redress pub-

lic grievances in a time-bound manner.

Two Booked Under PSA In Baramulla

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday booked two persons under Public Safety Act in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

"Acting tough against ANEs Baramulla Police booked two persons namely Abdul Rashid Sheikh son of Ali Mohd resident of Lalpora Kharkhal Kunzer & Mohd Akbar Malik son of Abdul Gani resident of Lalpora Wanikhal Kunzer under Public Safety Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority," said

'The booked persons have been detained and subsequently lodged in District Jail Udhampur."

"Pertinent to mention that many cases are registered against these persons and were involved in disturbance of L&O and subversion. Despite their involvement in many FIR's, they did not mend their anti-national & Social activities," the statement reads further.

Around 400 Posts Lying Vacant At GMC Kathua

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Approximately 400 positions, including gazetted and non-gazetted roles, remain vacant at Government Medical College (GMC) Kathua.

According to information obtained by the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in the past five years, GMC Kathua has conducted over 40,000 surgeries, with approximately 1800 reported deaths. These statistics were revealed through a Right to Information (RTI) filing by RTI activist MM Shuia.

Among the 267 gazetted positions sanctioned for GMC Kathua, 154 are currently filled, leaving 113 vacant. Similarly, out of the 433 non-gazetted positions sanctioned, 206 are occupied

while 227 remain unfilled. Out of the 116 Class IV positions, 78 are filled, and 38 remain vacant. Overall, out of the total 816 sanctioned positions, 438 are occupied, and 378 are vacant.

Over the past five years, the hospital has recorded a total of 1791 deaths, with the following breakdown: 47 in 2019-20, 256 in 2020-21, 577 in 2021-22, 529 in 2022-23, and 382 in 2023-24. Notably, approximately 80% of in-patient cases were covered under the Ayushman Bharat

Meanwhile, the hospital has performed 16,003 major surgeries over the past five years. These include 2,768 in 2019-20, 3,272 in 2020-21, 3,661 in 2021-22, 3,426 in 2022-23, and 2,876 in 2023-24.

Chennai's Shivam Dube In The Reckoning For India's T20 World Cup

abad on Friday night.

"We have seen this in this

IPL and the previous season as

well. We have seen him against

CHENNAI: India appears spoilt for choices in their batting lineup ahead of the T20 World Cup in June with Shivam Dube emerging as the latest candidate for a place in the crowded middle order with his consistency in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The Chennai Super King player's tally of 148 runs from four matches places him among the top 10 batters this season, and only two other players in that group boast a better strike rate than Dube's

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, and death-overs hitter Rinku Singh will fancy their places in India's middle order at the World Cup but Dube's name is also doing the rounds for the showpiece in West Indies and

"I would select him if I were



a selector," former India allrounder Irfan Pathan told Star Sports after Dube's 45 off 24 balls against Sunrisers Hyder-

quality wrist spinners, against finger spinners," said Pathan, who was part of India's T20

"When you have a batter like that, why won't you take advantage of that?'

Conditions in the West Indies are expected to suit spinners, and Pathan said Dube's proven skills as a finisher would come in handy. Dube is not equally dominating against pace but he could prove effective in the slow pitches in the Caribbean, Pathan said.

Former Australia opener Matthew Hayden was also impressed by Dube's consistency. "Generally, power-hitters

who love to hit the ball in these sort of ranges, they can dominate in the Caribbean. So that's an exciting prospect," Hayden told the channel.

"I think it's an interesting call...and he's not doing it this season, he has done it last year as well. He has done it for a very long period. Last year also,

Real Kashmir Stunned By Bottom-Ranked TRAU In I-League

Agencies

KOLKATA: Striker Robinson Singh's decisive header deep into injury time helped TRAU FC clinch a shock 2-1 victory over Real Kashmir FC in an I-League 2023-24 match at the Kalyani Municipality Stadium, West Bengal, on Saturday. All the goals came in the second half.

TRAU FC's Danish Aribam opened the scoring in the 56th minute. However, the Snow Leopards quickly responded, as Carlos Lomba (59') found the equaliser three minutes later. It was Robinson Singh (90+9'), who sealed the match in favour of the Red Pythons with an opportunistic header after goalkeeper Shivam Pednekar fumbled to collect the ball.

TRAU FC, who have already been relegated, slightly improved their position with the three points from this match. They now have 13 points from 22 matches. This was their fourth win of the season and the first after a gap of five matches. On the other hand, the defeat was a



setback for Real Kashmir FC, as it ended their impressive nine-match unbeaten streak. At the same time, the defeat also dented their aspirations to finish runners-up. Currently, they maintain their position in third place with 40 points from 23 matches. They now have 11 wins, seven draws, and five losses against their name. The Srinagar side have a lot to blame themselves as they missed a penalty when the scoreline was 1-1.

KIC Shopian Trainees Shine In Wushu Championships

SRINAGAR: Trainees of Khelo India Wushu Centre Shopian have shined in the 23rd Sub Junior Wushu Nationals and Khelo India Wushu Women's League. Four players of Khelo India

Wushu Centre Shopian bagged three medals in the 23rd Sub Junior Wushu Nationals and one in Khelo India Wushu Women's League.

In the 23rd Sub Junior Wushu Nationals, Sana Sheeraz bagged a



gold medal while Musaib and Ahsan Ul Haq bagged Bronze medals. In Khelo India Wushu Women's

League, Hurrain Iqbal bagged a sil-

Faltering MI, DC Desperate To Arrest IPL Slide

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: fit-again Suryakumar Yadav will be expected to immediately deliver the goods when faltering Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals lock horns in a bid to arrest their slide in their Indian Premier League clash here on Sunday.

With three losses in a row, MI are languishing at the bottom whereas Delhi Capitals has notched up a big score yet. The same can be said about the other Indian batters such as Tilak Varma and Naman Dhir, who, irrespective of how appealing they have looked in the middle, are yet to deliver a match-winning performance.

Even the embattled captain Hardik Pandya has not been able to inspire his side. However, for someone who has been subjected to brutal reaction from fans inside the

found consistency with two consecutive fifties but he needs support from the oth-

Enduring the worst outing so far with the ball wherein DC bowlers kept erring with the line and lengths to allow Kolkata Knight Riders pile up a humongous 272/7, the Pantled side was short of spunk in reply with the bat to be bowled out for 166.



points table following a 106run hammering in their last

If MI have once again made a characteristic start of falling into a hole with a string of defeats, the misfiring Delhi Capitals have had a similar fate suffering three losses from four outings and are under pressure to bounce back.

At the top, both Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan have looked promising but neither

have spiralled down to the stadiums so far, there could and Tristan Stubbs have been ninth spot in the 10-team be some respite as the con- marginally better than the test on Sunday afternoon will other batters but Delhi wil be attended by more than 20,000 children.

> Akash Madhwal's threefor in their last match was the only positive from the bowling front, wherein MI changed the way they used Jasprit Bumrah by giving him three overs in the powerplay but did not have enough runs to challenge Rajasthan Royals.

> For DC. comeback star Rishabh Pant (152 runs) has

hope get the more out of swashbuckling Prithvi Shaw, for whom the Wankhede Stadium is a homeground.

Mitchell Marsh has featured in each of Delhi's four matches so far but the burly Australian has not been able to impose himself on the opposition. Like a few others in his camp, Marsh too will be desperate to get a big score under the belt.

Short TAKES

Virat Kohli Slams Ton As RCB Make 183 Against RR



irat Kohli slammed a record-extending eighth IPL century as Royal Challengers Bengaluru posted a total of 183 for 3 against Rajasthan Royals in an IPL 2024 game on Saturday in Jaipur.

Kohli achieved a historic feat as he became the first-ever batter in IPL history to reach the milestone of 7500 runs. He also surpassed Dhoni in the list of players with most IPL sixes.

RR was yet to play when this report was filed.

Mohammedan SC Crowned I-League Champions, Promoted To ISL

entury plus old Mohammedan Sporting Club on Saturday clinched their maiden Î-League title after they beat Shillong Lajong FC 2-1 in their penultimate match here, a result which also promoted them to the top-tier Indian Super League.

Alexis Gomes put Mohammedan Sporting in the front in the first minute of the game itself before the home side's Douglas Tardin restored parity in the 15th minute. Evgeni Kozlov scored the decisive goal for Mohammedan Sporting in the 62nd minute.

Australia Rout Indian Men's Hockey Team 5-1 In First Test

The Indian men's hockey team was expected to put up at least a decent fight but was hammered 1-5 by Australia in the first Test of the five-match series here on Saturday.

The Australians controlled the tempo of the match from start to finish.

The Indian team showed some sparks in the final quarter but it was too late by then.

Verstappen Takes Pole At Japan GP For Third Year In A Row

Formula One world champion Max Verstappen took pole position for a third straight year at the Japanese Grand Prix on Saturday, with Sergio Perez qualifying a close second to ensure a Red Bull front-

Verstappen set the pace with a lap of one minute 28.197 seconds - 0.066 seconds clear of Perez - becoming the first driver to take pole in the opening four races of a season since Lewis Hamilton nine years ago.

Liverpool Face Manchester United Title Test Today

premier League leaders Liverpool head to Manchester United on Sunday looking to move a step closer to equalling their bitter rivals' record of 20 English titles.

In a gripping title race, Arsenal and Manchester City will hope for a Liverpool stumble, while the top four battle and relegation survival fight are also heat-

Memories of their painful FA Cup quarter-final defeat at Manchester United still fresh, blowing the lead in a 4-3 defeat.

De Bruyne Sparks Man City's 4-2 Win Over Crystal Palace

Agencies

LONDON: A stunning strike by Kevin De Bruyne elicited kisses from the sideline from Pep Guardiola and launched titlechasing Manchester City's comeback in a 4-2 win at Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Saturday.

City's four-month unbeaten streak in all competitions was placed in jeopardy almost immediately after kick-off at Selhurst Park when Jean-Philippe Mateta gave Palace a thirdminute lead with a goal on a breakaway.

In the end, there was nothing for City to worry about.

De Bruyne equalized 10 minutes later and it was one for the season highlight reel as the Belgium playmaker cut inside from the left and curled a rightfooted shot from the corner of the area into the top

corner of the net. The excitable Guardiola responded by placing his fingers on his lips and blowing kisses to De



Bruyne. And, the manager also enjoyed a strike by Rico Lewis two minutes into the second half that put City in front for the first time.

Erling Haaland scored for the first time in four City matches by tapping in De Bruyne's cross in the 66th for his league-leading 19th goal of the campaign. De Bruyne sealed City's

impressive recovery in the 70th by ramming home a left-footed shot off Rodri's layoff for his second, before substitute Odsonne Edouard grabbed a consolation for Palace.

City joined first-place Liverpool on 70 points ahead of the Reds' match at fierce rival Manchester United on Sunday. Thirdplace Arsenal, which plays Brighton later on Saturday, is two points back.

Pulisic Has Best Scoring Season, Puts Milan On Path To Win

Agencies

MILAN: United States standout Christian Pulisic reached double figures in goals for the first time in a league season after his sublime strike set AC Milan on the way to a 3-0 win over 10-man Lecce in Serie A on Saturday.

Pulisic's early goal and 10th in the Italian league surpassed his previous best of nine in the 2019-20 English Premier League for Chelsea. The winger also has three goals in Europe and has already bettered his overall scoring record.

Olivier Giroud and Rafael Leão also scored against Lecce, having played the entire second half with 10 men after forward Nikola Krstovic was sent off.

Milan could even afford to ring the changes in the second half with Thursday's Europa League quarterfinal against Roma in mind. Roma was playing Lazio in the capital derby later Saturday.

Second-placed trimmed the gap to run-



away Serie A leader Inter Milan to 11 points ahead of the Nerazzurri's match at Udinese on Monday. Lecce remained four points above the drop zone.

On a warm and sunny day at San Siro, Samuel Chukwueze did well to cut

beat two defenders before finding Pulisic on the edge of the area. The American controlled the ball and unleashed an unstoppable left-footed strike.

That was with less than six minutes on the clock. Pulisic almost doubled his tally immediately, but Lecce goalkeeper Wladimiro Falcone parried the header from point-blank

Milan got the second in the 20th when Giroud headed in at the near post.