

SRINAGAR BOAT TRAGEDY

## Body Of Missing Minor Retrieved After 11 Days



KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: The body of a minor, who was missing after the April 16 boat capsizing tragedy in the Jhelum river here, was recovered on Friday, taking the death toll in the incident to seven, officials said.

The body of a minor boy who drowned in the tragedy in the Gandabal area in the outskirts of the city here, was retrieved from the river near the Old Zero Bridge in the Rajbagh area of the city, the officials said. They said that the body was shifted to SMHS Srinagar for medico-legal formalities.

News of the discovery spread like wildfire through Gandbal. The pall of gloom that had shrouded the community for eleven days deepened. The cries, a constant undercurrent since the boat capsized, rose in

a fresh wave of anguish. Women wailed, their grief echoing off through the streets of Gandbal. Men, their faces etched with despair, hurried towards the riverbank.

With the recovery of Haziq's body, the death toll in the Gandbal boat capsizing has reached seven while two bodies continue to remain missing.

Locals of Gandbal area of Srinagar said that a body was seen at Zero-bridge and was retrieved without any delay. Later, the body was identified as Haziq Ahmed Sheikh, 11, of Gandbal, who had drowned along with six others in river Jhelum and was missing since April 16. Since then, religious scholars of different schools of thought have visited Gandbal to share the pain and grief of bereaved families. They also prayed for the [More on P10](#)

LS POLLS PHASE II

## Jammu Records 71.91 % Voter Turnout

Agencies

Jammu: People in huge numbers came out to vote in the second phase of parliamentary elections for Jammu Lok Sabha seat and enthusiasm was seen among all the age groups as the constituency recorded 71.91 percent of voting all across.

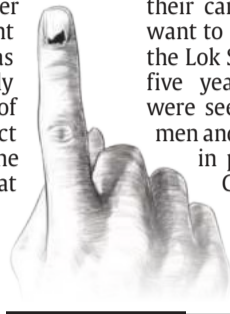
Be it centenarians, retirees, newly married or young, everyone came out

to cast his or her vote.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly segment of district Reasi topped the list with over 79.91 percent polling whereas Bahu Assembly segment of Jammu district recorded the lowest turnout at 62.34 percent.

People of Jammu,

Samba and Reasi districts made sure that they come out in large numbers and cast their vote in favour of their candidate who they want to represent them in the Lok Sabha for the next five years. Long queues were seen all across both men and women and even in posh colonies like Gandhinagar and Trikuta Nagar, people were



## Border Residents Vote Without Fear Of Shelling

Without the fear of Pakistan shelling amid a ceasefire, people living near the International Border and Line of Control in Jammu thronged the polling stations across Jammu to decide the fate of 22 candidates contesting from the constituency in the second phase of Lok Sabha polls on Friday. According to Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir Pandurang K Pole, a total of 158 polling stations, out of 2,416, were set up in the border areas in Jammu and Samba districts besides the Kalakote-Sunderbani segment in Rajouri district. The Jammu parliamentary constituency recorded 67.22 per cent polling, while its border [More on P10](#)

## 'COMBATING DRUG MENACE' 102-Yr-Old Votes For Youth Employment

A 102-year-old man, battling for jobs for youth to tackle the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir, went out to vote at a polling station in [More on P10](#)

## 109 Special Polling Stations Set Up

In a first of its kind move towards inclusivity and environmental consciousness, the Election Commission of India (ECI) established 109 remarkable polling stations of different [More on P10](#)

## 'Use of School Children For Election Campaign' NCPCR Asks ECI To Take Action Against Mehbooba

Agencies

Srinagar: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo has submitted a written complaint to the Chief Election Commissioner of India, accusing Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

President Mehbooba Mufti of allegedly using school-going children for the election campaign for the Rajouri-Anantnag seat.

In a letter titled, 'Use of school-going children for the election campaign for Rajouri-Anantnag P.C. by Ms. Mehbooba Mufti', the NCPCR expressed concern over reports [More on P10](#)

## Separatist Ideology 'Dead' In J&K: Sajad Lone

Says People Realised It Is Futile

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The ideology of separatism is "dead" in Jammu and Kashmir as people realised it is futile, separatist-turned-mainstream politician Sajad Lone said.

In a freewheeling interview with PTI, the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) chief called for an end



to violence, saying, "India is our land and there is no ambiguity about that."

Asked if the separatist ideology is dead and buried in Jammu and Kashmir, Lone said, "I think

## EVM VVPAT CASE SC Rejects Pleas Seeking Paper Audit Of Votes



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected pleas seeking complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and said "blindly distrusting" any aspect of the system can breed unwarranted scepticism.

Maintaining that "democracy is all about striving to build harmony and trust between all institutions", a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta delivered two concurring verdicts and dismissed all the pleas in the matter, including those seeking [More on P10](#)

## Er Rashid Files Nomination From Jail

Agencies

Srinagar: The nomination form of incarcerated Kashmiri politician Engineer Rashid, nominated as the Awami Ittehad Party's (AIP) candidate for the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat in north Kashmir, was formally received by his party from the Deputy Commissioner's office in Baramulla on Friday.

Confirming the receipt of the nomination form, AIP spokesman Firdous Baba said that the party had nominated a covering candidate, Prince Parvez, who is also the party's general secretary, to handle formalities in Engineer Rashid's absence. Parvez collected the form from the DC office today on behalf of Engineer Rashid.

Baba further revealed that the party has dispatched its legal team to New Delhi to ensure all necessary formalities are in order for filing Engineer Rashid's nomination. The Election Commission of [More on P10](#)

## LS Polls In Anantnag-Rajouri Seat Mehbooba, Omar Warn Against Poll Deferral

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference Leader Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti asked the Election Commission not to postpone polls in the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.

The former chief ministers made the appeal after the EC sought a report from Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and the Chief Electoral Officer on representations submitted by some parties and three candidates seeking re-scheduling of elections



in the constituency due to adverse weather conditions.

"I appeal to the EC that such a step should not be taken. The demand for postponement is not from all parties. The weird thing is that some of the people who

have written to the EC are not contesting. If I write to the EC about constituencies in Tamil Nadu etc. will they take notice," he told a press conference in Srinagar. Abdullah said "all options are open", including [More on P10](#)

## Will Respect EC's Decision: JK BJP

Press Trust Of India

With some candidates seeking postponement of polls in the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat due to adverse weather conditions, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Friday said they will respect any [More on P10](#)

## Ruhullah's Nomination Found Valid

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Amidst a controversy surrounding a potential birth year discrepancy, the nomination papers of Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, National Conference candidate for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat were deemed valid by the election authorities on Friday.

During the scrutiny of all 39 nomination papers received for the seat, 29 nominations were found valid as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. The rejected candidates include National Conference leader Salman Sagar, who was the covering candidate of the party.

While 29 candidates are in the fray in the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, with National Conference leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and PDP youth wing president Waheed Parra being the main contenders. [More on P10](#)

## HC Quashes PSA Detention Of Jel Leader

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has asked government to pay Rs five lakh as compensation to former spokesperson of banned Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel), Advocate Ali Mohammad Lone alias Zahid of Nehama, Pulwama, as it quashed 4th detention order in a row under Public Safety Act against him.

"A quote by Laura Miller "The past is a very determined ghost, haunting every chance it gets" seems to be, though unsaid, but the underlying basis of the mindset of the Sr. Superintendent of Police Pulwama and the purported subjective satisfaction of District Magistrate Pulwama passed on even to the



Govt. in the matter of subjecting the petitioner to suffer fourth time preventive detention in row following each other in the fashion as passing of baton amongst relay race runners," a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti said. "The petitioner has been made to suffer loss of his liberty for a cumulative period of more than 1080 days of preventive custody covered under the span of four detention orders in row from [More on P10](#)

## LAND SINKS IN RAMBAN Over 50 Houses, Power Infra Damaged

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: More than 50 houses, four electricity towers, a receiving station, and a main road were damaged in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district dur to sinking of a road, officials said on Friday.

Ramban Deputy Commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary visited the Pernote village, five kms from the district headquarters, on Friday morning and assured assistance to the affected families and restoration of essential services, including electricity.

Houses started developing cracks and the road connectivity between Gool and Ramban snapped Thursday evening following [More on P10](#)

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## AI-Model Developed To Predict Irregular Heartbeat 30 Minutes Before Onset

Press Trust of India

Researchers have developed a new AI-based model that can predict irregular heartbeat, or cardiac arrhythmia, about 30 minutes before its onset.

The researchers found that the model proved to be 80 per cent accurate in predicting the transition from a normal cardiac rhythm to atrial fibrillation, the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia in which the heart's upper chambers (atria) beat irregularly and are out of sync with the lower ones (ventricles).

The team, including researchers at the University of Luxembourg, said that their AI-model, which gives early warnings, could be easily installed in smartphones to process the data recorded on smartwatches. The warnings could allow patients to take preventive measures to keep their cardiac rhythm stable, they said. The study is published in the journal Patterns.

For developing the model, the team trained it on 24-hour-long recordings gathered from 350 patients at Tongji Hospital in Wuhan, China. The model, that the researchers have named WARN (Warning of Atrial fibrillation), is based on deep-learning, a type of machine-learning AI algorithms that learn patterns from past data to make predictions.

Deep-learning is more specialised as it has multiple layers in its decision-making process.

The researchers found that WARN gave early warnings, on average 30 minutes before the start of atrial fibrillation, and is the first method to provide a warning far from onset, they said.

"We used heart rate data to train a deep learning model that can recognise different phases -- (normal) sinus rhythm, pre-atrial fibrillation and atrial fibrillation -- and calculate a 'probability of danger' that the patient will have an imminent episode," Jorge Goncalves, from the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB), University of Luxembourg, and the study's corresponding author, said.

When approaching atrial fibrillation, the probability increases until it crosses a specific threshold, providing an early warning, Goncalves said.

Being of low computational cost, the AI-model is "ideal for integration into wearable technologies," the researchers said.

"These devices can be used by patients on a daily basis, so our results open possibilities for the development of real-time monitoring and early warnings from comfortable wearable devices," study author Arthur Montanari, an LCSB researcher, said.



## Stunting Risk Higher Among Children Living In India's Hills, Mountains: Study

Press Trust Of India

Children living in India's hills and mountains are at an increased risk of stunted growth, with the risk increasing with a rise in altitude, according to new research published in the British Medical Journal Nutrition, Prevention & Health.

Analysing data of more than 1.65 lakh children under five years of age, researchers observed that stunting was more common among those born as a third or later child to parents, and those having a small size at birth.

Data was included from the 2015-16 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) for analysis. The WHO standards were used to define stunting.

The researchers, including those from Manipal Academy of Higher Education, suggested that continuous exposure to high-altitude environments can reduce appetite and limit oxygen and nutrient absorption, even though a direct causal link was not es-

tablished in the observational study.

The team also said that food insecurity in hilly and mountainous regions tends to be more, arising out of lower crop yields and harsher climate. Providing access to healthcare in these regions, including implementing nutritional programmes, is challenging, they said.

The overall prevalence of stunting among these children was found to be 36%. Prevalence was higher among children aged 1.5-5 years (41%) than those under 1.5 years (27%).

In their analysis, the researchers found that 98% of the children lived at altitudes less than 1000 metres above sea level, and 1.4% lived between 1000 and 2000 metres above sea level, and 0.2% lived at more than 2000 metres above sea level. Children living at locations 2000 metres or more above sea level were found to be 40% more at risk of stunting than those living 1000 metres above sea level.

The analysis also found that stunting was prevalent in 44% of thirdborns or children higher in birth

order among siblings, compared to 30% in firstborns. Stunting rates were still higher (45%) among children who were small or very small at birth.

The researchers found that mother's education levels was an influential factor, with prevalence in stunted growth falling with rising educational attainment. They also found that post-pregnancy care, including clinic visits, vaccinations, and health supplements, and being located closer to health facilities, were protective factors.

The authors found that not belonging to a particular caste or indigenous tribe too was a protective factor.

"A multipronged approach should combine reproductive health initiatives, women's nutrition programmes, infant and young child feeding interventions, and food security measures," the authors wrote.

"Continued research, monitoring, and evaluation will be key to guide evidence-based policies and targeted action to ensure every Indian child has the opportunity for healthy growth and development," they wrote.

Subject: - Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & style "M/s Kashmir majesty tour & travels Situated at DD Bagh Hawal Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr./Ms. mohammad Hussain Kand S/o Manzoor Ahmad Kand R/o: Kand mohalla nehru park Srinagar Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Kashmir Majesty tour & travels situated at DD bagh Hawal Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12 Newspaper Whereas, I will submit State Subject/ Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank State- ment (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/ Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

nko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Shakeel Ul Rehman Matta in my driving licence (JK-0120100017997) instead of Shakeel Ahmad Matta. Now I want to change my name in the driving licence from Shakeel Ul Rehman Matta to Shakeel Ahmad Matta.

Anybody having objection in this regard may contact RTO Kashmir within seven days from the publication of this notice. After which no objection will be entertained.

Shakeel Ahmad Matta  
 S/o : Abdul Rehman Matta  
 R/o: Usmania Colony Bemina Srinagar Kashmir

pd

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N.Rly. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1.	62245126A	Washer, Bush and Jig Bush with detailed Size, Specification and Quantity as per attached Annexure-4.	400 Sets	20-05-24

NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

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**E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST (SARFAESI) ACT 2002 AND SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch, Qazigund (hereinafter referred to as the Bank/ Secured Creditor), the Possession of which has been taken by one of the Authorised Officers of the Bank/ Secured Creditor in exercise of powers conferred under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (the Act) and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the Rules), will be sold on "As is where is, As is what is, Whatever there is and Without recourse", as per the particulars given hereunder.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	(i) Muhammad Anwar Bhat S/O Abdul Samad Bhat R/O Dawlatabad Qazigund Anantnag. (ii) Shakeela Akhter W/O Late Muhammad shaban bhat R/O Dawlatabad Qazigund Anantnag. (iii) Umar Shaban Bhat S/O Late Muhammad Shaban Bhat R/O Dawlatabad Qazigund Anantnag. (iv) Yasir Shaban Bhat S/O Late Muhammad Shaban Bhat R/O Dawlatabad Qazigund Anantnag. (v) Ms. Shabina D/O late Muhammad Shaban Bhat R/O Dawlatabad Qazigund Anantnag. (vi) Mushtaq Ahmad Khan S/o Muhammad Jamal Khan Dawlatabad Qazigund Anantnag. (vii) Sikandar Ahmad Khan S/o Muhammad Yousuf Khan R/O Nussu Badrgund Qazigund Anantnag. (viii) Reyaz Ahmad Ganie S/o Abdul khaliq ganie R/O Nussu Badrgund Qazigund Anantnag. (ix) Muhammad Asgar Wani S/O Ghulam Nabi Wani R/O Nussu Badrgund Qazigund Anantnag.
Amount in Demand Notice (excluding interest and other expenses from 01.03.2023)	Rs. 1,82,98,036.55/- (Rupees One Crore eighty two lac ninety eight thousand thirty six & paise fifty five only)
Legal and other Charges Due as on 31.03.2024	Rs. 2,74,589/- (Rupees Two Lac seventy Four Thousand Five Hundred And Eighty Nine Only)
Amount Due as on 31.03.2024 (Excluding interest from 01-04-2024.	Rs. 2,27,21,877.55/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Seven Lac Twenty One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven And Paise Fifty Five Only). INCLUDING LAW CHARGES OF Rs. 2,74,589/- (Rupees Two Lac Seventy Four Thousand Five Hundred And Eighty Nine Only).
Description of the mortgaged Property/ Secured Asset (Put on sale)	Residential building along with land measuring 2K 18M 5 Sarsai falling under Khasra No 41 min (02 K 04 M ) Khata No 165 Khewat No 26 Khasra no. 285/28min( 14M 05 Sarsai) Khewat no. 1 Khata no. 2 situated at Drien Dawlatabad, Tehsil Dooru District Anantnag
Reserve Price	Rs. 1,31,37,390/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty One Lac Thirty Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 13,13,739/- Rupees Thirteen Lacs Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Nine Only)
Bid Increase Amount	Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand Only)
Name of the Branch	Branch office, Qazigund
Authorized Officer/Designation	Designation Chief Manager Masood Ahmad Shah Contact No. 7066277328
Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Documents	14.05.2024 up to 04.00 P.M
Date and Time of e-Auction	15.05.2024 between 02.00 P.M to 04.00 P.M
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance/s detail/s by RTGS to Account Number	Account No. 00170700000001 Account Name : E Auction Account (SUNDY DEPOSITS ACCOUNT) IFSC CODE: JAKA00QAZIGD.

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net") of our auctioning agency M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction tiger). The interested bidders shall submit their offer through website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net. The EMD/S 10% OF RESERVE PRICE/S shall be payable through NEFT/RTGS/DD on or before 04:00 PM of 14.05.2024. For any Clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of bids etc kindly contact Jammu and Kashmir bank Ltd Branch office Qazigund or the Authorised Officer. The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the e-auction without assigning any reason therefor. For detailed terms and conditions of the Auction/sale please visit https://www.jkbank.com or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net. STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) READ WITH RULE 9 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/ mortgagor/guarantor(s) are again hereby notified to pay the outstanding sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction and get the property redeemed, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and costs.

Date: 25.04.2024  
 Place: Qazigund  
**Masood Ahmad Shah**  
 AUTHORIZED OFFICER

## DLSA conducts OSC Bemina, DHEW Mission Shakti Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority and as per the plan of action for the month of April 2024, visited One Stop Centre (OSC) Bemina and District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Mission Shakti Srinagar, today under the guidance of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman (PDJ) DLSA Srinagar.

Jahangir Ahmed Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar along with Mukhtar Ahmed, District Social Welfare Srinagar, visited One Stop Centre (OSC) Bemina and District Hub for Empowerment of Women Mission Shakti Srinagar to assess the functioning and effectiveness of these facilities.

During the inspection, Adv. Asiya Farooq, Incharge OSC, Ruqaya, District Mission Coordinator of District Hub for Empowerment of Women Mission Shakti Srinagar, Adv. Zainab Amin Para Legal Lawyer, Rubina Shafi and Sabira

Bashir, Case workers, Sehar Qureshi, counselor and other staff of OSC and other staff were present.

During the inspection, the team reviewed the functioning of the One Stop Centre and District Hub for Empowerment of Women Mission Shakti Srinagar. It also assessed the facilities and services provided by them and ensured compliance with legal provisions and standards and identified areas for improvement.

During the inspection, it was revealed that from December 2022 to April 2024, the OSC and DHEW have provided various services and facilities to 324 women who have been Survivors of violence in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar. These services include counseling, legal aid, medical assistance, Self help, etc.

In addition, to this the availability of the National Helpline number 181 for women, which provides 24/7 support to women in distress and NALSA Helpline number 15100, which also offers assistance to women in need.



Heavy traffic jams were witnessed in parts of Srinagar on Friday, amidst sporadic showers. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

## Mirwaiz Criticize Authorities For Worsening Electricity Crisis

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq while addressing the Friday congregation at the historic Jamia Masjid Srinagar on Friday said that the electricity situation in Kashmir has become alarming.

"Although lack of electricity has been an issue since decades, it has never been so bad at this time of year. People from all over the valley have been calling on me and expressing their deep

concern about lack of electricity," Mirwaiz said in a statement.

"It is the fundamental duty of the ruling dispensation to provide the basic amenities of electricity to the people. Despite having huge water resources and generation capacity, the electricity produced by the state is exported outside and we who have the first right to it are living in darkness. We are told that great prosperity has come to us when the basic facility of electricity is nowhere. Lack of electricity is severely impact-

ing our daily life, leaving our homes and business powerless," he said.

Mirwaiz said that it is not that people are not paying, in the past few years power tariff has been increased three times, smart meters have been installed all over and yet electricity is elusive.

He urged the authorities to immediately take corrective measures and ensure uninterrupted power supply to people who are facing severe problems due to its unavailability

“Despite having huge water resources and generation capacity, the electricity produced by the state is exported outside and we who have the first right to it are living in darkness

## 'Contesting Polls To 'Break Prevailing Silence' In Kashmir'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Waheed-ur-Reham Parra on Friday said the party is contesting Lok Sabha elections to "break the silence prevailing for the last couple of years" in Kashmir.

He said the people are showing their love and affection towards the PDP, which gives them positive vibes.

Parra said the ongoing Lok Sabha elections are more like a chance for the PDP to reach out to the people as they want to "break the silence" here and show solidarity to the people.

## Weeklong Workshop On 'Fracture & Fatigue Study' Concludes At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A weeklong day workshop on 'Fracture and Fatigue Study Using Experimental and Numerical Modeling Techniques,' under the Karyashala scheme concluded at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The workshop, held from 19th to 25th April, 2024, aimed to enhance participants' understanding of fracture and fatigue phenomena in materials. Students from various parts of India participated in the workshop, which featured lectures delivered by esteemed

faculties from renowned institutions such as IITs and NITs. The workshop also included hands-on laboratory sessions to provide participants with practical experience.

The valediction ceremony, held on Thursday marked the conclusion of the workshop. Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Director NIT Srinagar was the chief patron of the organizing committee.

Prof. (HAG) G A Harmain, Dean Faculty Welfare, Prof. (HAG) M F Wani, Prof Atikur Rahman Registrar NIT Srinagar were the patrons and Prof Adnan Qayoum was the chairman of the

organizing committee.

The event was presided over by Prof. G A Harmain, Dean Faculty Welfare, who graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest.

In his message, Prof. Harmain, who has also worked extensively in the area of fracture and fatigue, commended the coordinators for their efforts in organizing a highly informative and engaging workshop.

Prof. Adnan Qayoum, HOD Mechanical Engineering Department, expressed his appreciation for the active participation of all attendees and emphasized the workshop's importance in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

## Office of the Returning Officer, I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency (Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla

entbaramulla@bgmail.com, entbaramulla@nic.in

GREATER PARTICIPATION FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

ELECTION URGENT

PHONE: 01952-234210 | FAX: 01952-234005

Subject: Conduct of General Election to Lok Sabha 2024- List of Holiday during nomination period of I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency reg.

ORDER

During the nomination period for the I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, spanning from April 26, 2024 to May 3, 2024, nomination papers will be accepted between 11:00 AM and 03:00 PM on any working day at Office of the Returning Officer (Deputy Commissioner Baramulla) except for the following holidays:

- April 27, 2024 (Saturday) - Bank Holiday as per the Negotiable Instrument Act 1881.
- April 28, 2024 (Sunday) - Sunday.

Please note that nominations will not be accepted on the above mentioned holidays.

No. DEOB/2024/5583-97  
Date: 26/04-2024

Returning Officer  
I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency  
(Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla

FORM 1

(See rule 3)

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that;

- an election is to be held of a member to the House of the People in the **1- Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency**;
- nomination papers may be delivered by a candidate or by any of his proposers to the **Returning Officer (Deputy Commissioner Baramulla)** or to Specified Assistant Returning Officer, Arshad Ahmad Khan (Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla), at **Office of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Deewan Bagh, Baramulla** between **11:00 A.M.** and **03:00 P.M.** on any day (other than public holiday) not later than the **3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024 (Friday)**;
- forms of nomination paper may be obtained at the place and times aforesaid;
- nomination paper will be taken up for scrutiny at **Office of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Deewan Bagh, Baramulla** on **04<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 (Saturday)** at **10:00 A.M.**
- notice of withdrawal of candidature may be delivered either by a candidate or by any of his proposers or by his election agent who has been authorised in writing by the candidate to deliver it to either of the officers specified in paragraph (2) above at his office before **03:00 P.M.** on **6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 (Monday)**;
- in the event of the election being contested, the poll will be taken on **20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 (Monday)** between the hours of **07:00 A.M.** and **06:00 P.M.**

Place: **Baramulla**

Date: **26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**

DIPK-219/24  
DATED: 25-04-2024

(Signature)  
Returning Officer  
I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency  
(Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla

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

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

🌙  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
18 Shawal  
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4 : 17
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5: 16
Magrib	7:15
ISHA	8: 42

## This Day In History

- 1296 - Battle of Dunbar: The Scots are defeated by Edward I of England.
- 1518 Treaty of St Truiden: anti-French Trapdoors/Bourgondisch covenant
- 1522 - Battle of La Bicocca: a combined French and Venetian was decisively defeated by a Spanish-Imperial and Papal army
- 1522 Battle at Bicacca: Charles I & Pope Adrianus VI beat France
- 1526 - Mughal King Babur beats sultan of Delhi
- 1650 - The Battle of Carbisdale: Royalist army under Marquess of Montrose invades mainland Scotland from Orkney; defeated by a Covenanter army.
- 1662- Netherlands & France sign military covenant
- 1805 - US Marines attack shores of Tripoli
- 1861- US President Abraham Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus (US Civil War)
- 1863 - Battle of Streight &#39;s raid: Tuscombina to Cedar Bluff, AL
- 1865 - Steamboat "SS Sultana" &quot; explodes in the Mississippi River, killing up to 1,800 of the 2,427 passengers in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history. Most were paroled Union POWs on their way home.
- 1890- French troops under Capt Archinard occupy Oussebouougou West Sudan
- 1909- Sultan of Turkey Abdul Hamid II is overthrown
- 1911 - Following the resignation and death of William P. Frye, a compromise is reached to rotate the office of President pro tempore (for the time being) of the United States Senate.
- 1911- Indian passive resistance is suspended when Gen. J.C. Smuts enters into negotiations with Mahatma Gandhi.
- 1915-Counterattack launched by Turkish forces under the command of Mustafa
- Kemal Atatürk against allied troops
- 1941- German troops occupy Athens, Greece
- 1942- Belgian Jews are forced to wear stars
- 1943- Soviet Union breaks contact with Polish government exiled in London
- 1945-Italian partisans capture Benito Mussolini at Dongo (Lake Como)
- 1945- World War II: The Völkischer Beobachter, the newspaper of the Nazi Party, ceases publication.

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, 27 April, 2000)

## Office Of The Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency

Contact: 0194-2471194, Email: dcsgr-jk@nic.in, entsrinagar@nic.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

In view of the Lok Sabha Election-2024, the Election Commission of India has appointed Election Observers for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency. General Public and other stakeholders, through the medium of this notice are hereby informed to approach the respective Observers on the below given contact details, in case of any information, issue or grievance for free, fair, transparent and smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Elections in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

S. No.	Name of Observer	Observer for	Contact No.
1.	Mr. Mukul Kumar (IAS-2011)	General	8491851504
2.	Mr. Sandeep Singh Chauhan (IPS-2005)	Police	8491826997
3.	Mr. Sambit Mishra (IRS-2004)	Expenditure	9596855198

Participation of electorates of 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency in Lok Sabha Election-2024 is invaluable for upholding the democratic process and your reports/ feedback will surely contribute in maintaining the integrity and credibility of election process.

(Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat) IAS  
Returning Officer  
02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency

No.: 834 /DEOS/2024/ 12048-103  
DIPK-221/24  
Dated: 25-04-2024

## SC Seeks EC's Reply On PIL for Fresh Poll If NOTA Gets Majority In Constituency

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a significant development amid the ongoing general elections, the Supreme Court on Friday asked for a response from the poll panel on a PIL seeking framing of rules to nullify an election and order fresh one if NOTA (none of the above) option gets majority over other candidates.

The top court issued notice to the Election Commission on the PIL filed by author, activist and motivational speaker Shiv Khhera.

The NOTA option is provided to the voters in the elections in pursuance of the 2013 apex court verdict.

The top court, in its 2013 judgement, had held that "a provision of negative voting would be in the interest of promoting democracy as it would send clear signals to political parties and their candidates as to what the electorate thinks about them" and directed the Election Commission to provide the option of NOTA in all EVMs.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Khhera, and issued the

notice.

Initially, the bench was reluctant to consider the PIL, saying it was for the "executive to decide".

"We will issue a notice. This is about the electoral process also. Let us see what the Election Commission has to say....," the CJI said.

The senior advocate said that present plea was important keeping in mind the development at Surat in Gujarat where a BJP nominee was declared winner before polling as some nomination papers were rejected and few withdrew from the race.

"It is most respectfully prayed that this Court may be pleased to issue a writ... directing the Election Commission to frame rules to the effect that if NOTA gets a majority, the election held in the particular constituency shall be declared null and void and a fresh election shall be conducted to the constituency," it said.

The PIL also sought a direction to the poll panel to frame rules stating that the candidates who poll fewer votes than NOTA shall stand debarred from contesting all elections for a period of five years. It also sought a direction to ensure "proper and efficient reporting/publicity of NOTA as a fictional candidate".



## Modi's Guarantee For 2024 Polls - Uniform Civil Code Across India: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Guna, Madhya Pradesh: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said the BJP-led government at the Centre will implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country as it is a guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and accused the Congress of advocating personal laws.

Amit Shah was addressing a rally in Piprai area of Ashoknagar district under Guna Lok Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh, from where Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia is contesting as a BJP candidate.

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Amit Shah said, "Rahul Baba, you can do whatever you want

**In 2019, the Modi government abrogated Article 370 in just one stroke. Rahul Baba got afraid and said that rivers of blood will flow...But Rahul Baba, this is not a Congress government...It's Modi government. They don't even have the courage to hurl a single stone, let alone talk about rivers of blood**

for appeasement. As long as BJP is there, it will not allow personal laws. It is our prom-

ise and a guarantee of Modiji that we will implement UCC in the entire country as we have done in Uttarakhand."

He also said the Modi government has ended Maoist extremism and terrorism in the country.

"In 2019, the Modi government abrogated Article 370 in just one stroke. Rahul Baba got afraid and said that rivers of blood will flow... But Rahul Baba, this is not a Congress government...It's Modi government. They don't even have the courage to hurl a single stone, let alone talk about rivers of blood," Amit Shah said.

"The government has freed the country from terrorism and Maoist extremism and also liberated Madhya Pradesh from it," he added.

## "Too Good For NDA": PM Modi As Voting Ends In Phase 2 Lok Sabha Polls

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the phase two of the Lok Sabha polls has been "too good" for the BJP-led NDA, describing the support to the ruling alliance as unparalleled.

He said on X as polling ended, "Phase Two has been too good! Gratitude to the people across India who

have voted today. The unparalleled support for NDA is going to disappoint the Opposition even more."

"Voters want NDA's good governance. Youth and women voters are powering the strong NDA support," PM Modi said.

Phase Two has been too good!

Gratitude to the people across India who have voted today. The unparalleled support for NDA is going to disappoint the Opposition even

more. Voters want NDA's good governance. Youth and women voters are powering the strong NDA support.

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) April 26, 2024

The prime minister had made a similar assertion after phase one of voting on April 19, saying the ruling alliance has seen a great response.

It is clear that people across India are voting for the NDA in record numbers, he had said.

**Voters want NDA's good governance. Youth and women voters are powering the strong NDA support**

## Columbia University Takes Back Deadline Set For Protesters To Leave Campus

Agencies

New York: Columbia University backed off late Thursday from an overnight deadline for pro-Palestinian protesters to abandon an encampment there as more college campuses in the United States sought to prevent occupations from taking hold.

Police have carried out large-scale arrests in universities across the country, at times using chemical irritants and tasers to disperse protests over Israel's war with Hamas.

The office of New York-based Columbia University president Minouche Shafik issued a statement at 11:07 pm (0307 GMT Friday) retreating from a midnight deadline to dismantle a large tent camp with around 200 students.

"The talks have shown progress and are continuing as planned," the statement said. "We have our demands; they have theirs."

The statement denied that New York City police were invited on the campus. "This rumor is false," it said.

A student, identifying herself only as Mimi, told AFP she had been at the camp for seven days.

"They call us terrorists, they call us violent. But...

they're the ones that called in the police when students were sitting in a circle," she said.

"The police are the ones with guns, the police are the ones with tasers, we only have our voices."

Student protesters say they are expressing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, where the death count has topped 34,305, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

More than 200 people protesting the war were arrested Wednesday and early Thursday at universities in Los Angeles, Boston and Austin, Texas, where around 2,000 people gathered again on Thursday.

Riot officers in the southern state of Georgia used chemical irritants and tasers to disperse protesters at Emory University in Atlanta.

Photographs showed police wielding tasers as they wrestled with protesters on neatly manicured lawns.

The Atlanta Police Department said officers responding to the school's request for help were "met with violence" and used "chemical irritants" in their response.

The spreading protests began at Columbia University, which has remained the epicenter of the student protest movement.

## Pak PM Urged For Trade Talks With India To Revive Economy

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Pakistan business leaders in an interactive session with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged him to initiate trade talks with India to promote business and commerce which would greatly benefit the economy of the cash-strapped country.

Posing tough questions during an hour-long meeting at the Sindh CM House in Pakistan's commercial capital on Wednesday, Karachi's business community appreciated the prime minister's determination to tackle economic issues but advised him to focus on bringing about political stability to "turn around" the economy.

The Prime Minister sat down with the business community to find ways to uplift the economy through exports but his resolve was met with apprehensions from industry leaders who said it was "almost impossible" to do business under the current circumstances, particularly

with high energy costs and inconsistent government policies, the Dawn newspaper reported.

After the prime minister's brief speech, the house was opened for a question and answer session, during which business leaders voiced their appreciation for the government's recent moves, but made more demands.

They also shared proposals for economic policies to achieve desired results.

There was a sense of concern among the business leaders over the political instability in the country for which they even advised the Prime Minister to take initiative as the head of the government.

"You have made a few handshakes after taking charge that have produced good results and progress on the IMF deal is one of them," said Arif Habib, the chief of Arif Habib Group - a capital market giant.

They also asked the prime minister to initiate the trade talks with India, the report added.

## China Rules Out Autonomy For Tibet

Press Trust Of India

Beijing: China today said it will talk only with the representatives of the Dalai Lama and not the officials of the Tibetan government in exile based in India but ruled out dialogue on the highest Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader's long-pending demand for autonomy for his remote Himalayan homeland.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin was reacting to reports of the back-channel talks between the Tibetan government-in-exile and the Chinese government when he said China does not legitimise the Tibetan government-in-exile based in Dharamshala.

"The so-called Xizang's government-in-exile is totally against the Chinese Constitution and laws. It is illegal," Mr Wang told a media briefing. "No country has recognised it," he added.

On Thursday, Sikyong or the political head of Tibet's government-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, told a visiting group of journalists in Dharamshala, India, "We have had back-channel (engagement) since last year. But we have no immediate expectations from it. It has to be a long-term (one)."

Insisting that the talks are "very informal," the head of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) said, "I have my interlocutor who deals with people in Beijing. Then there are other elements also trying to reach out to us."

According to Mr Wang, the Chinese government has "two basic principles for contacts with this (Dalai Lama's) group."

"First, we will only have talks with the representatives of the 14th Dalai Lama instead of the so-called representatives of the so-called government-in-exile or the so-called administrative centre," Mr Wang said.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Saudi Arabia Could Get Its First Ever Miss Universe Contestant This Year

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia could have its first Miss Universe contestant this year, organisers said this week, after a fashion model and influencer claimed she had been selected.

The Miss Universe Organization "is currently undergoing a rigorous vetting process qualifying a potential candidate to be awarded the Saudi Arabia franchise", Maria Jose Unda, the organisation's coordinator of international relations, said in a statement to AFP.

"We'll have a decision on the National Director for Saudi Arabia very, very soon," she said, noting it was "possible" for Saudi Arabia to have a contestant in place before the next edition of the competition, scheduled for September in Mexico.

The statement came after Saudi model Romy al-Qahtani created a buzz online in late March when she posted to her hundreds



of thousands of Instagram followers that she was "honoured" to represent Saudi Arabia at Miss Universe at the upcoming event.

The post included pictures of Qahtani, a 27-year-old native of Riyadh, in a sequined dress holding the green Saudi flag inscribed with the shahada, or Islamic creed.

Less than a week later, Miss Universe issued a statement referring to Qahtani's post as "false and misleading"

and saying no selection process had been carried out in the Gulf kingdom.

Fielding a Miss Universe candidate, if it happens, would mark another step in Saudi Arabia's effort to soften its ultra-conservative image as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler, tries to lure tourists and investors.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude oil exporter, has long been associated with the repression

of women because of former rules such as a ban on driving and a requirement to wear abaya robes.

While those restrictions have been lifted, human rights activists say a personal status law that took effect in 2022 still discriminates against women when it comes to matters concerning marriage, divorce and child-rearing.

And women, including prominent activists, have been rounded up in a wide-reaching campaign against dissent.

Among them are two women who in 2022 received decades-long prison sentences for social media posts critical of the government.

'Negative comments'

Speaking at the Riyadh home she shares with her mother and three sisters, Qahtani maintained she was in "negotiations" about participation in Miss Universe but declined to provide further details.

## Farmer's Son From Remote Maharashtra Village Is JEE Mains All India Rank 1

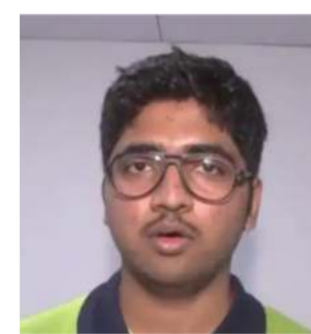
Washim, Maharashtra: With perseverance and hard work over the last two years, Nilkrishna Gajare, son of a farmer from Maharashtra's Washim district, has secured All India Rank 1 in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains.

Hailing from Belkhed, a remote village in Washim, Nilkrishna followed a rigorous schedule, dedicating more than 10 hours to prepare for the exams every day.

The results of the JEE Mains conducted by the National Testing Agency were announced on Thursday.

Talking to PTI over the phone, Nilkrishna's father, Nirmal Gajare, said he had no words to express his happiness over his son's success.

Nilkrishna did his primary schooling at Rajeshwar Convent in Akola and JC High School in Karanja



**Nilkrishna has always been a brilliant student and was good at sports. He participated in the district and national level tournaments in archery**

Lad in Washim and had lived with his aunt at the time, he said.

"Nilkrishna has always been a brilliant student and was good at sports. He participated in the district and national level tournaments in archery," Nirmal Gajare said.

The 19-year-old is pursuing his studies at Shree Dnyaneshwar Maskuji Burungale Science and Arts College, Shegaon.

"I wanted him to do well in studies and life and motivated him. I want him to achieve things I never could," Gajare said, who is over the moon about his son's success.

Nilkrishna wishes to study at IIT Bombay and would work towards becoming a scientist, he said.

Having conquered one hurdle to achieve his dream, Nilkrishna is in Shegaon preparing for JEE-Advanced, which will be conducted next month.



# The Role of Early Childhood Care in Education

Mohammad Hanief

“

**The National Education Policy 2020 marked a turning point in India's commitment to shaping a bright future for all children. As 85% of brain development occurs before the age of six years, the Women and Child Development ministry recognizes the pivotal role of early years in development and seeks to strengthen India's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) landscape**

While it is generally recognised that the right to education is relevant to primary, secondary, tertiary and basic education levels, it is important to recognise that this human right also applies throughout 'early childhood', which the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines as the period from birth up until the age of eight.

Early childhood is understood as a critical developmental phase as it represents the most rapid period of physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth of the human lifespan. These formative early years necessarily require a mixture of care and education for children, with close support by parents, families, other caregivers and broader communities. It constitutes both a significant and meaningful stage itself, and impacts the realisation of other human rights throughout a person's lifetime.

Consequently, the early childhood care and education (ECCE) that children experience, from earliest infancy through to the transition to formal primary schooling, has a direct effect on their well-being, how they make sense of the world, and the extent to which they are able to make the most of future opportunities. Research on ECCE demonstrates its importance in, among other things, tackling gender and other barriers to accessing primary school, increasing participation and achievement in school, and lowering school repetition and drop-out rates - thereby decreasing wastage in the education system.

It also contributes to reducing gender inequalities and broader societal benefits such as enhanced social cohesion, a lower rate of future violence and crime, higher individual incomes and stronger national economic development, a stronger cultural identity and a reduction in health costs and poverty cycles across generations.

The international human rights framework offers guidance to states and others about a rights-based approach to ECCE. As outlined by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, education in all its forms and at all levels shall exhibit the following interrelated and essential features: availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability of education.

As the CRC has explained, these elements must be adapted to the interests, concerns and changing capacities of children during early childhood. States must consider the best interests of the child throughout the early years, promote nurturing and non-violent forms of parenting and education, and - of particular significance at this time of life - ensure the right of the child to rest, leisure, play and to free participation in cultural life and the arts.



The first six years of life are critical years of human life since the rate of development in these years is more rapid than at any other stage of development. Global brain research also informs us about the significance of early years for brain development.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) makes a positive contribution to children's long term development and learning by facilitating an enabling and stimulating environment in these foundation stages of lifelong learning.

Parents as caregivers are critical in providing a stimulating learning environment to the child and the first two and a half to three years need not be in a formal learning environment. The National Curriculum Framework acknowledges the significance of involvement of parents, family and community.

The National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Curriculum Framework for all children below six years of age is aligned with the government's vision of ECCE as spelt out in the National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy. The National ECCE Curriculum Framework is informed by the Position Paper on ECCE (National Curriculum Framework, NCERT, 2005) and the curriculum detailed there under.

The National Education Policy 2020 marked a turning point in India's commitment to shaping a bright future for all children. As 85% of brain development occurs before the age of six years, the Women and Child Development ministry recognizes the pivotal role of early years in development and seeks to strengthen India's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) landscape. In this endeavour, the ministry is launching a National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children from Three to Six Years and a National

Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children from Birth to Three Years.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development empowers and supports mothers and their children under six years through Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, together with the Palma and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) Schemes under Mission Shakti. It aims to ensure comprehensive childcare support throughout the day in a secure environment, with trained staff, educational resources, nutritional support, and activities for holistic child development. The Ministry runs 13.9 lakh Anganwadi Centres around the country, catering to more than 8 crore children under the age of six years.

For children from age three to six, the National Curriculum for ECCE 2024 covers all domains of development as per the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage 2022 (NCF-FS), including physical/motor, cognitive, language and literacy, socio emotional, cultural/aesthetic as well as positive habits. It aims to improve the quality of ECCE transacted at the Anganwadi Centre by prioritizing competency-based lesson plans and activities, presented in a simple and user-friendly manner.

It addresses how children learn in the early years, with a focus on playful joy-based learning, in preparation for primary school. The Curriculum is structured to provide a weekly calendar comprising 36 weeks of active learning, 8 weeks of reinforcement and 4 weeks of initiation, together with 5+1 days of play-based learning in one week, and three blocks of activities in one day. It provides for a combination of activities, including in-centre and at-home, indoor and outdoor, child-led and educator-led etc.

Robust assessment tools are provided for tracking progress, tailoring

learning, and celebrating each child's unique journey. Special focus has been given for the screening, inclusion and referrals of Divyang children in every activity. Community engagement has been facilitated through monthly ECCE days and a continuum of home learning activities for each week.

For children from birth to three years, the National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation 2024 aims to empower caregivers and Anganwadi Workers for holistic early stimulation, through responsive caregiving and opportunities for early learning, for optimal development of children, both body and brain.

It fills conceptual and practical gaps in the understanding of care and stimulation, based on the Nurturing Care Framework. The framework is designed to provide the Anganwadi Worker with a basic understanding of how children grow and develop, the importance of brain development and the need for nurturing care. It focuses on the principles of serve and return, caregiver's three acts: love, talk, play, and positive guidance.

36 month-wise age-based activities are provided that can be conducted both within the household as well as at the Anganwadi Centre or Creche, through all the contact points including home visits, monthly meetings, community-based events etc. Screening, inclusion and referrals for Divyang children are also provided special focus.

The documents have been prepared by the National Institute for Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), with the support of an Internal Committee and development partners. Feedback from Anganwadi Workers has been incorporated to make the curriculum more flexible, activity-based, using more illustrations and less text.

NIPCCD will lead the training of Anganwadi functionaries on the new Curriculum and Framework. Provisions from both the Curriculum and the Framework, including weekly activity schedules, home visit guidance, assessment tools for tracking child development etc. will also be included on the Poshan Tracker. We aim to strengthen and support Anganwadi Workers for the delivery of high-quality ECCE for all children, to ensure that every Anganwadi Centre becomes a vibrant learning centre in the community.

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

*The author can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com X (Twitter): @haniefmha*

# The Spin On Inheritance Tax

The economic justification for levying it in India isn't compelling enough.

Umesh Gala and Dinesh Kanabar,

In the last few years, when the Union budget was around the corner, rumours around the introduction of inheritance tax gained momentum. This year, the subject has landed right in the middle of national elections with all the political spin around it, blurring rational thinking and the motives around it. It, therefore, becomes imperative to look at the subject from the right perspective. Whether inheritance tax is a wise tool to reduce income/wealth inequality and what has been the experience of developed countries is an important question. But it is more important to ask whether it is the right time for a developing country like India, in the thick of a robust economic expansion, to risk such a levy.

A peep into our own history suggests that India had inheritance tax in the form of "estate duty" from 1953. The tax was introduced with an attempt to reduce unequal wealth distribution and increase tax collections. This was the same regime when the combined levy of income tax and wealth tax exceeded the income earned by an individual. The mindset was to levy a very high rate of tax and if anything was left after payment of these taxes, which you want to inherit for future generations, the state would confiscate a bulk of it by levying estate duty. A stiff regressive

levy, planning round exemptions, litigation, etc. ensured that the cost of tax administration for such levy was found to be more than the taxes collected. The duty was levied at a maximum marginal rate of 85% when it was abolished in March 1985 during the Rajiv Gandhi government! In addition to the estate duty, India had a wealth tax regime as well as a gift tax regime for a long time. These have also been abolished with a limited tax on gifts that has been introduced under the Income-tax Act.

Income tax rates have been moderated, and alternative regimes for personal and corporate tax have been introduced with lower tax rates, lower exemptions and deductions, focus on better compliance, data analytics, etc. As a result, the number of taxpayers continues to rise by the day and there is a significant buoyancy in the direct tax and goods and services tax collections exceeding Budget estimates. India remains a bright spot in the global economic environment and our GDP is growing at the highest level among the large economies. We are the third-largest ecosystem for start-ups with many unicorns and more in the making. The last decade has seen significant focus on infrastructure development and massive strides towards rapid expansion of our GDP aimed at making India a developed nation. As more economic activity is poised to shift to India, the introduction of inheritance tax can act as a

significant disincentive to a vibrant entrepreneurial mindset vital for economic activity, job creation, and growth.

Internationally, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and G20 ministers have expressed concerns about a distribution mismatch and scarcity of resources in the hands of the poor. Twenty-four out of 36 OECD countries levy tax on the transfer of wealth of the deceased, whereas 10 OECD countries such as Austria, Sweden, New Zealand, and Australia have abolished the levy since 2000. Similarly, developing countries such as Brazil, South Africa, and Republic of Korea also consider inheritance tax a measure to remove the distribution mismatch. The rate of levy also varies across the jurisdictions. The rate of tax applicable in Japan is as high as 55%, compared with the United States of America, the Netherlands, and United Kingdom at around 40%, whereas Algeria taxes at a rate that can go as low as 5%.

However, internationally, inheritance taxes have failed to achieve the stated objectives and their collections are also below par. Inheritance taxes contribute below 1.5% of the total revenue in OECD countries. The loopholes and the administrative cost involved in implementing inheritance tax outweigh the benefits of economic equality. Developed countries such as the US are at a different stage of their economic journey,

backed up by a robust social security framework and with different imperatives compared to India. India has a framework which boosts investments, entrepreneurship, wealth creation, and a moderate rate of tax promoting compliance. It may be prudent not to get carried away by the imperatives of developed economies and instead focus on our own priorities.

Undoubtedly, economic inequality is a major concern for a developing nation like India. India has a vast population who are below the poverty line and it poses the unavoidable question of addressing inequality in income and wealth. However, this needs to be addressed with varied mechanisms such as wider access to education and skill development, easy access of finance for a wider entrepreneurial class, infrastructure development, removing supply chain bottlenecks, agricultural and land reforms, rural job creation, etc.

In the present circumstance, the economic justification for the introduction of inheritance tax is not compelling enough.

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

BOOK EXCERPT

# Clearing the Air

Sreenivasan Jain Mariyam Alavi  
Supriya Sharma

To be clear, inadequate funding plagues government schemes for all marginalized groups, not just for Muslims. Welfare measures for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for instance, are chronically underfunded. But the difference is that Muslims have been largely excluded from one of the most powerful tools in the arsenal of the Indian state to counter historic discrimination—affirmative action in the form of reservations in public employment, education, and legislatures. This, despite the fact that most Muslims are converts from communities that carry the historical burden of caste.

Some believe this may explain why, on certain metrics, Muslims even slip below Dalits and Adivasis.

A recent study on intergenerational mobility in India—found that at the 29th percentile of the distribution of parents in the bottom half of Indian society, Muslim sons 'have considerably worse upward mobility today than both Scheduled Castes (38) and Scheduled Tribes (33), a striking finding given that, compared to Muslims, STs tend to live in more rural and remote areas'.

The authors of the study tentatively propose an explanation for this divergence between Muslims and SCs and STs: 'we find suggestive evidence that the basket of affirmative action policies targeted to India's scheduled groups (but not to Muslims) has

played a key role in their rising mobility.'

Data from the National Sample Survey conducted in 2017–18 throws up an even more granular picture of how Muslims have now fallen behind Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A key metric to gauge the educational levels of a social group is the gross attendance ratio or the total number of children attending school as a proportion of the total number of children from the group. Of every 100 Muslim children, 85 are in school. The corresponding number for SC and ST children is 90 and 87.

Even when it comes to attending college and university, Muslim enrolment numbers have decreased by 8 per cent, while SC and ST enrolment has gone up.

Muslims form 14.20 per cent of India's population. But the All India Survey on Higher Education found only 4.65 per cent of the 41.3 million students enrolled in colleges and universities in 2020–21 were Muslim. In comparison, students from Scheduled Caste groups that form 16.6 per cent of India's population accounted for 14.20 per cent of the enrolment, while students from Scheduled Tribes, that constitute 8.60 per cent of the population, accounted for 5.80 per cent of the enrolment.

Income data also shows Muslims slipping behind. The per capita annual income of Muslims is lower than Dalit Hindus in several states, data from the Indian Human Development Survey of 2004–05 and 2011–12 shows.

As we reported in an earlier chapter, demands that Dalit



**Far from being pampered by the Congress, Muslims are at the bottom of the heap. If the Congress is guilty of anything, it is of failing to uplift Muslims despite enjoying the longest stint in power**

Muslims (and Dalit Christians) be recognized as Scheduled Castes have been growing. But there is still a long way before this can become a reality. As a halfway measure, some states have included Muslim communities in the list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Even these half measures are coming undone. In April 2023, the BJP government in Karnataka scrapped OBC reservation for Muslims, distributing the quota between Hindu communities. Even though the Muslim reservation had been granted on economic grounds, India's home minister praised the move, saying the quotas amounted to minority appeasement and deserved to be done away with.

CONCLUSION: The Hindu Right

has it backwards. Far from being pampered by the Congress, Muslims are at the bottom of the heap. If the Congress is guilty of anything, it is of failing to uplift Muslims despite enjoying the longest stint in power.

...There is no evidence to show that governments have spent inordinate amounts of taxpayer money on Muslims. Where does that leave Muslim appeasement? Appeasement is baked into the Indian Constitution itself.

What is seen as an unfair advantage are cultural and educational protections enshrined in Article 29 and Article 30 of the Indian Constitution. Clause 1 of Article 29 states: 'Any section of citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or

culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.'

Clause 1 of Article 30 spells it out more unambiguously: 'All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.'

These clauses did not emerge out of a vacuum. Decades before India became independent, its leaders recognized the need to safeguard minorities.

In 1930, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote in Young India:

"There is no surer method of rousing the resentment of the minority and keeping it apart from the rest of the nation than to make it feel that it has not got the freedom to stick to its own ways...Therefore we in India must make it clear to all that our policy is based on granting this freedom to the minorities and that under no circumstance will any coercion or repression of them be tolerated. Indeed we should go further and state that it will be the business of the state to give favoured treatment to minority and backward communities."

In hindsight, it could be argued that India's recognition of minority rights was ahead of its time. The rest of the world took almost four decades to catch up.

*The article is excerpted with permission from the book "Love Jihad and Other Fictions" by Sreenivasan Jain Mariyam Alavi and Supriya Sharma, published by Aleph Book Company. Views expressed are the author's own*

## A Detailed Guide to Mahr: Rights and Rulings

Hannah Alkadi

Understanding mahr, the marriage gift given to a bride, is much simpler than it's drawn out to be. However, many complications come from the feelings that arise around mahr. Some women find it old-fashioned and unnecessary. Others are shy to discuss it because they fear repercussions from their families, potential spouses, and future in-laws. And most of us, sadly, don't know how to feel, as there are rarely any discussions about mahr until it is time to ask for it.

Even if you aren't speaking to anyone at this time, having some idea of how mahr works will help you prepare for the inevitable conversation and ease your anxieties around it.

### Mahr Rights

Mahr isn't merely a blessing for women; it's a religious obligation for Muslim men to offer. "Give women their bridal gift upon marriage, though if they are happy to give up some of it for you, you may enjoy it with a clear conscience." (Surah al-Nisa 4:4)

This verse teaches us two beautiful things: that a Muslim man must offer Mahr, and that it's completely optional for a woman to refuse it. Under no circumstances can a bride be pressured to give up a mahr in its entirety or partially.

The Qur'an also mentions that mahr is a prerequisite to marriage in a wide variety of cases, even if the woman is:

- not free (Surah al-Nisa, verse 25)
- Jewish or Christian (Surah al-Ma'idah, verse 5)
- related to the groom (Surah al-Ahzab, verse 60)
- a revert to Islam (Surah al-Mumtahina, verse 10)

The Sunnah also mentions mahr in multiple narrations. The Prophet ﷺ said to a man,

"Marry, even with (a mahr equal to) an iron ring." (Bukhari 5150)

We learn that the mahr doesn't have to be extravagant, or even with a standard like gold or silver. The majority of scholars say that there's no minimum to a mahr, nor a maximum. Some even argue that the mahr can be immaterial. However, many scholars

recommend a cash value to the mahr.

The Prophet ﷺ also discouraged marriages without a mahr.

"Allah's Messenger ﷺ forbade Ash-Shighar, which means that somebody marries his daughter to somebody else, and the latter marries his daughter to the former without paying mahr." (Bukhari 5112)

We see mahr in his ﷺ blessed life as well. One of the first questions the Prophet ﷺ asked a Companion who had gotten married, was: "How much mahr have you paid?" The companion, Abelahman ibn Auf, replied: "For a date-stone weight of gold." (Muslim 1427e)

All the wives of the Prophet ﷺ had a mahr upon their marriage, with some the equivalent of 50 dirhams. For Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her), it was 20 goats, or 20 camels.

There is even a type of mahr known as "mahr fatimi," in reference to Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her), daughter of the Prophet ﷺ. Think about that for a moment. 'Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the first people who accepted Islam. He was someone whom the Prophet ﷺ considered like a brother. And he was still required to give mahr. And the Prophet ﷺ's own daughter accepted that mahr.

And last, but certainly not least: mahr is only for the bride. The family of the bride does not receive a share of it, nor do they have a say in it. Whilst the groom can offer it, the bride can also stipulate it.

Now that we've established mahr as a part of our sacred text, we now need to go about putting it in context. Every bride and groom has different circumstances and stipulations, and alhamdulillah, there's room for all of them.

### Mahr Decision Framework

There are two types of mahr: mu'akhar (deferred) and mu'ajjal (advanced). Similar to the way an apartment is rented, a Muslim man may offer the mahr in full, or offer a small payment and then "instalments" later.

Monetary values are also offered when it comes to the discussion of mahr. In the



Hanafi madhab, a monetary value must be assigned to the mahr. Scholars suggest 10 dirhams, which equates to 2,975 grams of silver and £16.67. You can convert to other currencies as well, keeping in mind that 1000 grams are in one kilogram.

Let's try it with mahr fatimi. 1469 dirhams was the total then, which comes to about £3395.96. So, while a bride may want to ask for something like Hajj, a Sheikh may want to stipulate a pound value equating to that hajj package in the nikkah contract. The intent for hajj can still be there when that money is offered.

Jewellery in gold or silver is also acceptable, as jewellery also has a cash value. And, yes, even a cat can be given as mahr.

Bisma shared that her mahr was in two parts. Her husband's deceased mother (may Allah have mercy on her) had requested that each of her sons give some of her jewellery to her future daughters-in-law as gifts from her. But Bisma's husband then offered to her that he would also take care of Hajj expenses when the time came.

Another common method is mahr mithl. The groom looks at his locality, and what kind of mahr is being offered to brides there. He would then suggest a range or an average from the mahrs given to other women. Some grooms also look at the bride's family, and what her aunts, sisters, mothers, and grandmother may have received in their marriages. Because of the prevalence of marriages nationally and internationally, along with different circumstances for each bride, this may be a trickier method to go with. Converts may not be able to use mahr mithl as well. But mahr mithl can still work

for having an idea of where to start from.

"I didn't have a specific amount in mind," Hala wrote. "The mahr was something I saw as having to be fulfilled. Local scholars suggested that I ask my family what the typical mahr was for my female relatives. I asked my grandmother because I figured she'd been around for the most marriages. She gave me a number that was fine with. When I related it to the local scholars and my fiancé at the time, all parties were happy—it was within his means, and the scholars had us sit two days after our nikkah so that he could give it to me. Then we were done, alhamdulillah!"

These general guidelines will, insha'Allah, help you with the negotiation part of the process.

### Negotiating Mahr

Remember that negotiation is a conversation. With Allah's divine blessing, you'll be able to navigate this part with all of its many factors.

If you have a certain lifestyle before your marriage, it's your right to have that lifestyle maintained after your marriage. A mahr is your sole property, and cannot be given back to the husband in the case of divorce. No one else has rights over it.

Mahr is not a reflection of your worth; do not assign a price tag to that. Each woman is priceless.

You should also consider that mahr is not a divorce or death safety fund. Nor is it an opportunity to earn extra money. If you enter a mahr negotiation with that mindset, it will affect your marriage as a whole. Be mindful that whatever he can't pay upfront is legally considered a debt for him. Asking

for three months of his salary, for example, will make him feel immense pressure going into the marriage. Resentment may also come from him or his family. Which would you like to last longer—your marriage, or your mahr payment?

"I've heard horror stories," Dahab told us. "\$20K, \$50K mahr. Mine was standard and traditional for my culture: jewellery. And I love gold! I knew that Allah is the one who provides rizq."

"Right," Humayra agreed, as her friend went on. "I only asked for \$500. I didn't want to keep it large, because I was avoiding the dowry culture from other religions. So I always advise to keep the mahr small. [Your husband's] going to be the provider—the apartment rent, your food, so many other expenses. Make it easy and don't be greedy."

Know that mahr is separate from wedding gifts given during engagements. These fall into the category of hadiyah (gifts). He must specifically designate a mahr and not bring up the hadiyah at the last minute.

Think about whether you will work full-time, part-time, or in a domestic role after your marriage. Take also into consideration your husband-to-be's current earnings and what his trajectory looks like. If he is in school, for example, but has a promising career, that's something to keep in mind.

If the mahr is too high, would it cause you to live with your in-laws (and are you satisfied with that?), or delay the purchase of a house (if you'd like one)? How soon would you like to have children? Would you like to travel after your marriage? Lay out your priorities and weed out the nice-to-haves as best as you can.

"I'd been working for a long time, and planned to work after my marriage," Medina, a newlywed in her thirties, said. "So I didn't prioritise mahr. We talked about it. I told my husband that it was whatever he was capable of. He gave me an amount. But out of respect, he went to my dad and brother-in-law with a plan of how he would pay it." The groom decided to give a sum initially, and then pay the rest on a month-to-month basis.

Be wary of pressure from

other people. Some may use the hadith where the Prophet ﷺ told us, "The best marriage is one that is easiest." (Mishkat al-Masabih 3097) This does not refer to the mahr, rather, it refers to the other expenses of a marriage.

Some suitors may want to lessen the mahr. Again, this is understandable, as we face economic crises and many unforeseeable trials in life. Remember that mahr is a gift in its essence. Do not make it a burden. The Prophet ﷺ also told us that "The best dowry is one that is easiest." (Sahih Ibn Hibban 4163) in terms of keeping a mahr small. This approach may work better for a young couple. If both of you are still studying or may have to live separately until living arrangements are made, it may be more practical to keep the mahr a lower amount.

Even if you aren't younger, you may have an offer that is lower than what you were expecting. As will be the case in the rest of your marriage, insha'Allah, you may need to compromise. Know your worth, and pay attention to one of my teacher's advice, "Don't get bullied." Be mindful of the suitor's demeanour throughout this process as well, as it will also give you insight for future important discussions and conversations. Parents, in general, will pressure their sons to pay less, and their daughters to ask for more.

Asel writes, "I've spoken to brothers who were still in school. One had an exorbitant amount of loans from being in medicine, and another planned on getting a doctorate degree. While I initially wanted the cost of a Hajj package for my mahr, I lowered it down to the cost of other religious trips—like umrah or visiting Palestine. Although neither mahr negotiations led to marriage, that's still a mahr I want to work with. One of my love languages is quality time. To build our marriage on trips like these... I don't know if there could be a more special trip for us to enjoy each other's company."

Above all, this is a conversation between you, your spouse, and learned people in the community. Some families source mahr fatimi as proof that, since

the Prophet ﷺ gave a suggestion for the mahr, they too can get involved in it. However, keep in mind that those people are not the Prophet ﷺ. He was acting as a messenger at that moment, not a father. The mahr is a gift from the groom to the bride, that the bride has the right to stipulate. Full stop.

### Tips on Getting Started

Sometimes, this conversation comes up organically. A suitor might ask after you've been speaking for some time, "Have you thought about what you might ask for mahr?" Follow his lead from there. If you have an idea, mention it. He may agree, or negotiate.

If the two of you are speaking within premarital counselling sessions, you may want to bring this up privately with your counsellor. They will know how to facilitate the conversation from there. Consult with local scholars, teachers, and family members for advice. We recommend keeping things as private as possible.

Feel free to use the following phrases as templates:

- If less than what you were expecting: "I was hoping for a little more. Would you consider paying X amount? How about over time?"
  - If more than what you were expecting: "That's generous, and I'm very humbled. However, I look forward to doing X and Y after our marriage, so I'd be comfortable if you lowered it to Z amount."
  - If you're happy with the offer: "I'm comfortable with that. What was your timeline?"
  - If there is no expectation: "What were you thinking?"
  - To those outside of the conversation: "He gave me an amount I was happy with."
- Like all blessings in life, responsibilities come with the package. Salah, for example, is an obligation, but it is also a gift. The mahr is a sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and your right. Spend it wisely.

We pray that you are blessed with an easy mahr negotiation process and an easier marriage.

*The article was originally published by Amaliah*





18TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

# Tireless, Dynamic & Knowledgeable Maulana



In the sixty-three years of his eventful life, the late Maulana Mustafa Hussain Ansari had waged an unrelenting campaign with his spoken and written word, an endeavour which history will record in golden letters.

At the time of the Maulana's advent in public life in Kashmir after his education at Najaf, he found a faction-ridden, eternally squabbling society, mired in personality cults and steeped in obscurantism. With an uncanny insight into social psychology, he had diagnosed the underlying causes of the society's myriad illnesses quite early, and begun a tireless mission of reform. This was a thankless task, a cross he bore right till the end. Undeterred by the inveterate ways of his people, he battled on with the written and the spoken word, leaving behind a treasure for all reformists in his lectures, sermons, articles and books.

A remarkable aspect of the Maulana's work was that his appeal transcended sectarian lines, and followers of various schools of thought came to him with their questions, doubts, and of course, for advice. This across-the-board acceptability made him a potent instrument of peace in highly volatile times. Accessible to everyone at all times, he was time and again called to defuse explosive situations in many parts of Kashmir to douse the flames of discord created by misunderstandings. This is a role he performed with extraordinary grace and dexterity, winning over both sides. The void left in this field after his departure can be felt even now.

Maulana Mustafa Hussain Ansari had not only lent grace to the pulpit and the altar by his God-given spiritual attainments, but also enriched the intellectual heritage of Kashmiris by the contributions of his flowing pen, from which coming generations will draw sustenance for ages.

The Maulana had a unique and individual style, be it in oratory or in writing.

That was why he could render the Holy Qur'an in easy language, and explore the nuances and secrets of an eloquent work like the Nahj-ul-Balagha with such facility. He had a special status in discussing intricate doctrinal and contemporary issues in understandable language with the younger generation.

Maulana passed away from this mortal world on this day 18 years ago but the seekers-after of knowledge and the spiritually-inclined remember him with great reverence.

Born in Srinagar on March 21, 1945, in the scholarly family of the Ansaris, the Maulana had his preliminary schooling in the valley, and after a brief stint in Lucknow, went to the highest seat of Islamic learning in Najaf, Iraq in 1963, where he studied under such illustrious figures as Ayatullah Syed Mohsin-al-Hakeem, Martyr Ayatullah Syed Muhammad Baqar-as-Sadr and Ayatullah Syed Abul Qasim-al-Khoi.

The rigorous fields of Islamic jurisprudence (*ilm-al-fiqh and usul-al-fiqh*), tafseer,

philosophy and history were his areas of study.

After his return from Iraq, the Maulana shunned the traditional mode by which the ulema made a living those days, and sustained himself by working as a businessman. He also avoided the attire of the traditional ulema, and would dress as an ordinary person, as he would often say that the conventional garb of the clerics put onerous responsibilities on the wearer as it was reminiscent of the Holy Prophet.

Being from a politico-religious family, his foray into politics after his return seemed almost inevitable but he distanced himself from the hurly-burly of politics after witnessing its degeneration and devoted himself to scholarly pursuits.

The Maulana has about 40 erudite works to his credit, among them a commentary on the Holy Qur'an, both in Urdu (*Minhaaj-ul-Qur'an*) and in

Kashmiri (*Misbah-ul-Quran*) the latter being unpublished except for the first two chapters titled *Kashf-ul-Aneeq-fi-Sharh-e-Qanoon-al-Ameeq*.

The first-ever Kashmiri translation and commentary of the *Nahj-ul-Balagha* is another of his noted achievements.

The Maulana has also penned down the biography of the Blessed Prophet, pbuh, (*Aftaab-e-Nabuwwat*, 2nd edition 2006), his first work after his return from Iraq, and magnum opus *Qateel-e-Nainava*, the biography of Imam Hussain, AS, which was published after he passed away.

Maulana Mustafa also made his mark as a novelist, publishing three highly successful historical novels (*Inteqaam, Qabeelah, and Saazish*) based on events in the tumultuous course of Islam.

Some of his well-known books include *Aakhri Tabassum, Mujrim, Al Meezaan, Khayaban, Islam Mein Haq-e-Talaq, Shahrae Hayat* and *Mere Jigar Ka Lahu*.

His final work, *Rakht-e-Safar*, which he wrote two years before his passing away, deals with a human-beings preparation for the last journey. As if to signify that his time was near, the Maulana had concluded his long tryst with the world of thought and letters with a treatise on the hereafter.

In his last years, well before he fell ill, the Maulana could be seen mostly in remembrance of the Divine, and his concern for the life after found utterance in verse - the poetic side of his versatile and multi-faceted personality coming to light only after his death.

The compilation of his verse which was gathered from his close associates who had heard him recite has appropriately been titled *Safar-e-Nataam* (Incomplete Journey) for the achievements his admirers still expected of him.



## IPL 2024: Upbeat Delhi Capitals Take On Struggling MI As Playoff Race Intensifies

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** An upbeat Delhi Capitals will look to keep the winning momentum going against an inconsistent Mumbai Indians when the two sides square off in the IPL here on Saturday.

The Capitals have endured a rollercoaster season so far, showing flashes of brilliance while also succumbing to embarrassing defeats.

But three wins in the last four matches have helped them climb to the sixth spot and a win against MI will strengthen their claim to a play off spot.

On the other hand, after a familiar poor start, MI bounced back with three wins in their next four matches but a comprehensive nine-wicket thrashing by Rajasthan Royals put an end to their resurgence. They are tottering on the eighth place on the points table and can ill-afford to lose.

DC's biggest positive has



undoubtedly been skipper Rishabh Pant's form, which appears to be improving with each game.

He has looked sharp behind the stumps and seems to be batting with freedom. He was at his

belligerent best during a match-winning unbeaten knock against Gujarat Titans on Wednesday.

It would be fair to say that the southpaw is in prime position to make India's squad for the T20 World Cup despite stiff

the veteran Australian might be brought back in the playing XI.

For Mumbai, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma have got runs but all of them have found form in patches. It's time for the likes of Tim David, Ishan Kishan and skipper Hardik Pandya to contribute a big way and take some pressure off the top trio.

While the batting department has occasionally looked good, the bowling remains a massive cause of concern.

Jasprit Bumrah has expectedly been MI's standout bowler. He has led the attack with 13 wickets at an economy rate of 6.37.

However, new addition Gerald Coetzee has been inconsistent in his maiden IPL. Though he has an economy of 10.10, the South African pacer has accounted for 12 wickets in eight games.

But barring the two seamers, Mumbai's bowling has disappointed.

Match starts 7.30pm IST.

## Anantnag Army JCO Secures Olympic Quota For Paris Games

Agencies

**ANANTNAG:** A 29-year-old Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Indian Army from south Kashmir's Anantnag is all set to participate in the Paris Olympics after securing an Olympic quota for the Games scheduled this year.

Hailing from the Damhal village of Anantnag district, Amir Ahmad Bhat's name resonates not just in military circles but also in the world of international shooting.

Speaking with the news agency KNO over the phone from South Korea, Amir said, "It was in 2022 when I started the shooting career. When I joined the Indian army, initially, we were trained for basic firing (shooting), and my performance was consistently excellent. Then, I became a sniper and participated in many events."

He said, "I felt confident in my shooting skills, so I decided to pursue it further. Inspired by shooters like Abhinav Bindra and Indian Army's Vijay Kumar, among others, I chose shooting as my passion. It is an undiscovered sports category in Jammu and Kashmir."

About his achievements, Bhat said, "In 2022, I made my mark on the national stage, clinching six medals in various national championships, including two gold, one silver, and three bronze."

Expressing gratitude, he said, "My family, the Army, Sports Authority of India, and J&K Sports Council supported me throughout my journey. I received training under the Army Marksmanship Unit in MHOW, Indore. Later, I was selected for the Indian team and underwent training at various camps held in



Delhi by the Sports Authority of India. The Indian Army hired my coach, who is based in South Korea and continues to support me."

Amir proudly noted, "I am the first and only para shooter from Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the Paris Olympics this year. Additionally, among all three services (Army, Navy, & Air Force), I am the first medalist para shooter to participate in the Paris Olympics. It is a world record that I secured an Olympic berth in less than two years."

Reflecting on his international appearances, Amir said he represented India six times internationally. In 2023, he competed in prestigious tournaments in countries like South Korea, Croatia, and Peru and it was in Lima, Peru, where he clinched a gold medal and secured an Olympic quota for the Paris Olympic Games scheduled for the following year.

"In total, I have earned 4 medals on the international platform too, including 1 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze," he added.

In the ongoing Shooting World Cup held in Changwon, South Korea, Amir earned a silver medal. Twenty-six teams from across the world participated in the tournament.

## SVEEP 2024: YSS Organises Mega Cycle Race

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports is undertaking the initiative to raise awareness through the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program in all the 20 districts of J&K.

This groundbreaking initiative recognizes the significance of engaging the youth in the democratic process, as they are the future leaders and voting citizens of the nation.

The Department of YSS on Friday, organised a zonal level cycle race for boys of all age groups (AAG) in Sports Zone Tullamulla of district Ganderbal. Shabir Ahmad, Zonal Physical Education Officer Tullamulla and other senior officials of the Department were also present on this occasion.

The mega race was flagged-



off from the Baroosa Crossing, passing through the Central University of Kashmir road. It finally culminated at GHSS Tullamulla amid applause and jubilation among the participants.

The event, aimed at fostering voter awareness among the youth, reiterated the moto, 'No Voter is to be left behind', emphasizing the crucial role of every vote in the democratic fabric of the nation.

Over 150 enthusiastic young cyclists participated, showcasing zeal and fervor

throughout.

The meritorious participants were honored by the Zonal Physical Education Officer at GHSS Tullamulla, receiving well-deserved trophies in acknowledgment of their outstanding performance.

Meanwhile, in the sports Zone Kangan of the district, an inter-school zonal level Chess tournament for Boys U-14 years took place at MS Kijpara, witnessing the active involvement of numerous enthusiastic students.

## Cricket Match Under SVEEP Held At Doru

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Doru, in collaboration with the Government Degree College Doru, organized a cricket match today as part of the Systematic Voter's Education & Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program. The event took place at the Sports Stadium Nadoora.

The match aimed to engage youth in the democratic process and promote awareness about the importance of voting. In this programme, Govt Degree college Doru, HSS Kabamarg, HSS Doru



and HSS Hakura participated.

In the opening ceremony ZPEO Doru Bashir Ahmad Dar spoke about the importance of voting and voters participation in elections.

On the closing ceremony

medals & trophies were distributed among the players.

Team GDC Doru emerged as winner while team HSS Doru remained as runner up. Overall 64 players participated in this event.

## Short TAKES

### RR Eye Winning Streak As They Face Resurgent LSG

**H**igh-flying Rajasthan Royals will look to continue their winning momentum and consolidate their position at the top when they take on a resurgent Lucknow Super Giants, who would be gunning for revenge at home in an IPL match here on Saturday.

Former champions RR have looked in ominous form this season with seven wins from eight games, and they could be a tough nut to crack for LSG. LSG, meanwhile, too have played some good cricket and are placed fourth with five wins from eight games.

### Ishant, Warner Banned From DC's Upcoming Match Against MI

**T**he injured duo of Ishant Sharma and David Warner will not feature in Delhi Capitals' Indian Premier League clash against Mumbai Indians here on Saturday.

Delhi Capitals' Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly confirmed the development on Friday.

Both players had missed DC's previous game against Gujarat Titans. While Warner had picked up a thumb injury against Lucknow Super Giants earlier this month, Ishant has been facing issues with his back.

### World Wrestling Body Warns Against Reinstating Ad-Hoc Committee

**W**restling's world governing body UWW on Friday threatened to reimpose the ban on India and bar its wrestlers from the final Olympic Qualifiers next month if an ad-hoc committee was brought back to run the sport.

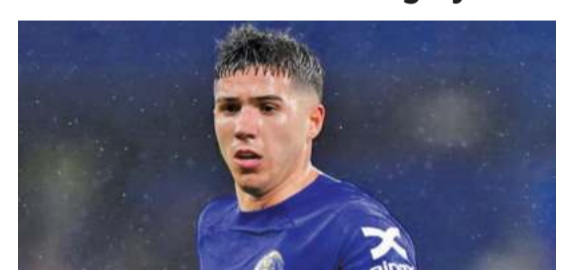
Recently, the Delhi High Court directed IOA to file an affidavit stating the circumstances which led to the dissolution of the ad-hoc committee for running the national wrestling body. The UWW reiterated its stand that they won't allow any third party interference in the running of the national association of any country.

### Eintracht Frankfurt Acquires Hugo Ekitiké From PSG

**E**intracht Frankfurt is activating an option to buy striker Hugo Ekitiké, who has been on loan from Paris Saint-Germain this season.

Frankfurt's move Friday comes despite a relatively slow start to life in the Bundesliga for Ekitiké, who only scored his first goal last week in his 12th game for the club. Frankfurt said Ekitiké has signed a contract through to 2029. Frankfurt is sixth in the Bundesliga and visits Bayern Munich on Saturday.

### Chelsea's Fernandez To Miss Rest Of Season After Groin Surgery



**C**helsea midfielder Enzo Fernandez has undergone groin surgery and will miss the remaining six games of the season, the Premier League club said. The Argentine international, who suffered a hernia in December, started in Chelsea's 5-0 thrashing by Arsenal on Tuesday before being substituted in the second half.

The loss of Fernandez is another blow for Chelsea, who are ninth in the league and visit fourth-placed Aston Villa on Saturday.

## Yuvraj Singles Out Surya & Bumrah As India's Pivotal Players In T20 WC

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Former India star Yuvraj Singh has identified the swashbuckling Suryakumar Yadav and pace ace Jasprit Bumrah as key to the team's prospects in the upcoming T20 World Cup owing to their ability to "change the complexion of a game" in a jiffy.

Yuvraj, who was pivotal to India's title triumph in the inaugural edition of the tournament back in 2007, said Suryakumar will need to have a good outing for the team to win the cup for the second time while also suggesting that Bumrah needs to be at his best.

"Suryakumar Yadav (is India's key player)," Yuvraj was quoted as saying by ICC. He added, "Because the way he plays, he can change the complexion of a game in 15 balls. And he is definitely a surety... for India to win this T20 World Cup, Surya is going to be the key."

"I think Jasprit Bumrah is also the key with the bowling and I would like to see a leg-spinner in the squad as well, like Yuzvendra Chahal as he has been bowling really well. "But being a batter, I would

say Suryakumar Yadav (is the key player)."

While dissecting the options of who should be India's first-choice wicket-keeper, Yuvraj expressed satisfaction with veteran Dinesh Karthik's form in the IPL but said if he is not part of the playing XI, there is no point picking the 38-year-old in the squad as the younger Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson have been playing extremely well.

"DK (Karthik) has been batting well, but the thing with DK is that the last time (2022) they picked him and the T20 WC was on he didn't get to play," Yuvraj noted.

"If DK is not in your XI I don't think there is any point in picking him. There is Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson and both guys are in great form and obviously they are younger."

"I would like to see DK in the mix, but if he is not going to play then you would rather have someone who is younger and can make the difference."

**ROHIT AND VIRAT HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ON THEIR FUTURE**

Yuvraj knows just how important Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are to India's for-



tunes in the T20 showpiece and refused to put an end date on when he thinks the duo

should retire from international cricket. Instead, Yuvraj suggested

that Rohit and Kohli should consider giving up on playing T20I cricket after the T20

World Cup and concentrate on other formats. "As you get older people

start talking about your age and they forget about your form," Yuvraj stated.

"These guys have been great players for India and they deserve to go (retire) when they want."

"I would like to see more younger players in the T20 format, because it gets the load off them (experienced players) playing 50-over (ODIs) and Test matches. After this (T20) World Cup I would like to see a lot of younger guys come into the team and make the T20 side for the next World Cup."

**DUBE IS THE FUTURE STAR**

Yuvraj picked Chennai Super Kings left-hander Shivam Dube as one player that he wants to see in the squad, thanks to his explosive batting. "I would like to see Shivam Dube in the squad," he said.

"He has been in and out of the (Indian) team, but this IPL he has been batting very well and he is someone who can be the game-changer."

"There are a lot of other guys who have been playing for a while now, but I would like to see Shivam Dube in the mix," he added.



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