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J&K Assembly Polls Soon, Statehood To Be Restored: PM

Press Trust Of India

Udhampur: Asserting that the time is not far when the Assembly polls will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the people of the Union Territory will soon be able to share their issues with ministers and legislators.

The prime minister said the development projects undertaken by the BJP-led Centre in the erstwhile state are just a "trailer", adding that he has to work for the creation of a fabulous picture of a new Jammu and Kashmir in the days to come.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has completely changed and the biggest thing is that there has been a change of heart as people have moved from disappointments towards hope.

"The time is not far when the Assembly polls will be held



in Jammu and Kashmir, which will also get its statehood back. You will again raise your issues with your legislators and ministers," Modi told a rally organised here to garner support for Union minister Jitendra Singh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Udhampur in

the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. The prime minister asserted that "all the issues of every section of the society" in Jammu and Kashmir will be resolved.

He revealed his vision of carving out a vibrant picture of a new Jammu and Kashmir and said people are saying a lot has

THE CONDITION OF ROADS, ELECTRICITY, WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE has changed. But the biggest thing is that there is a change of heart in Jammu and Kashmir. People have moved from disappointments towards hope.

been done in the region. "You have seen the worst, so this looks like a lot to you. You feel good to see development. But Modi thinks bigger. Modi has a great vision. Whatever has happened till now is just a trailer," the prime minister said. He added that the ongoing

road and tunnel construction projects will be completed at a fast pace. "Companies and factories from across the country and outside will come to Jammu and Kashmir. New railway, tunnel and road projects are coming up. A record number of tourists are coming to Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir has to become a start-up hub, the prime minister said.

He said this new phase is becoming the destiny of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This dream has been seen by several generations. I give you the guarantee that your dream is my resolution. Every moment of fulfilling your dream is dedicated to you. These efforts will be in the name of India. It will change the destiny of Jammu and Kashmir," Modi said.

He said his government will work round the | [More on P6](#)

'Polls Taking Place Without Fear Of Terrorism'

Press Trust Of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the upcoming Lok Sabha election will take place in Jammu and Kashmir without the fear of terrorism, strikes, stone-pelting and cross-border firing, indicating that the "poll-boycott" campaigns run by the separatists in the last three decades are history now.

Addressing a poll rally in Udhampur, Modi said he has fulfilled his promise of putting an end to the long sufferings of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and challenged the Congress and other opposition parties to bring back Article 370 of the Constitution, which was revoked by the BJP-led Centre in August 2019.

The rally was organised at the Modi ground along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in support of Union minister Jitendra Singh, who is vying a

hat-trick of poll victories from the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat.

Udhampur goes to polls on April 19. The Congress has fielded Choudhary Lal Singh and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has nominated G M Saroori from the seat.

"I have been coming to Jammu and Kashmir for the last five decades. I remember the Ekta Yatra in 1992 to unfurl the tricolour at the Lal Chowk (in Srinagar). We received a grand welcome. In 2014, after offering prayers at the Vaishno Devi temple, I addressed a gathering at this very venue and gave a guarantee of freeing the people who have suffered for generations (due to terrorism)," the prime minister said.

He added that with people's blessings, he has fulfilled that guarantee.

"After decades, this election is taking place without the fear of terrorism, separatism, | [More on P6](#)

PM Demolished Opposition's False Narrative: BJP

The BJP on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion on holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir "demolished" a false narrative "being created" by the NC, PDP and other opposition parties. The BJP's reaction | [More on P6](#)

'Modi Has Shown A New Sunrise To J&K'

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh who is also the party incharge of J&K, today blasted NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah for misleading people of the union territory and spreading malicious propaganda against the Modi government. | [More on P6](#)

'Ram Temple Not An Election Issue'

In a scathing attack on the INDIA opposition bloc for claiming that the Ram temple in Ayodhya is a "poll plank" for the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said it is a matter of faith for the people of the country. He compared the mindset of | [More on P6](#)

FEARS OF WAR MeA Advises Indians Not To Travel To Iran, Israel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: India on Friday asked its citizens not to travel to Iran or Israel amid escalating tensions between the two countries following a strike on the Iranian consulate in Syria 11 days ago.

Iran blamed Israel for the strike and there have been fears that Tehran may launch an attack on Israel soon.

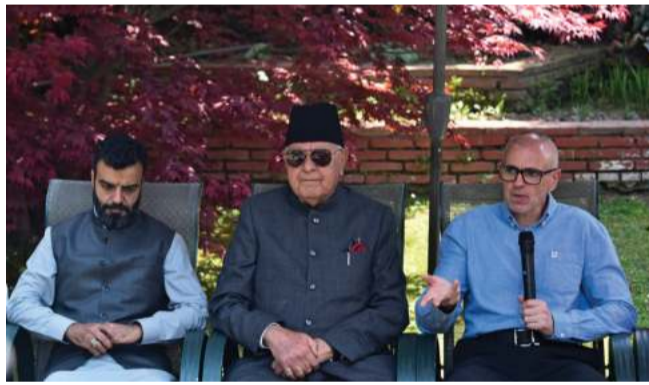
In an advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also urged the Indians residing in Iran and Israel to exercise utmost precautions about their safety and restrict their movements to minimum.

"In view of the prevailing situation in the region, all Indians are advised not to travel to Iran or Israel till further notice," it said.

"All those who are currently residing in Iran or Israel are requested to get in touch with Indian Embassies there and register themselves," the MEA said. "They are | [More on P6](#)

LS POLLS

NC Fields Omar From Baramulla, Ruhullah From Srinagar



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah will contest elections from the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, the National Conference announced here on Friday.

Making the announcement, party president Farooq Abdullah also told reporters here that influential Shia leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi will contest from central Kashmir's Srinagar constituency, which has been an NC bastion. | [More on P6](#)

If BJP Does Not Lose Deposits, I Will Quit Politics: Omar

Press Trust Of India

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah Friday challenged the BJP to contest Lok Sabha polls in the Kashmir Valley, saying he will quit politics if the national party's candidates do not lose their security deposits. If the BJP was confident of its claims on "development and normalcy", then the party should field its candidates in the three seats in the Kashmir Valley, Abdullah told reporters at a | [More on P6](#)

Nomination Process For Anantnag-Rajouri LS Seat Begins

Press Trust Of India

The Election Commission of India on Friday issued notification for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat which will go to polls on May 07. With the issuance of notification, the nomination process for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat began today. The high-profile seat will witness a fight between Mian Altaf of National Conference, Mehbooba Mufti of Peoples Democratic Party, Ghulam Nabi Azad | [More on P6](#)

appears to be in the position in the present cases where a large number of petitioners have approached this Court alleging irregular/malafide/illegal acts on the part of the Banks/financial institutions by violating provisions of the SARFEASI Act," said a bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal while holding as "maintainable" at least 46 writ petitions filed by borrowers and the guarantors questioning, amongst others, that though there is a statutory remedy available, it is of a limited nature and not efficacious.

"We hold that these writ petitions are maintainable. However, since we have only decided on | [More on P6](#)

SARFAESI ACT

HC To See If 'Efficacious' Remedy Available To Borrowers

Says Their Genuine Interest Shouldn't Be Ignored Or Sacrificed
M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has entertained a batch of petitions for deciding them on merits as to whether its intervention would be necessary for "efficacious" remedy available to borrowers and the guarantors under "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" (SARFAESI Act).

"Unless the adjudicating forum is readily, easily and regularly available, it can prejudicially affect their right to easy access to justice which

appears to be in the position in the present cases where a large number of petitioners have approached this Court alleging irregular/malafide/illegal acts on the part of the Banks/financial institutions by violating provisions of the SARFEASI Act," said a bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal while holding as "maintainable" at least 46 writ petitions filed by borrowers and the guarantors questioning, amongst others, that though there is a statutory remedy available, it is of a limited nature and not efficacious.

"We hold that these writ petitions are maintainable. However, since we have only decided on | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Migrant Voters Now Don't Need To Fill 'Form M'

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Kashmiri migrants from Jammu and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir would no longer be required to fill up "Form M" to vote in the Lok Sabha polls as the Election Commission has ordered changes to the existing voting scheme for the displaced people, fulfilling a long-standing demand.

Earlier, the filing of the form was mandatory for displaced voters from the Valley ahead of every parliamentary and Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the new arrangement announced by the EC on Thursday, the Kashmiri Migrant electors in various camps or zones at Jammu and Udhampur shall no longer need to fill "Form M". Instead, they shall be mapped with the special polling stations falling in the zones they are registered or residing in, the poll panel said.

In addition, | [More on P6](#)

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN J&K

Over 480 Govt Offices Go Paperless, File Disposal Rate At 97%

Agencies

Srinagar: With over 480 government offices in Jammu and Kashmir adopting a paperless approach, the file disposal rate of files in the Union Territory has now gone up to 97 percent.

The transition towards digitalisation has seen a significant expansion in online services, skyrocketing from 60 to 1100 offerings across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, the Information Technology Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has achieved significant milestones in the realm of digital

transformation, e-governance, and technology integration over the last four years.

"The Union Territory led the way in implementing e-office solutions, with over 480 government offices adopting this paperless approach. With a remarkable file disposal rate of 97%, this initiative has significantly enhanced the overall efficiency of government operations," he said, adding, with the implementation of e-Office in J&K. The 150-year-old tradition of Darbar Move was ended, resulting in an annual saving of 400 crore rupees for the public exchequer.

The official added, "Since

2019, the landscape of governance in Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a transformative shift towards digital governance. To date, more than 53 lakh applications have been processed. The surge in online services from 60 to 1100, facilitated by the introduction of the e-Unified Integrated Accessible Transparent (e-unnat) dynamic portal, underscores this progression. Jammu and Kashmir leads among UTs and states in the number of services provided online, offering citizens seamless access to various government services through their mobile devices. J&K is the first in the country | [More on P6](#)

EMPOWERING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

'Startup Kashmir' Magazine Launched at NIT, Srinagar

Muntazir Yaseen

Srinagar: Startup Kashmir magazine was launched at NIT Srinagar by Prof A. Ravinder Nath, the Vice Chancellor - Central University Kashmir.

The launch event, held today at NIT Srinagar, witnessed the presence of enablers in the startup community, including Mr. Shahid Ansari, Founder and Chief Editor of Startup Kashmir Magazine, Mr. Shahid Mir, CEO of Greenovator Incubation Foundation (GIF), Prof M F Wani, Prof. G A Harmain (Directors GIF) and Dr. Saad Parvez (PI GIF), representing the academic community besides Prof Ravinder who also holds the additional charge as Director



NIT Srinagar.

Kashmir Observer was represented by Nazir Ganaie, the

organisation's multimedia head.

Startup Kashmir magazine

first of its kind magazine that focuses on innovations, entrepreneurship and startups. The publications shall serve as a connection between the opportunities underlying in the region and the availability of support systems across startup facilitators, incubators and accelerators. This magazine aims to inspire and guide aspiring idea generators and entrepreneurs in realizing their business ventures by providing requisite support and guidance.

Startup Kashmir Magazine powered by Greenovator Incubation Foundation, NIT Srinagar, in collaboration with Kashmir Observer, presented the inaugural issue of this magazine. | [More on P6](#)



DGP Greets People On Baisakhi, Dr Ambedkar Jayanti

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the joyful occasions of Baisakhi and Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti, Director General of Police (DGP) R.R Swain Friday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as to the police and security forces personnel, and the families of martyrs.

In a message, the DGP has said that Baisakhi marks the beginning of the new harvesting season, symbolizing hope and prosperity.

Praying for all the citizens living in J&K, Swain hoped that people of J&K will continue to reap the benefits of peace which has been brought in by the sacrifices of the martyrs.

The changed J&K is ready to progress and

develop, let's strengthen the bond between Police and public to end the remnants of terrorism, to protect our youth from narco-terrorism and to fight strongly against the gangsters, the DGP has appealed to the people.

The DGP has further stated that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's remarkable life journey from humble beginning to becoming a pioneer in shaping India's constitution serves as an inspiration to all and encourages all of us to strive for excellence and contribute to making the nation proud.

These festivals are not just occasions for celebration but also serve as reminders of the values of peace, unity, and progress that we should uphold as a society, DGP said in his message.



Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and VC Central University of Kashmir Prof. Ravinder Nath launched 'Startup Kashmir magazine' on Friday. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

LS Polls-2024: First Randomization Of Polling Staff Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The first Randomization of Polling Staff to be deployed across 929 Polling Stations for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency was held here today

at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The Randomization process was held under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat in presence of the con-

cerned Officers.

The Randomization process was conducted through dedicated Software as per the prescribed guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) ensuring fairness and impartial-

ity in the selection of Polling Staff.

Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz, Nodal Officer IT/ETPBS, Mujtaba Ahmad Bhanday and other concerned were present in the meeting

Locals Concerned Over Road Safety Measures On Flyovers

Agencies

Srinagar: The people living in and around Nowgam have raised concerns regarding road safety management, urging authorities to prioritize smoother traffic flow and reinforce safety measures on all three highways, particularly the vital Bypass-Nowgam route.

The locals voiced their concern for the safety management of flyovers in Srinagar, including Nowgam-Bypass and others.

Saleem, a local of Nowgam said, "There are many death traps on the Nowgam-Bypass flyover, and authorities must take note of them. There should be designated pedestrian pathways as the lack of safety measures causes discomfort and fear among pedestrians using the flyover."

When contacted, the chief executive of Roads and Buildings (R&B), Sajad Ahmad Nageeb said that their primary objective is to ensure the safety of commuters and vehicles traversing these crucial highways.

"Strengthening bridges along these routes is a key step towards achieving this goal," he said.

Locals said the Bypass-Nowgam route serves as a critical artery connecting various regions, and ensuring its structural integrity is paramount for the safety of commuters.

Regarding the accident that happened near the flyover, Nageeb said he has personally visited the accident spot, and it has come to notice that it happened due to over speeding and wrong lane driving.

"We have geared up the security arrangements on flyovers and have taken note of the matter to prevent further accidents in the future," he added.

The officials from the R&B Department leading the construction work on flyovers, said, "We have ramped up the work and requested people to have patience. We will commence the macadamization of Sanat Nagar road in the coming week and ensure the timely completion of the remaining flyovers."—(KNO)

Mirwaiz Condemns Restrictions On Religious Occasions In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chief cleric of Kashmir on Friday expressed dismay over the authorities' decision to allegedly prohibit observances of key religious events including Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr, and Eid prayers at the central Jamia Masjid in Srinagar.

According to a statement, Mirwaiz criticized the contradiction between the authorities' optimistic public statements regarding the situation in Kashmir, and their actions that re-

strict religious freedom. "Every time the mosque is locked down and I am detained at home, their claims get exposed," he stated.

Despite these challenges, Mirwaiz reiterated that "our resilience and faith is unwavering. We are disappointed but not disheartened; we have full faith in Allah."

He emphasized the historical and spiritual role of the Jama Masjid's pulpit as the reflector of truth, vowing to shine light upon the state of affairs to the authorities, "whether they like it or not".

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board
CPO Chowk Panjirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex
Rambagh Srinagar.
www.Jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Sub Inspector, Finance Department - Supplementary Document Verification thereof.

NOTIFICATION

All such candidates who are falling under consideration zone and were called for Document Verification for the post of Sub Inspector, Finance Department, UT/Divisional Cadre, advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated: 16-12-2020, under Item Nos. 118, 121 & 123, vide this office Notification No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/7/2024-03 (7420842), dated: 03-04-2024, but could-not appear before the Document Verification Committee(s) on 08-04-2024 due to various reasons, are hereby given last and final opportunity to appear before the Document Verification Committee on 15-04-2024 (Monday) from 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM at JKSSB, Central Office, CPO Chowk, Panjirthi, Jammu (Jammu Centre based candidates) and at JKSSB, Central Office, Zam zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Centre based candidates), falling which no further claims in this regard shall be entertained at any stage.

Sd/-
Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(IFT)/7/2024-03 (7420842)
DIPK-72/24 Dated: 11-04-2024

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4 : 36
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5: 10
Magrib	7:03
ISHA	8: 28

HIJRI CALENDAR
04 Shawal
1445

- ### This Day In History
- 989- Battle at Abydos: Byzantine emperor Basilus II beats Bardas Phocas
 - 1204 - Crusaders occupy Constantinople
 - 1367 - Battle at Najera Spain: Castile & England beat Aragon & France
 - 1517- Ottoman army occupies Cairo
 - 1759- French beat European Allies in Battle of Bergen
 - 1796- First elephant arrives in US from India
 - 1796- Battle at Millesimo Italy: Napoleon beats Austrians
 - 1849 - Hungarian Republic proclaimed
 - 1868- Abyssinian War ends as British and Indian troops capture Magdala and Ethiopian Emperor commits suicide
 - 1869- Steam power brake patented (George Westinghouse)
 - 1904- Battle at Oviumbo Africa: Hereros chase away German army
 - 1904 - A squadron of the Russian fleet is decoyed out of Port Arthur by Japanese maneuvers, when they realize they are sailing into a trap; their battleship Petropavlovsk hits a mine and sinks, with a loss of 700 men
 - 1919 - British troops open fire on demonstrators in Amritsar, India, killing 350
 - 1940 - 2nd battle of Narvik; 8 German destroyers destroyed
 - 1941 - Pact of neutrality between the USSR and Japan is signed.
 - 1944 - Diplomatic relations are established between New Zealand and the Soviet Union.
 - 1959 - USAF launches Discoverer II into polar orbit
 - 1959 - Vanguard SLV-5 launched for Earth orbit (failed)
 - 1960 - France becomes 4th nuclear nation exploding an A-Bomb in Sahara
 - 1981 - Pulitzer prize awarded to Beth Henley for "Crimes of the Heart"
 - 1981 Wash Post Janet Cooke wins Pulitzer Prize (later admits story a hoax)
 - 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
 - 1984 - 11th Space Shuttle Mission (41C)-Challenger 5-returns to Earth
 - 1984 - India beat Pak by 58 runs to win 1st Asia Cricket Cup in Sharjah
 - 1985 - "TASS" denounces US boycott of Moscow Olympics
 - 1985 - Space Shuttle Atlantis ferried to Kennedy Space Center via Ellington AFB, Texas

From KO Archives

Gone Are The Days When We Would Be Dismissed: Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah today ridiculed threats of dismissing his government saying the National Conference was governing the state with massive support of the people who were the real fountain of power.

Nobody can; dismiss us, gone are such days, Dr. Abdullah declared at a largely attended rally organised to felicitate the newly elected member to Rajya Sabha, Mirza Abdul Rashid at Zanana Park here this afternoon.

Without naming Mufti Sayed's People's Democratic Party, the chief minister said some parties were roaming in villages saying that their stand on holding talks with militants has been vindicated. Truth is that decision of releasing Hurriyat Conference leaders was taken after consultations between the state and central governments". He said he was not against holding talks with anybody provided these are held within the constitution.

(Kashmir Observer 13 April, 2000)

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SRINAGAR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICE
Tel/Fax: 01942455179, email: trafficpolice@srinagar.govt.in

TRAFFIC ADVISORY / APPEAL
(TRAFFIC ROUTE PLAN FOR TULIP FESTIVAL-2024)

Asia's largest Tulip Garden has been thrown open to public on 23rd March-2024 and a large number of tourists and local populace are thronging to Tulip Garden and other gardens in its vicinity especially after **Eid-ul-Fitr**. Due to the expected rush of people; there are chances of congestion and for the convenience of people and to avoid slow movement, one way traffic especially on **Holidays** shall be regulated:

- People intending to visit Tulip Garden shall adopt Lal Chowk-Dalgate-Boulevard/Gupkar Road to reach Tulip Garden and on their return they shall adopt Nishat-Foreshore-Habak-Dargah-Khanyar route to reach their respective destinations.
- Likewise, motorist's intending to travel from Harwan-Shalimar-Nishat and other adjacent areas towards Lal-Chowk are requested to travel via Foreshore- Hazratbal route instead of Nishat-Boulevard road axis to reach their respective destinations.
- Motorists intending to travel from Gulab Bagh-Zakoora-Naseembagh-Habbak and adjacent areas shall adopt 90 feet road and Ali Jan route to reach Lal Chowk instead of Foreshore Road.
- Visitors are advised to park their vehicles at designated parking places only and avoid parking their vehicles on roadside. Wrongly, parked vehicles will be towed.

Available parking places are:

- In front of Botanical Garden
- Open land at Karpora
- LCMA Parking at Nishat.

- Emergencies shall be allowed to take the shortest route.
- One way traffic will be implemented from 0900 hrs till 1900 hrs.

Muzaffar Ahmad Shah-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Traffic City Srinagar

DIPK-89/24
dated: 12-04-2024

GRATITUDE

We on behalf of entire Ashai family, express our gratitude to all those who visited us or conveyed their condolences through different means on the sad demise of late Shamima Ashai W/o Mushtaq Ahmad Ashai of Habbib Colony Baghat Barzulla.

We particularly express our gratitude to Intizamia Committee Nawach Bagh, Intizamia Committee Manirbagh, Intizamia Committee Nowshehra, Sona Tradeways Karan Nagar, Social Activists and prominent Journalists.

BEREAVED
Mushtaq Ahmad Ashai
Zubair Ahmad Ashai
Zaid Mushtaq Ashai
Umer Buthar

“
Maintaining anonymity does not mean neglecting the needs of the recipients. It is essential to ensure that the donations are distributed to those who truly need them, fairly and equitably. This requires careful planning, coordination, and communication with relevant authorities and organizations, as well as a deep understanding of the local context and culture

Balancing Charity and Confidentiality

Upholding Islamic Values in Donation Drives on Social Media in Kashmir

Imran Maqbool Wani



Charity and donation of food, clothes, and other essential items are fundamental aspects of Islamic ethics. These acts are considered a means of promoting social justice and equality. Muslims are instructed to provide financial assistance to those in need with humility, sincerity, and compassion, and they are to avoid causing hurt or embarrassment to the recipient. Giving charity is seen as a fundamental responsibility that must be fulfilled by all who are financially able. The concept of charity, or zakat, is deeply ingrained in Muslim culture, and it is viewed as a way to help those who are less fortunate and to promote social welfare and community development.

Moreover, Muslims are encouraged

to give charity in a manner that is ethical and respectful. They are advised to give in secret, where their left-hand does not know what their right hand has given. However, the most important aspect of giving charity is to do so in a manner that is compassionate and ethical. Muslims are taught to give to please Allah and seek His blessings, rather than seek praise or recognition from others.

According to a saying of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Allah will grant seven individuals shade on the Day of Judgement. He mentioned six of them and then concluded by saying that one of them is the person who gives in charity secretly, without even letting his left hand know what his right hand has given in charity, and the other is the

person who remembers Allah in solitude and sheds tears out of reverence for Him.

"They who spend their wealth in the way of Allah and then do not follow up what they have spent with reminders or injury will have their reward with their Lord. There will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve." - Quran (2:262)

In Kashmir, it is heartening to see the social service sector put in tremendous efforts to organize frequent donation drives for food, clothes, and other essentials by Non-governmental organizations, Trusts, and Volunteer groups. In recent times, these drives have gained immense popularity and are often shared on social media platforms to reach a wider audience. It's

important to keep the public informed about how their donations are making a difference in the lives of those in need. However, it's crucial to be mindful of the privacy of those receiving donations. Frequently, social media platforms display photographs without obscuring the faces of those depicted. This practice can result in distress and discomfort for the individuals in question. Recognition by friends or relatives can precipitate awkward conversations for them.

Donations should be given selflessly, without expecting any public recognition. Unfortunately, some charity event organizers exploit the publicity of donations to benefit their own reputation. This practice is increasingly common on social media platforms.

We must prioritize the needs of those in need and avoid exploiting their vulnerability for personal gain. We must maintain the dignity and privacy of individuals receiving support and conduct charitable events professionally and with integrity.

In Islam, privacy is highly valued and respected. It is considered a fundamental right of individuals to maintain their privacy and dignity, even in charitable acts. When distributing donations, it is essential to exercise discretion and sensitivity to ensure that the identities and personal details of the recipients remain confidential. This upholds the Islamic principle of protecting privacy and prevents any potential harm to the recipients, such as unwarranted attention or exploitation.

Islam discourages ostentatious displays of charity that may compromise the privacy or dignity of recipients. The Quran warns against those who spend their wealth to be seen by others, emphasizing the importance of sincerity and humility in charitable deeds. Hence, it is recommended to give charity discreetly, without drawing attention to oneself or causing any discomfort to the recipients.

Maintaining anonymity does not mean neglecting the needs of the recipients. It is essential to ensure that the donations are distributed to those who truly need them, fairly and equitably. This requires careful planning, coordination, and communication with relevant authorities and organizations, as well as a deep understanding of the local context and culture.

Respecting the privacy and dignity of individuals is an essential tenet of Islamic ethics and values that must be upheld in all spheres of life, including charitable acts. By doing so, we fulfill our obligation to those in need and contribute to building a just, compassionate, and harmonious society. Ethical, respectful, and compassionate giving can bring about positive change in the world.

As a community, we must continue to support one another while respecting each other's privacy and dignity. It is crucial to work together to create a society that treats every individual with the utmost respect and compassion. This approach will result in a more just, equitable, and humane society that aligns with Islamic values and ethics.

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

The writer is a professional Social Worker is working in the developmental sector and can be reached at waniimran169@gmail.com

E-Commerce Needs A Bulwark

Fostering a competitive culture in India will ensure benefits are widely distributed

Siddharth Pai

In India's bustling economy, e-commerce has emerged not just as a convenience but as a cornerstone of the retail ecosystem, reflecting a profound shift in how trade and commerce are conducted in the world's largest country by population. This country's unique position, with its vast population, burgeoning middle class, and increasing internet penetration, offers an unparalleled opportunity for e-commerce growth. Fostering a competitive culture within this rapidly expanding digital market, however, while paramount, is no mean task.

The vectors for stifling competition in this new world are not the same as those that previous monopolistic and oligopolistic enterprises used to employ. In the non-digital world, these effects were often felt by the end consumer, who ended up paying extortionist prices for goods and services. When I was a youth, India, with its MRTP (Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practices) Act, policed these would-be monopolists and oligopolists. In addition, whatever was left of unnatural monopolies prior to the 1991 liberalisation disappeared in the wake of the newly opened-up country. Competition became the new norm. Indians could now buy anything at home that previously was available only in foreign countries and were not limited to home-grown firms that had enjoyed the 'licence raj'.

These traditional anti-monopoly

measures do not always apply neatly in the digital context. The lines between different markets are blurred, and services often come at zero initial monetary cost to the consumer. Recognising the importance of competition, the Indian government and regulatory bodies have been keen to frame laws and guidelines that ensure fair play. The Competition Act of 2002, and amended in 2007, were the initial cornerstone legislations aimed at preventing practices that have adverse effects on competition. They aimed to promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

In recent years, the spotlight has turned towards e-commerce due to its explosive growth and the unique challenges it presents in terms of competition. Predatory pricing, exclusive contracts, and platform neutrality are areas of concern that regulators are addressing. Existing law needs to be expanded.

The Competition Commission of India has already been actively scrutinising e-commerce platforms to ensure they do not abuse their dominant position and that smaller players have a fair shot at success. Allegations of Big Tech firms such as Amazon and Google engaging in anti-competitive practices, from prioritising their products in search results to exclusive selling arrangements, have raised concerns about stifled competition, hindered innovation, and compromised consumer choice. This is in line with what we have seen abroad, particularly in the

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European Union (EU), where regulators have been swift to act, and have punished Big Tech firms with large fines for a variety of transgressions. As I have argued before, the EU is a beacon for the rest of the world in the regulation of Big Tech firms, primarily because as a supra-national body, its regulators do not have the horizon problem of elections every few years, like its member nations do.

India's proposed e-commerce policy is a testament to the government's in-

tent to create a balanced, competitive market. The Report of the Committee on Digital Competition Law (RCDDL) is a tour de force. This policy is expected to address key issues such as data localisation, consumer protection, and anti-counterfeiting measures. By setting a clear regulatory framework, the government aims to level the playing field for all participants.

One of the RCDDL's objectives is to stymie unfair trade practices like deep discounting, which can distort the market. Such practices, while seemingly beneficial to consumers in the short term, can stifle competition by driving smaller players out of the market. In the long term, these practices will end up in a TINA (there is no alternative) situation, thereby allowing Big Tech firms who corner the market the licence to exploit consumers.

Fostering this competitive culture in India's e-commerce markets is essential for ensuring that the benefits of this digital revolution are widely distributed. By encouraging competition, India can spur innovation, improve consumer choice, and drive economic growth. Existing and proposed laws play a crucial role in shaping a market that is fair, dynamic, and inclusive. As India continues to navigate the complexities of the digital age, the focus must remain on creating a regulatory environment that balances the interests of all stakeholders and paves the way for a vibrant and competitive e-commerce ecosystem.

Building a competitive culture in e-commerce also involves nurtur-

ing the broader ecosystem, where the government has been active. This includes allowing investment by private firms in digital infrastructure, such as high-speed internet access across the country, and promoting digital literacy among the population. The recent digital leap has enabled even the most remote areas to access goods and services previously out of reach, bridging the urban-rural divide and knitting the country closer together in a web of digital commerce. Encouragingly, the government is already fostering a start-up culture that encourages risk-taking and innovation. Support in the form of funding, mentorship, and access to resources helps budding entrepreneurs to bring their ideas to life and compete in the e-commerce arena.

At its core, competition is the crucible in which innovation is forged, and for consumers, it means more choices, better prices, and enhanced service quality. For the economy, it means increased efficiency and productivity, driving growth, and creating jobs. A competitive culture is not just about keeping prices low; it's about pushing the boundaries of what's possible. From drone deliveries to blockchain-based supply chains, the possibilities are limitless.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir. The article was originally published by Financial Express

Understanding the Friction Inside

Unpacking Emotional Baggage for Healthier Relationships

Wasim Kakroo

Human relationships are complex tapestries woven from the threads of our emotions, experiences, and perceptions. Yet, beneath the surface lies a reservoir of unprocessed emotions, experiences, and perceptions that can seep into our interactions, creating friction and discord. This article delves into the importance of understanding and processing our emotional history to cultivate healthier connections with others.

Unraveling Emotional Baggage

Our emotional baggage comprises the sum of our past experiences, traumas, and learned behaviors that shape our responses to the world around us. From childhood wounds to adult disappointments, these unresolved emotions reside within us, influencing our thoughts, feelings, and actions. Left unexamined, this baggage can become a heavy burden, weighing down our relationships and stifling our growth.

The Role of Emotional History

Our emotional history serves as a blueprint for understanding ourselves and our interactions with others. It informs the development of our ego, shaping our self-perception and influencing how we navigate social dynamics. Whether rooted in childhood upbringing, past relationships, or significant life events, our emotional history casts a shadow over our present experiences, often manifesting as patterns of behavior and thought.



Effective communication is essential in navigating the complexities of relationships. By expressing our needs, fears, and boundaries openly and honestly, we create a foundation of trust and intimacy. Moreover, understanding our emotional triggers allows us to communicate more effectively, diffusing potential conflicts before they escalate

Shaping the Ego

The ego, our sense of self, is deeply intertwined with our emotional history. From early experiences of validation or rejection to societal expectations and cultural norms, our ego forms intricate layers of identity. How-

ever, when shaped by unresolved emotional wounds, the ego can become fragile or defensive, leading to conflicts and misunderstandings in relationships. By unpacking our emotional history, we can gain insight into the roots of our ego and cultivate a healthier sense of self-awareness.

Perception and Projection

Our perception of the world is filtered through the lens of our emotional history. Past traumas and biases color our interpretation of events, often leading to distorted perspectives and miscommunication. Moreover, un-

resolved emotions can fuel projection, where we unconsciously attribute our own feelings onto others. This projection creates a cycle of misunderstanding and conflict, perpetuating the friction within our minds and relationships.

Breaking the Cycle

To break free from the cycle of friction, we must embark on a journey of self-discovery and healing. This involves acknowledging and accepting our emotional history without judgment, allowing ourselves to feel and process the full spectrum of emotions. Therapy, journaling,

and mindfulness practices can serve as valuable tools in this process, offering space for reflection and introspection.

Cultivating Empathy and Understanding

As we unravel our emotional baggage, we develop a deeper sense of empathy and understanding towards ourselves and others. By recognizing the shared humanity in our struggles and triumphs, we foster compassion and connection in our relationships. Rather than reacting from a place of woundedness, we learn to respond with empathy and grace, fostering healthier dynamics and mutual respect.

Communication and Boundaries

Effective communication is essential in navigating the complexities of relationships. By expressing our needs, fears, and boundaries openly and honestly, we create a foundation of trust and intimacy. Moreover, understanding our emotional triggers allows us to communicate more effectively, diffusing potential conflicts before they escalate. Setting healthy boundaries ensures that we prioritize self-care and respect in our interactions, safeguarding against the overflow of friction from our minds.

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The Power of Embracing Uncertainty

Nicole Whiting

In the realm of psychological inquiry, much focus has been placed on the "knowledge-action gap," which separates what we know from what we do. However, another critical yet underexplored area is the "question-answer gap."

This gap is where uncertainty, the unknown, and the unknowable live, marking the distance between the questions we pose and the answers we seek. It embodies the core of human curiosity and the drive to explore, whether in personal growth, education, or professional endeavors. This isn't merely a void; it's a space filled with possibilities, where our curiosity propels us to challenge conventional wisdom and extend the edges of our capabilities.

Here, adopting an "I don't know" mindset evolves from a potential critique to a powerful stance. Uncertainty and the unknown are typically viewed with apprehension, yet they are the very elements that catalyze learning and innovation.

Embracing this gap allows us to transform uncertainty into a catalyst for significant insights and breakthroughs. It prompts us to recognize that not having all the answers isn't an endpoint but a starting point for discovery. This perspective is essential for fostering continuous growth, pushing us to constantly seek new knowledge and innovative solutions, thus unlocking our full potential and expanding the realm of what's possible.

The Illusion of Control

The concept of control is a cornerstone of psychological research, often associated with increased stress and anxiety when that control is perceived to be lost. Yet paradoxically, it's in the relinquishment of this very control that we can decrease stress, improve mental health, and ultimately find more profound empowerment.

Researcher Carol S. Dweck's seminal work illuminates how facing uncertainties with a growth mindset—embracing the challenges they present—can significantly enhance our resilience and adaptability, offering a more nuanced understanding of control's role in our lives (Blackwell, L.S., Trzesniewski, K.H., Dweck, C.S., 2007).

Uncertainty, rather than a barrier, can be the fertile soil from which creative thought and action springs. It invites us into a space free from the constraints of predetermined outcomes, where new ideas can take root. Research by Mueller, Melwani, and Goncalo (2011) reveals that comfort with uncertainty nurtures divergent thinking—a cornerstone of creat-



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ity—allowing for the birth of novel solutions and groundbreaking ideas.

Curiosity is an innate drive that propels us toward exploration and discovery. Kashdan and Silvia (2009) argue that curiosity transforms the anxiety of the unknown into a positive exploratory excitement, promoting well-being and adaptive behaviors. This shift is crucial for navigating life's unpredictability with grace and an open mind.

Practical Steps for Navigating Uncertainty

Stepping beyond the veil of certainty doesn't plunge us into chaos but instead expands the horizon of possibilities. Barry Schwartz's insights into the paradox of choice highlight the double-edged sword of abundance—while at times overwhelming, the freedom to choose underpins our autonomy and satisfaction.

Embracing uncertainty opens up a landscape rich with potential paths, each inviting personal exploration and growth (Schwartz, 2004). Try the following to get started:

- **Cultivate curiosity.** Curiosity allows for an exploratory engagement with the world, inviting a rich tapestry of experiences and learning. Jackson (2023) describes uncertainty as "wis-

dom in motion," emphasizing that knowledge is not static but evolved through the embrace of the unknown. By fostering curiosity, individuals can navigate uncertainty with an empowered stance, viewing each moment of not knowing as an opportunity for growth.

- **Practice patience.** The rush towards certainty can overshadow the potential hidden within uncertain moments. O'Donohue (2018) beautifully captures this sentiment, stating that "possibilities are always more interesting than facts." This perspective invites a patient approach to life's uncertainties, recognizing that the journey, with its myriad of potential paths and outcomes, is as significant as the destination.
- **Have your own back.** Developing a resilient relationship with failure and uncertainty is essential for personal growth. This entails supporting oneself through trials and errors, acknowledging that while outcomes may not always be predictable, one's ability to navigate and adapt to them is within our control. This self-support fosters a resilience that is invaluable in the face of life's inevitable uncertainties.

Embracing uncertainty is more than a philosophical ideal; it's a practical approach to living a full and meaningful life. By acknowledging the illusion of control, nurturing our creative instincts, and welcoming curiosity, we can transform the unknown from a source of fear to a wellspring of growth.

The "question-answer gap" then becomes not a chasm to fear but a space of exploration, where the seeds of our potential await the nourishment of our courage and openness.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

The Islamic Calendar And The Month Of Shawwal Explained

AMALIAH TEAM

When we're running on western time, it's easy to forget that we're existing on a whole other timeline in the Islamic world. While many of us know the months of the Islamic calendar, and while most of us have Ramadan on lock, for some of us it's easy to forget that the months that follow or precede it are just as important.

Eid al-Fitr is the start of the holy month of Shawwal.

A Bit About How The Islamic Calendar Works

In pre-Islamic Arabia, months, days of the week and years weren't formatted numerically, they were done so according to major events that took place during the year. One such example is the recorded, 'Year of the Elephant', the year that the King of modern day Ethiopia embarked on the destruction of the Kaaba in Makkah with a hoard of elephants, importantly, it's also the year the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was born. When Islam was born, our Hijri calendar was aligned with the moon, and the lunar calendar is what we operate with now. Like in pre-Islamic Arabia however, our first calendar years were named after major events, the first 10 years after the Hijra (the migration of the Muslims from Makkah to Madinah) were also recorded according to major events:

1. The year of permission.
2. The year of the order of fighting.
3. The year of the trial.
4. The year of congratulation on marriage.
5. The year of the earthquake.
6. The year of enquiring.
7. The year of gaining victory.
8. The year of equality.
9. The year of exemption.
10. The year of farewell.

We're currently in the year 1445 AH (After- Hijri), Alhamdulillah.

So what's the significance of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic year?

The month of Shawwal is the 10th month in the Islamic calendar, its name was given to signify the time of year in which the she-camel would be pregnant with her baby. A symbol of new life and renewal after a month of spiritual cleansing. It's

a truly transformative period for Muslims as in this month, we're afforded many opportunities to put into action what we may have learned or struggled with during the month of Ramadan:

1. Allah (SWT) provided us with more blessings in the form of the 6 days of Shawwal – 6 days you can fast at any time during the month of Shawwal after Eid, that, together with your Ramadan makes it as if you fasted the whole year: "Whosoever fasts during the month of Ramadan and then follows it up with six days of fasting of Shawwal will be rewarded as if he or she had fasted the entire year" (Muslim)
2. We're given Eid-al-Fitr on the first day of Shawwal
3. The Hajj season commences in Shawwal
4. It's the only other month in the Islamic calendar that is recommended for us to fast in.

One thing that always gets me whenever I read about the month of Shawwal is that a sign of an accepted Ramadan is that you intend to fast the 6 days of Shawwal.

It's like a mirror held up to my face about whether I've actually meant what I've cried about in my du'as, when I've asked for forgiveness, or pledged to do more. It's a Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ), which means that it's not incumbent upon any one of us to fast these six days, but it's recommended for the benefit of the believer. In fact, for anyone looking for an easy solution to suffering from those post-ramadan blues, fasting the 6 days of Shawwal is a great way to keep up the momentum of fasting and the spiritual benefits of doing so.

There's no doubt about it, it's a bit of an extra push after a month of long fasts like the one we've just had. The golden take-away from having this mirror held up to us is not to be disheartened if you feel you can't fast the 6 days, whatever your reasons are. It could be that you take another, different step towards ibadah (worship) just by being reminded that Shawwal is upon us, or it could be that you prepare to be more mindful. Don't be hard on yourself if you don't feel able. One step at a time, it's okay to be a Ramadan Muslim. God does not burden any soul

with more than it can bear: each gains whatever good it has done, and suffers its bad.' Lord, do not take us to task if we forget or make mistakes. Lord, do not burden us as You burdened those before us. Lord, do not burden us with more than we have strength to bear. Pardon us, forgive us, and have mercy on us. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:286)

Time Well Spent

Many more of us would recommend spending time trying to internalise the teachings of our faith as opposed to absentmindedly reciting or memorising key facts, dates, names, etc. However, these things are still good to know, and I've often found that memorising things, even if they're of no particular meaning to me at that specific time, always crop up in places I least expect, and I'm able to make a great connection. That feeling helps me internalise what I've learned more than anything else, and it's a great way to increase the scope of your knowledge, a small step in the direction of knowledge has you climbing ladders without you even realising.

Our intentions are the key to all knowledge and it's the best way to fill our years with Barakah (blessings).

Below is a list of the Islamic year in order. Why not try learning about the significance of the months we live in, and what Allah (SWT) and his Messenger (ﷺ) have advised us about them?

Islamic Hijri Calendar:

- Muharram – Meaning 'Forbidden'
- Safar – Meaning 'Void'
- Rabi al-awwal – Meaning 'The First Spring'
- Rabi ath-thani – Meaning 'The Second Spring'
- Jumada al- Ula – Meaning 'The First of Parched Land'
- Jumada al-Akhirah – Meaning 'The Last of Parched Land'
- Rajab – Respect 'Honour'
- Shaban – Meaning 'Scattered'
- Ramadan – Meaning 'Burning Heat'
- Shawwal – Meaning 'Raised'
- Dhul al- Qa'dah – Meaning 'The One of Truce'
- Dhul al -Hijjah – Meaning 'The One of Pilgrimage'

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