

PM Modi Will Continue To Lead: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Hyderabad: Top BJP leader Amit Shah on Saturday asserted Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to lead the country post 2024 Lok Sabha polls and hit out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for claiming the PM was seeking votes for making Shah his successor, citing the 75 years age 'rule'.

There was nothing written in the BJP's constitution on any such age ceiling, Shah told reporters here. There was no confusion in the BJP over the matter.

Shah was responding to Kejriwal's claim that Modi was asking for votes for the Union Home Minister to make him PM as the prime minister would turn 75 next year.

"I would like to tell Arvind Kejriwal and company and the whole Indi alliance, Modi becomes 75, there is no need for you to feel happy. It is not written anywhere in BJP's constitution. Modi will complete the term and will continue to lead the country. There is no confusion in BJP on this," Shah told reporters here.

To a related query, Shah said, "His (Kejriwal) base is that Modi ji will be changed. I have made it clear that Modi will not be changed. At the root, why did he say that? Modi ji will be changed after 75. It has been decided not to change".

Kejriwal had charged that Modi is asking for votes for Shah.

"These people ask INDIA bloc about their (PM) face. I ask BJP who will be their PM? Modi ji is turning 75 on September 17 next year. He had made the rule that people aged 75 will be retired. They retired | More on P6

Campaigning Ends In Srinagar, Section 144 Imposed 'Dry Day' Declared, Polling Stations Designated As No-smoking Zones



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Leaders of all political parties made a last-ditch effort to woo voters as campaigning for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir ended on Saturday.

The constituency goes to the polls on May 13.

Twenty-four candidates are in the fray from the constituency, which has been represented by three generations of Abdullahs.

The National Conference has fielded influential Shia leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi while youth leader Waheed Para is contesting on a People's Democratic Party

ticket. The Apni Party has fielded Ashraf Mir.

The authorities have set up 2,135 polling booths for the constituency's 17.44 lakh eligible voters.

The re-drawn constituency covers 18 assembly segments, spread over the districts of Srinagar and Ganderbal and parts of | More on P6

Srinagar PC All Set To Go For Polls On May 13

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With all arrangements in place, the polling for 4th phase of ongoing Lok Sabha elections is all set to commence on May 13 in the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

A total of 17,47,810 voters are going to decide the fate of 24 candidates by casting their ballots in around 2135 polling stations across five districts of Kashmir. The polling will take place in 18 assembly segments on Monday from morning 07:00 AM to evening 06:00 PM in Srinagar, Pulwama,



Budgam, Ganderbal and Shopian.

As per the details available, more than two lakh electorates are the first-time voters. Of total 17.47 lakh voters, 8,75,938 are female and 8,71,808 are male electorates and 64 third gender voters. As per the data, there are around 11,682 | More on P6

8 'Pink Polling Stations' Established

With parliamentary elections for Srinagar segment scheduled on Monday, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Jammu and Kashmir Pandurang K. Pole on Friday said that they have designated 18 polling booths in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency as "Pink Polling Stations" for women, entirely managed by the females. The CEO said that in order to encourage female voters to cast their votes, they have established some "Pink Polling Stations," where entire management will be with females. | More on P6

Lone Gets EC Notice Over MCC Violation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday issued a notice to Sajad Gani Lone, Peoples Conference candidate for Baramulla Lok Sabha segment, over posting a video on his X handle.

In a notice issued to Lone, the district election officer Kupwara has asked him to explain why he has uploaded a video on his twitter handle without prior clearance/pre-certification from Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC).

"... Sajad Gani Lone, candidate of Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Conference for | More on P6

UDHAMPUR ENCOUNTER

JKP Releases Sketches Of 6 Terrorists

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released the sketches of six terrorists, who infiltrated from Pakistan into Basantgarh area of Udhampur district and killed a village defence guard in a gunfight before fleeing deep | More on P6

One Suspect Arrested

After 14 days of hectic efforts to trace terrorists involved in the exchange of firing at Basantgarh area of Udhampur district, Jammu and | More on P6

'UNEMPLOYMENT, RESERVATION, ARTICLE 370' Concerns & Hopes Among Kashmir's First-time Voters

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: From a young age, Faheem Bashir accompanied his father to polling booths to observe the voting process, eager to exercise his own voting rights one day.

Faheem, a resident of North Kashmir's Bandipora district turned 18 in 2021, and is now very excited to vote in the Lok Sabha elections. His constituency is scheduled to go for polls in the fifth phase on May 20.

"I was very happy to see my name on the voting list. This will be the first time that I will be voting and choose my candidate," Faheem told Kashmir Observer.

Faheem, a college student, wants to elect a government that will reconsider the reservation quota recently implemented, aiming for a fairer distribution of opportunities.

"I will vote for a party that will abolish the 10% reservation quota that was granted to Paharis from the General/open merit category a few months ago. The total open merit or unreserved segment has shrunk to around 36% from the previous 45-50%."

On 15 March, 2024 the Jammu & Kashmir administration approved 10% reservation for newly-included tribes, including Paharis, in the Schedule Tribe (ST). The Council also approved the addition of 15 new castes in the list of OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir and enhancement of reservation in favour of OBCs to 8%. The bill will provide reservation in jobs, educational institutions. This has raised concerns among



people from the Open Merit category and the Gujjar and Bakarwal community has also criticised the government for granting status to the Pahari community, calling the move "arbitrary and unconstitutional."

"Jobs and employment are a priority. Reservation is always proportional to population, and the reduced quota is a huge injustice to general category aspirants," Faheem said.

Faheem's priorities match many of those his age.

Humaira Jan, from Kulgam, recently took the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET UG). Despite her rigorous preparation, Humaira grapples with uncertainty about her chances.

"The highly competitive nature of the exam is only one factor, the recently implemented reservation policy adds another layer of complexity to the selection process," she said, adding, "It's crucial | More on P6

'Create Political Space, Mobilise People' Ruhullah's Roadmap For Art 370 Restoration

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Create a political space, mobilise people, find forces in the country who can ally with us and unite - "this is National Conference (NC) candidate for the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's roadmap for restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and



Kashmir. "We need to fight it politically, we need to mobilise

people," Mehdi told PTI in an interview.

"First encourage our people to express their opinion and then mobilise that opinion and create that political space where people can speak about it and stand for their rights," Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, said.

The NC leader, a

three-time former MLA from Budgam assembly segment, is the party's candidate for Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency which has been represented by three generations of the Abdullahs.

He said the leadership needs to reach out to the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir to mobilise them and | More on P6

Don't Repeat 1987 in Kashmir: Parra

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for Srinagar Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra on Saturday said that the BJP-led government should not repeat 1987 rigged election saying it will have disastrous consequences. The elections were allegedly rigged by Congress alongside the National Conference in Kashmir, spurring armed militancy in the Valley a year later. Talking to Kashmir | More on P6

LOK SABHA ELECTION - 2024

चुनाव का पर्व
DESH KA GARV
LOK SABHA ELECTION 2024

Alternative Documents To Prove Your Identity At The Polling Booth

1. Aadhaar Card

2. MNREGA Job Card

3. Indian Passport

4. Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR

5. Driving License

6. PAN Card

7. Pension Document with photograph

8. Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office

9. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour

10. Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies

11. Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs

12. Unique Disability ID (UID) Card M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

LIST OF ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS YOU CAN USE TO VOTE IN LOK SABHA ELECTIONS, 2024

DIPK-NB-160/24 Dated: May 11 2024

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UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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Jammu & Kashmir Haj Committee

Under Department of Haj & Umrah, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

(Ph. No. 0194-249516, 0194-249517, www.jk-haj.org, mail at: jk-haj@gmail.com)

Notification

Subject: Flight Schedule of Haj Pilgrims/Reporting time at Haj House Bemina, Srinagar.

In continuation to this office notification dated: 10-05-2024, the flight schedule for 13th May, 2024 is hereby published for information of the concerned Haj pilgrims.

Reporting time of pilgrims at Haj House Srinagar as per their respective flights is notified as under:

Table with 4 columns: Sno., Flight No., Date of Departure, Reporting time at Haj House. Row 1: 1, SG-5113, 13-05-2024, 07:00 AM

The pilgrims are advised to report on time at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar. It may be noted that only standard baggage without any banned item shall be accepted as check-in-luggage by the Airlines at Haj House, Srinagar.

Note: Flight allotment is provisional and subject to Visa endorsement.

Dr. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi (JKAS) Executive Officer.

No:Haj/2024/CS/274/10

Dated: 11-05-2024

JAMMU AND KASHMIR HAJ COMMITTEE

FLIGHT ALLOTMENT FOR HAJ 1445 (H) - 2024

Main flight allotment table with columns: Sno., Cover No., Name of Pilgrim (s), Flight Date, Flight No. Rows include pilgrims like TASLEEMA, MOHD, GHULAM, etc.

Continuation of flight allotment table with columns: Flight No., Pilgrim Name, Flight Date, Flight No. Rows include pilgrims like TAHMINA AKHTAR, MUSHTAQ AHMAD, Shahida, etc.

Continuation of flight allotment table with columns: Flight No., Pilgrim Name, Flight Date, Flight No. Rows include pilgrims like ZAKIR, ABDUL, SHAHEENA, etc.

DIT/KM/3/24 dated: 11-05-2024

CBC Organizes Voter Awareness Programs Under SVEEP In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office Srinagar, organized multiple voter awareness programs at Nishat Mughal Garden and Zero Bridge in Srinagar today.

Presented by the cultural troupes empanelled with CBC Srinagar, these programs were part of the ongoing efforts of the Bureau to enhance voter participation and civic engagement in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Artists of Pamposh Folk Theatre and Maqsood Bhat Theatre enthralled the audience with colorful and informative skits and musical presentations,

highlighting various aspects of elections, emphasizing the importance of voting, and promoting democratic participation. Informative literature on voting and significance of elections was also distributed among the people by the CBC team. Field Publicity Officer, CBC Srinagar, Naseer Rather, emphasized that these programs were part of a comprehensive series of initiatives organized across the Kashmir region to raise awareness among the general populace about the importance of voting and democratic participation.

He said, "through such endeavors, CBC Srinagar aims to empower citizens with knowledge and inspire them to exercise their democratic right to vote actively."

Final Randomization For Allotment Of Polling Stations Held For Srinagar PC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The final Randomization for allotment of Polling Stations to Polling Staff and Micro Observers to be deployed across 2135 Polling Stations in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC) comprising 18 Assembly segments of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Pulwama Budgam (Partly), and Shopian (Partly) Districts was held here today at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The Final/(3rd) Randomization was held under the supervision of General Observer for 02-Srinagar PC, Mukul Kumar in presence of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal

Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Returning officer for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat.

The District Election Officer (DEO) of Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom; DEO Ganderbal, Shyambir; DEO Budgam, Akshay Labroo and DEO Shopian, Faz Iul Haseeb attended the Randomization process through virtual mode from their respective Districts.

The Randomization process was conducted through dedicated Software as per the prescribed guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) ensuring fairness and impartiality in the deployment of Polling Staff and Micro Observers to polling stations for 02-Srinagar PC.



Political parties conclude campaigning for their nominated candidates, marking end of the 02-Srinagar PC campaign period on Saturday. KO Photo by Abid Bhat.

Authorities Thwart Illicit Import Of 'Opiod' At Srinagar Airport

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Drug Control Department confiscated a shipment of illicit narcotics comprising 1080 capsules of 'Tramadol', a medicine structurally related to the opioids like codeine and morphine at the Srinagar Airport on Saturday.

Officials told Kashmir Observer that the Central Enforcement (Airport Wing) Department at the Srinagar Airport here provided a tip off, that led to the seizure of illicit narcotics comprising 1080 capsules of Tramadol.

Irfana Ahmad, the Deputy Drug Controller, and the officials of the Sales Tax Department seized the shipment, which officials claimed was being imported through unregulated channels.

As stated by the department, the seizure was part of its continuous efforts to prevent the unlawful distribution and sale of prescription medications.

The department had in the past intercepted similar shipments together with the Srinagar Airport Sales Tax Department and prosecuted those involved in the unlawful distribution and sale of prescription medications.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Deputy Drug Controller, Irfana Ahmad said the department is currently investigating the origin and planned use of the confiscated package.

"We are presently investigating the matter and whosoever is found involved in the unlawful distribution and sale of prescription medications will be dealt with in accordance with the law," the officer said, adding many such consignments have been seized in the past as well. Actually smugglers using licenses of bonafide pharmaceutical distributors carry out these illegal activities.

Secy Health Addresses International Nurses Day Event At GMC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar celebrated International Nurses Day here today.

The joint function of all Associated Hospitals was presided over by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah. This year's theme: "Our Nurses Our Future," underscored the indispensable contributions of nurses globally.

Principal/Dean of GMC Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Ifat Shah, Administrator of Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Heads of Departments (HODs) representing various specialties, Medical Superintendents, Faculty, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Resident Medical Officers (RMOs), Matrons, Nursing Supervisors, Nursing Officers, paramedics and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Abid commended the invaluable contributions of nurses and reaffirmed the department's commitment to supporting and empowering the nursing fraternity.

He expressed gratitude to all nurses for their tireless efforts in delivering compassionate care and emphasized the need for continued collaboration to strengthen healthcare system and improve patient outcomes.

Other speakers reflected a renewed sense of appreciation and respect for nurses, who are critical team members of the healthcare system. As the world continues to navigate through unprecedented challenges, their unwavering commitment and dedication remain a beacon of hope and inspiration for all.

Pertinently, the occasion celebrated the unwavering dedication and resilience of nurses in delivering quality healthcare.

The main highlight of the program was the heartfelt rendition of the song "We Will Overcome," which resonated deeply with the audience, prompting everyone, to join in applause. This symbolic gesture reinforced the unity and solidarity within the healthcare community.

A documentary showcasing the exemplary work of nurses in the face of adversity, including their pivotal role during floods, COVID-19 pandemic, natural calamities, and other emergencies was also screened on the occasion.

The documentary served as a powerful reminder of selfless service and sacrifice of nurses in safeguarding public health and saving lives, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir
Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)
CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu / Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar.
www.jkssb.nic.in

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Result/Score-sheet of Written Test for the post of Inspector (Finance) - regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the OMR based Written Examination for the post of **Inspector**, Finance Department, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020, under Item Nos. 117, on **17th March, 2024**; and

Whereas, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of written examination held for the said post has been notified vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/9/2024-03 (7430339) dated: 15.04.2024; and

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the Result/Score-sheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Written Test for the post of **Inspector**, Finance Department, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020, under Item Nos. 117, conducted on 17.03.2024, is hereby notified as **Annexure "A"**.

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

DIPK-478/24
dated: 11-05-2024

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/9/2024-03 (7430339) Dated: 10.05.2024

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir
Office Of The Deputy Director Estates Kashmir
E.:mail- ddestsgr@gmail.com Tel / Fax- 0194-2452435

CIRCULAR

All the out stationed non move employees who are availing boarding / lodging facilities in the Private Hotels hired by the Estates Department at Srinagar and intend to continue the facility during Summer Session 2024 (May -2024 to October-2024) are informed to submit their consent afresh on devised Format for continuation of the accommodation. The devised Format can be obtained from the Office of the Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir w.e.f 10/05/2024 and is also available at the hotels / guest houses hired by Estates department.

The devised Format complete in every respect should reach this office within a period of Fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which the extension to allotment for Summer Session shall not be granted.

No. DDES/Move/2024/1854-17
DIPK-464/24
Dated:- 11-05-2024

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ESTATES KASHMIR Srinagar

Milestone in J&K Health Sector
First Penile Implant Surgery Conducted In J&K

In a pioneering move for urological healthcare in the region, Noora Hospital in Jammu and Kashmir proudly announces the successful completion of the first penile implant surgery. Led by esteemed urologist and andrologist Dr. Tariq Mir and team (Dr Azhar, Dr Haamid), this landmark procedure represents a significant advancement in the field of sexual health and urology within the region.

The penile implant surgery, a complex procedure aimed at restoring erectile function in individuals with erectile dysfunction (ED) unresponsive to other treatments, marks a turning point for patients in need of specialized care.

Dr. Tariq's expertise and the state-of-the-art facilities at Noora Hospital ensured a seamless and successful operation.

Erectile dysfunction, a condition affecting millions worldwide, can have profound effects on a person's quality of life and relationships. For individuals in Jammu and Kashmir facing this challenge, the availability of advanced treatment options such as penile implants offers renewed hope and improved quality of life.

Dr. Tariq expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the surgery, emphasizing the importance of bringing advanced urological care closer to home for patients in the region. He praised the collaborative efforts of the medical team and underscored the hospital's commitment to delivering exceptional healthcare services.

The successful completion of the first penile implant surgery at Noora Hospital reflects not only medical excellence but also a commitment to innovation and patient-centered care. As the field of urology continues to evolve, this milestone achievement serves as a testament to the dedication of healthcare professionals in Jammu and Kashmir to improve the lives of their patients.

Moving forward, Noora Hospital aims to expand its urology services, ensuring that individuals across Jammu and Kashmir have access to comprehensive and advanced treatment options for various urological conditions. With a focus on patient well-being and innovation, the hospital continues to set new standards in healthcare delivery in the region.

MIRACLE ADVT

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

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

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
03 Zil-Qadah
1445

PRAYERS
FAJR 3: 57
ZUHR 12:27
ASR 5: 20
Magrib 7:26
ISHA 8: 59

This Day In History

- 1328 - Holy Roman Emperor Louis IV and assembly of priests select Pietro Rainalducc as anti-Pope Nicolaas V
- 1328 - Antipope Nicholas V, a claimant to the papacy, is consecrated in Rome by the Bishop of Venice
- 1459 - Sun City in India founded by Rao Jodhpur
- 1525 - Battle at Biblingen: Zwabische Union beats rebel Wurttemberg farmers
- 1534 - German Duchy of Wurttemberg becomes Lutheran under Ulrich, Duke of Württemberg
- 1551 - San Marcos University in Lima, Peru, opens
- 1588 - Catholic League under duke Henri de Guise occupies Paris
- 1588 - Catholic League under duke Henri de Guise occupies Paris
- 1604 - Spanish garrison of Aardenburg surrenders to Mauritius
- 1640 - Uprising against Spanish king Philip IV
- 1689 - England & Netherlands form League of Augsburg
- 1777 - 1st ice cream advertisement (Philip Lenzi-NY Gazette)
- 1780 - British troops occupy Charleston, South Carolina (Revolutionary War)
- 1797 - First Coalition: Napoleon I of France conquers Venice.

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mehvish Hafiz D/o Hafizullah Mir R/o Darveshbagh Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 17-02-2010 occurred at Home

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am Applying for the registration of my tour and travels agency under the name and style of well worth holidays at Kunzer Baramulla. Anybody having any objection may file the same to asstt director tourism Gulmarg within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that

Rizwana Rashid
Daughter of: Abdul Rashid sofi
R/o: Kunzer
Tehsil: Kunzer
fko

از عدالت ایکریکیٹیو مجسٹریٹ درج اول نارہ بل ضلع بڑگام
عنوان: درخواست منجانب محمد صیف ڈار ولد غلام محمد ڈار ساکنہ کاسہ خانہ
تختیبل نارہ بل ضلع بڑگام برادر عطائی اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق سائل
اشتہار برادر گاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں کے نسبت سائل نے ایک درخواست online
کیا ہے سائل EWS سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے سائل کا کنڈی
105 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور سائل کے والد کے کنڈی کے مکان و صحن کا کل رقبہ
1360 فٹ ہے اور سائل کے کنڈی کی کل آمدنی 800000 آٹھ لاکھ روپے
سے کم ہے
اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی مذریعہ
اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض یا اعتراض سات یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے
کے بعد کوئی مذریعہ یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار bmg

>>>> Mother's Day Special

Should Housewives be Compensated for Housework?

Haneen Farid

1 6.4 billion hours per day are spent in performing unpaid care labour, as per data from the International Labour Organisation which is based on two-thirds of the world's working age population.

This statistic can also be understood as 2 billion individuals working 8 hours every day without pay. In fact, if these services were to be monetised, it would contribute to 9% of the world's GDP or US \$11 trillion (purchasing power parity in 2011).

Whilst the economy of unpaid care work has remained largely invisible for hundreds of years, the demand for its recognition has roots in the 19th Century. During the first wave of the women's rights movements in the US, Britain, and Europe, the main issue was that the burden of housework completely restricted women to the household. Further, there was a "second-shift" problem, whereby working women had to manage not only labour outside the household but also within the household.

In the second wave movement, the focus was not so much on the restrictions or burdens that came with housework, but the fact that it was unpaid and thereby perceived as a tool of oppression. As Silvia Federici argues in *Wages Against Housework*, the unpaid element that is intrinsic to housework is a 'powerful weapon' in reinforcing the notion that such work is not "actual work". Additionally, this prevents women from protesting against it, except in household kitchens or as part of bedroom quarrels, which have even become a matter of ridicule in society over time.

We spoke with Dr Roshan Ara, Assistant Professor at the University of Kashmir's Center for Women's Studies & Research. She highlights a major argument that is made for the movement for wages for housework:

"This [care work] is the pillar of the economy...if housewives do not work for one day, the whole world will be stagnant...there will be confusion and chaos...Who is preparing this human



resource? It is the mother. Therefore, I think this whole economy, wholly and solely, it is being supported by women', says Dr Ara.

Similarly, a certain section of marxist feminists view women's housework as a part of the social reproduction process, whereby housewives essentially enable men to perform their labour.

If we suppose it is universally decided that housewives must be compensated for household work, a crucial hurdle we would have to address is how their wages are to be computed. The United Nations System of National Accounts in 2008 listed 'difficulty of making economically meaningful estimates of their values' as one of the reasons for not including unpaid care work in labour statistics.

To begin with, it is challenging in some cases to distinguish between work and leisure activities. For instance, if we say that a woman is playing with her child, would she be considered to be enjoying or working?

If such child-rearing is considered to be a leisure activity, exploitation is out of question.

However, if this is work, then we can take the number of hours that child-rearing is performed and compare it with the working hours that the husband performs to ensure that the productive and non-productive working hours of both partners are equal and neither is exploited.

Now, if we suppose that childrearing is both a productive and non-productive activity, it would be categorised as work only to the extent that it contributes to the psychological growth of the child. And since there is no clear standard by which we can separate work from non-work, norms of fairness are tricky to apply when it comes to the separation of work between men and women.

But in such cases, women can be asked to decide for themselves what type of work constitutes leisure and labour. Although, as the "second-shift" concerns in the second wave movement suggest, there may be a possibility that women see household work as largely cumbersome. Still, such perceptions can shift overtime and the way of women is essential.

Regardless, one formula of calculating wages would be to take into consideration all the household work that can be outsourced to nannies, gardeners, cooks, domestic help, etc. and use it as a maxim to calculate the cost of the work that housewives would do in their place. This is the input evaluation method.

Another solution can be based on the notion that all the work performed by women within the household is aimed towards the betterment of her family members, who are public goods. Hence, these women should be compensated accordingly. This is the output evaluation method, whereby the market value of a task is calculated on the basis of the good that it produces.

Whilst care work has its intricacies in terms of monetisation, there is one aspect of this debate which is imperative to address, and that is the impact it has on the status of women.

Dr Ara explains, 'when it comes to monetary power, when it comes to bargaining power within the household, who has the bargaining power? The bargaining power is in the hands of the person who has the cash in hand, who has resources in hand. And this "resource-lessness" has degraded women, it has derated their status as they have no bargaining power and no decision-making power. For example, in any family, whatever bold decision has to be made, usually some men assume that a woman's decision does not matter because they are not earning.'

'I am of the firm opinion that if we cannot [re-munerate women], it is not necessary men have to pay for this. But at least men should get this realisation that whatever they are doing outside the home, it is all because women are giving them their time. She can also earn, but she is playing such a great role, she is preparing a human resource for the economy, she is feeding the members of the family...we need to value this work.'

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

The world recently witnessed the warmest January on record, underscoring the urgent need for climate action. Against this backdrop, 2024 also happens to be the mega year for elections around the globe where 40% of the world's population will vote. The ongoing elections in India, home to the world's largest democratic process, hold significant sway over domestic and global climate policy. The demands and decisions made by millions of Indian voters will significantly shape the future governments commitments and policy on GHG reduction and climate adaptation. Thus, the fate of climate change and politics gets deeply intertwined.

India faces a myriad of climate hazards, with the World Bank identifying it as the country with the highest climate-exposed population. From extreme heat and water scarcity to floods and cyclones, the impacts are felt across life, livelihoods, food security and economic productivity. As the world crossed the 1.5° Celsius warming threshold for the first time in 2023, India found itself amidst several heat waves. According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), over 9 million people in India are already suffering from the adverse effects of climate change. Between 2016-2021, climate extreme events caused damage to crops in over 36 million hectares, and a \$3.75 billion loss for farmers in the country. If estimates from the report on 'Loss and Damage Today' by economist James Rising were to be believed, India lost 8% of its GDP in 2022. Further, if projections from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) are to be stated, India has a risk of losing 35% of GDP to climate change by 2100.

The decimation of democracy: BJP's 'Make India great again' narrative is unlikely to become a reality anytime soon

At the moment, millions of Indians are heading to cast their votes in scorching heat waves. Despite these stark realities, climate action has yet to dominate the electoral agenda. One might question why climate consciousness isn't at the forefront of political discourse. On the other side India's voters deeply resonate with the climate crisis since the majority of Indian voters have had firsthand experience of the adverse effects of climate change. According to Yale's Centre for Voting Opinion & Trends in Election Research (CVoter), India's voters can be differentiated into 4 brackets: the Alarmed (54%) and the Concerned

(29%) as the large majority, the Cautious, and the Disengaged forming the minor tail groups. This is quite indicative of the fact that India already has a climate consensus majority voters. According to the World Risk Poll, every three in five Indian voters perceive climate change as a threat to their country in the next 20 years. The question then arises: Can climate action agendas take the centre stage in India's political dynamics to sway voters' decisions? Are they powerful enough to change mandates and voters' preferences?

The climatization of Indian politics has come a long way in the last two decades, from existing at the peripheries, to becoming an eminent frame of reference for mediation and hierarchisation of national and international issues. It has transverse from being a mere mention in a single paragraph in the 1999 general election manifestos, to today where the biggest political parties aim to weave green policies, renewable energy, and pollution-free cities into their mandates. India has once again pitched itself as a climate leader of the global south at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) as well as during the G20 presidency. However, the climate issue has failed to strike a strong resonance in the current election campaigns. Political analysis of the 2024 general elections manifestos from India's two of the biggest parties does not reflect the specifics, depth, and tangible commitments for climate action. Not to refute the argument that political manifestos are often considered as statements of intentions and not policy documents.

For instance, both major parties touch upon key climate issues such as greenhouse gas reduction, air pollution, climate adaptation, resource circularity, and nature recovery. However, the parties could have further provided tangible climate action targets, funding commitments and pathbreaking implementation ideas. The key nexus of climate crisis with cities, urban heat island effects, impacts on food security, poverty, loss of livelihood and produc-

tivity and public health missed to even get a mention in both manifestos. Further, the current political manifestos present a voice informed by those at the top, and not by the ones on the frontlines of the crisis. To gain a more nuanced understanding, it's important to closely compare & contrast some common themes and analogy of climate politics in the 2024 election manifestos.

The ruling party's 69-page election manifesto dedicated three pages to environment and climate issues under the section "Modi Ki Guarantee for Sustainable Bharat". These highlight Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE) initiative, river cleaning mission on Namami Gange, and rigorous solar expansion as major milestones to sway the voters, along with new promises on cleaner air in cities, etc. The opposition party has also brought in some forward-looking approaches under the chapter such as setting up of a Green Transition Fund for enabling net zero commitments and establishing an independent Environment Protection and Climate Change Authority to establish and enforce the National and State Climate Change plans. The ruling party has a foot ahead of the opposition party for stating its commitment to leading the efforts for forming and leading unconventional global climate alliances for the collective good of climate fragile countries in the Global South. International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, One Future Alliance, Global Biofuels Alliance, and Big Cat Alliance are some of the celebrated names.

Net zero alignment: India now draws 44% of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources such as solar power but must showcase a continuous commitment to reaching its net zero goals. The ruling party's manifesto emphasises their work on the five nectar elements of 'Panchamrit' in GHG emission reduction, presented in COP26 in Glasgow. They aim to continue the Green Credit Programme by expanding the scope of activities to fulfil decarbonisation requirements. The opposition party, on the other hand, promises to accelerate

transition finance by setting-up a Green New Deal Investment Programme focused on solar power to the left-behind rural areas and the agricultural sector.

Air pollution: At this moment, 83 of the world's 100 most polluted cities are in India, with New Delhi standing as the world's most polluted capital city. Both parties have been vocal about the issue. The ruling party's agenda highlights their initiative on the National Clean Air Program framework, which they now promise to convert into a Mission for the 102 most polluted cities in the country and achieve National Air Quality Standards in 60 Cities by 2029. The opposition party also aims to strengthen the National Clean Air Programme but lacks detailed plans on implementation and timelines.

Climate adaptation and resilience: There is no introduction required for the devastating heat, floods, landslide, droughts that India currently faces, which is only expected to increase further with time on account of climate change. The ruling party states their twin agenda for enhancing resilience for coastal and Himalayan ecosystems. They propose building reservoirs to prevent flash floods in hilly terrains, which have seen the annual rage of floods, landslides, and glacial lake outbursts. On the other hand, the opposition party also aims to appoint a high-level committee to study landslides in hill districts and evolve prevention measures. They also promise to increase allocation to the National Adaptation Fund and review guidelines for its use.

Resource circularity: Both parties emphasise objectives on water and resource circularity. The ruling party emphasises institutionalising recycling mandates across the states under the National E-waste Management Mission. The opposition party made a bold commitment to installing desalination plants in all coastal areas and promoting water harvesting and recycling. However, as India's tech hub Bangalore and many other parched cities are reeling from the water crisis, both parties missed presenting innovative, indige-

nous, and phased strategies to avoid the water crisis.

Nature recovery: India remains one of the top countries when it comes to nature loss and biodiversity depletion. As per the 2021 State of the India's Environment report by CSE, over 90% of the area under the biodiversity hotspots have been lost. The ruling party aims to promote afforestation and agroforestry such as the Green Aravalli Project, ecotourism, protection of tribal communities, natural farming methods, biodiversity conservation for coastal and Himalayan states through instruments such as the Green Credit Programme. The opposition party also touches upon some of these main agendas including environment protection, forest conservation, biodiversity preservation, coastal zone regulation, and protection of tribal rights. However, both parties missed setting tangible milestones or proposing ground-breaking pathways for the implementation.

As per a recent survey published from Deloitte, for around 1.8 crore young Indians voting for the first time, climate change is the third most important societal issue. It's time that voters must demand more than just rhetoric from their leaders, pushing for a hyper local narrative of climate politics and policies, and concrete actions for the same that safeguard the environment and promote resilience. The impacts of climate change manifests to different lived experiences for different communities, depending on the current socio-economics, development challenges or systemic oppression and, as an ecosystem.

It's high time that India's politics and politicians start paying heed to these many-to-many linkages of climate change and economic development. So far, not a single political party has emphasised on key junctions of climate action and its potential to create 30-32 million green jobs by 2050 in India. Finally, although the manifesto for this election has been finalised, there is still much that voters, as responsible citizens, can do by demanding climate sensitive action plans from the chosen party leaders. Only by prioritising climate concerns can India truly fulfil its resilient economic development and secure a better future for the current and future generations to come.

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

Hajj – A Spiritual Journey

Mohammad Hanief

The Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and the most significant manifestation of Islamic faith and unity. Undertaking the Hajj at least once is a duty for Muslims who are physically and financially able to make the journey to Makkah. The emphasis on financial ability is meant to ensure that a Muslim takes care of his family first. The requirement that a Muslim be healthy and physically capable of undertaking the pilgrimage is intended to exempt those who cannot endure the rigors of extended travel.

In the past, and as late as the early decades of last century, few people were able to "make their way" to Makkah for the pilgrimage. This was because of the hardships encountered, the length of time the journey took and the expense associated with it. Pilgrims coming from the far corners of the Islamic world sometimes dedicated a year or more to the journey, and many perished during it due in part to the lack of facilities on the routes to Makkah and also in the city itself.

The circumstances of the Hajj began to improve during the time of King Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Saud, the founder of the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Major programs were introduced to ensure the security and safety of the pilgrims, as well as their well-being and comfort. Steps were also taken to establish facilities and services aimed at improving housing, health care, sanitation and transportation.

Muslims today undertake the pilgrimage in ease, receive a warm welcome on their arrival in Saudi Arabia, and are provided with the most modern facilities and efficient services possible. Without the distractions that their forebears had to contend with, today's pilgrims are free to focus solely on the spiritual aspect of the Hajj.

Saudi Arabia considers serving the guests of God an honor, and dedicates vast manpower and financial resources to the proper conduct of the pilgrimage. Over the past four decades, it has spent billions of dollars to expand the



Holy Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, as well as establishing modern airports, seaports, roads, lodging, and other amenities and services for the pilgrims.

Before heading toward Makkah, the pilgrims are already dressed in Ihram or may change at Miqat, where special facilities are set up for this purpose. By donning the Ihram, the pilgrim enters a state of spirituality and purity.

On the way from Jeddah to Makkah along the modern superhighway, pilgrims board one of the fleet of 15,000 buses assigned to the Hajj. This vast consignment of vehicles approaches Mina, some four miles to the northwest of Makkah, where most of the pilgrims are housed in the thousands of air-conditioned tents that stretch to the limits of Mina Valley.

Walking through this vast city that has been established for use for only a few days a year, the pilgrim is struck by the orderliness of the place. Food is prepared in hundreds of kitchens spread throughout Mina and distributed among the tents. Thousands of drinking fountains and wash ar-

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es are located throughout the tent city. There are hundreds of medical clinics that supplement the hospitals in Makkah and Arafat. Security personnel and traffic police guide and help pilgrims. Despite the clear signs and numbered rows, some pilgrims, particularly the elderly, tend to get lost and need assistance finding their tents or groups. Banks of telephones are located in all the pilgrimage sites, allowing pilgrims to make direct international calls.

After sunrise on the ninth of the Islamic month of Dhu Al-Hajjah, this vast crowd of nearly two million begins to walk some eight miles to the Plain of Arafat, passing Muzdalifah on the way. Many perform the noon and afternoon prayers at the Nimerah Mosque, a tradition set by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Approaching Arafat by mid-morning, the pilgrim is amazed to find the vast plain covered by what appears to be a thick fog, even though the temperature hovers around 90 degrees Fahrenheit. This optical illusion is created by thousands of sprinklers placed atop 30-foot poles and spaced some 50 feet apart, which

spread a fine mist of water to provide coolness. Millions of containers of chilled water are distributed from refrigerated trucks located along the pilgrim route.

Despite these precautions, the wail of sirens is ever present as hundreds of ambulances pick up pilgrims suffering from heat exhaustion and transport them to special clinics for treatment. The more serious cases are evacuated by helicopter to hospitals.

Pilgrims are required to spend the day in the plain, performing what is called the Standing at Arafat. Here they also visit the Mount of Mercy and ask for God's forgiveness for any sins committed and for blessings. Facilities have also been set up here to feed the pilgrims and meet any requirement they may have.

After the sun has set this river of humanity retraces its steps back toward Makkah, but stops at Muzdalifah until the brightness of day appears on the eastern horizon. Here the pilgrims collect seven pebbles and carry them to Mina. As they arrive in the valley, they trek along a two-level pedestrian walkway some 100-yards wide toward the three stone pillars called the Jamarat,

which are meant to represent Satan. The pilgrims are required to cast the pebbles they have collected at the Stone Pillar of Aqabah while praising God, in a symbolic rejection of Satan. As the pilgrims approach along the walkway, they join those already at the pillar and, after hurling their pebbles circle toward the exit ramp in the direction of Makkah. Signs in various major languages direct the crowds along the route.

The pilgrims then walk some four miles along pedestrian walkways to reach Makkah, where they perform the tawaf, circling the Ka'bah in the Holy Mosque seven times counter clockwise. They then perform sa'ay, the running between Safa and Marwa in an enclosed, air-conditioned structure. Male pilgrims are then required to shave their heads, although cutting a lock of hair is acceptable for both men and women. At this point the pilgrims sacrifice an animal, donating its meat to the needy. Each year, over 600,000 animals are sacrificed, in modern abattoirs that complete the processing of the meat over the three days of the Eid. Distribution of this sacrificial meat goes to those in need in some 30 countries.

The rites of the pilgrimage are now complete. Pilgrims come out of Ihram and wear their normal clothes, but remain at Mina for the Eid Al-Adha, the festival that signals the culmination of the Hajj. Over the next two days, they stone the three pillars in the Jamarat, before performing the Tawaf Al-Wida', the Farewell Circumambulation of the Ka'bah before their departure from the city.

At the conclusion of the Hajj, the pilgrim has a profound feeling of having gone through a life-transforming spiritual experience. He comes away with pride in having successfully performed a ritual dedicated to God and in belonging to a huge family of people that shares the same religious beliefs. And he has acquired a sense of humility, inner calm, brotherhood and strength that lasts a lifetime.

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The Dual Edges Of AI In Scientific Research

Aditya Sinha

Artificial intelligence (AI) is significantly transforming scientific research by enhancing computational methodologies and enabling the analysis of large-scale datasets across various disciplines. In the realm of biomedical research, AI technologies like machine learning models are crucial. For example, DeepMind's AlphaFold uses advanced deep learning techniques to predict protein structures with remarkable precision. This method employs a convolutional neural network that interprets amino acid sequences to predict protein folding patterns, facilitating rapid insights into biological processes and disease mechanisms, as demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In environmental sciences, AI is applied to improve climate modelling and forecasting. Researchers at Stanford University have developed machine learning models that integrate with traditional climate simulation software to refine predictions of weather patterns and climate events. These models use reinforcement learning and neural networks to analyse historical climate data, enabling more accurate predictions of extreme weather conditions and their potential impacts.

Furthermore, in the field of astronomy, AI algorithms manage and analyse data from astronomical observations to identify celestial bodies and phenomena. A notable application involved researchers from the University of California utilising AI to process light



curves data from the Kepler Space Telescope. By applying a neural network-based classifier, they were able to identify exoplanets from subtle signals in the telescope's data, showcasing AI's ability to enhance signal detection and pattern recognition in vast datasets.

A recent working paper published by National Bureau of Economic Research has suggested that the integration of AI into hypothesis generation and testing leads to more efficient resource allocation, accelerated research outcomes, and increased economic gains. The paper "Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery: A Model of

Prioritized Search" by Ajay K. Agrawal, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl delves into the intersection of AI and the innovation process, specifically focusing on hypothesis generation. It introduces a novel model where the innovation process is seen as a sequential search over a combinatorial design space, using AI to prioritize which hypotheses to test. This method contrasts traditional approaches where theory and intuition guide hypothesis generation. The authors employ a discrete survival analysis to assess innovation outcomes like the probability of innovation, search duration, and expect-

ed profit. By shifting from conventional methods to AI-based predictions, the model suggests that there can be an increase in successful innovations, reduced search times, and higher profits.

However, this use of AI in scientific discovery has also other side to it. One should read the latest paper published in the Journal Nature by Lisa Messeri and M. J. Crockett. The authors suggest that the use of AI in Science is creating "illusions of understanding," where scientists may believe they comprehend more than they actually do. There are six reasons why AI is creating this illusion.

First, AI can analyse complex data sets and generate outputs that may appear insightful and comprehensive to researchers. However, these outputs are based solely on the data and algorithms used, without genuine understanding or contextual judgement. Researchers might believe they grasp the underlying principles or patterns in the data better than they actually do because the AI presents results in a seemingly clear and authoritative manner.

Second, AI tools can perform tasks like data analysis and hypothesis generation quickly and efficiently. This reduction in cognitive load for scientists

can lead them to accept conclusions drawn by AI without sufficient scrutiny. The ease and speed with which AI provides answers can discourage deeper investigation into the underlying mechanics or potential inaccuracies of these answers.

Third, many AI models, especially those involving deep learning, are complex and not fully transparent, often referred to as "black box" models. Scientists using these models may not fully understand how the algorithms arrive at certain conclusions. This opacity can lead to misplaced trust where the users attribute too much credibility to the AI-generated results without a thorough understanding of the algorithmic processes and potential biases involved.

Fourth, AI tools are often designed to optimise specific types of analysis or data processing tasks. This specialisation can inadvertently lead researchers to focus on questions and methods that are best suited to AI's capabilities, neglecting other potentially valuable approaches. This creates a monoculture of knowing, where the diversity of scientific inquiry is reduced, and only the AI-compatible methodologies thrive.

Fifth, AI systems learn from existing datasets and can perpetuate or amplify any biases present in those datasets. This can lead to a situation where new insights are merely reflections of past data, reinforcing existing beliefs and misconceptions without challenging them with new, independent observations. Researchers might then wrongly assume they are gaining new

understanding when they are essentially looking at regurgitated versions of old data.

Sixth, the emphasis on the predictive capabilities of AI can overshadow the importance of understanding the causal relationships behind scientific phenomena. Scientists may become more concerned with whether an AI tool can predict outcomes accurately rather than whether it helps them understand why those outcomes occur. This shift from explanatory to predictive models can detract from the depth of scientific knowledge.

This transition raises fundamental questions about what it means to "know" something in science. If scientific knowledge becomes predominantly characterised by predictive accuracy rather than explanatory depth, the essence of science as a pursuit of understanding the why and how of phenomena may be diluted. This shift could redefine the goals of science, moving away from a comprehensive understanding towards a model where the primary objective is operational effectiveness and technological utility. Such a redefinition risks turning science into a field dominated by technological determinism, where the means—AI tools—start dictating the ends of scientific activity. This scenario compels a philosophical re-evaluation of the values that underpin scientific endeavours and challenges us to think critically about how we define progress and success in the scientific domain.

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