



P3 CITY

NHM EMPLOYEES SEEK RELEASE OF SALARY BEFORE EID

National Health Mission Employees, Kashmir have sought the release of pending salary before Eid. The National Health Mission Employees Association has said in absence of salary, the

P5

OF REDUCING RUSH AND RANKS: RENDEZVOUS WITH A CAREER CIVIL SERVANT

While retreating in the quietude of his drawing room and basking in the felicity of his post-work years, Sheikh Mushtaq glances at the souvenirs of his achievements. He may have hung up his hat as a civil servant but he's not unaware of the alteration of pattern in the field of civil services — the exam he



P7 STATE

NO HOPE FROM PM'S JAMMU VISIT: MEHBOOBA

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said her party did not see any hope in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Jammu, alleging that the BJP-led



24TH RAMZAN

Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA 7:14	4:19
FIQAH JAFARIYA 7:21	4:15

Widom Quote!

A quiet conscience makes one strong!
- Anne Frank

NEWS DIGEST

Jama'at Member Held For Raising Funds

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday arrested a man on charges of collecting funds in the name of banned Jama'at-e-Islami in Baramulla district of north Kashmir. Mohd Amin Ganie of Microwave Colony, Kanlibagh was arrested by police and army's 46RR after receiving specific information **More on P6**

2 Held For 'Planning Attack' On Non-Locals

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have foiled an attack on non-local workers by arresting a hybrid militant of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and his associate in Awantipora area of south Kashmir. Acting on a specific input, police, army's 50RR and the **More on P6**

Shooting Stone Kills Woman In Uri

SRINAGAR: A woman was killed on Monday after being hit by a shooting stone in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district Husan Fatma, wife of Syed Nasar Husan of Kamalkote village in Uri was grazing her cow in a nearby forest area on Monday afternoon when a shooting stone **More on P6**

J&K Logs 14 New Corona Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 14 fresh COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking the infection tally to 4,54,004 in the Union Territory, officials said. The coronavirus death toll stands at 4,751 as no fresh fatality was reported in the last 24 hours. While seven new cases were reported from Jammu district, the Kashmir division **More on P6**

...Article-370 Revocation

SC Agrees To List Petitions After Summer Break

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider listing after summer vacation the pleas challenging the BJP led central government's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justice Hima Kohli took note of the submissions of senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for one of the petitioners, that the plea needed an urgent hearing in view of the delimitation exercise being carried out in the state.

This is the Article 370 matter. The delimitation is also going on, the senior lawyer, appearing for interveners Radha Kumar (academic and author) and Kapil Kak (retired officer of the Indian Air Force), said.

Let me see, the CJ said, adding, This is a five-judge matter. I will have to reconstitute the bench.

The apex court agreed to re-constitute a five-judge bench hear pleas after summer vacation.

Several petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which splits J-K into two Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh were referred to a Constitution Bench headed by Justice N V Ramana in 2019 by then CJ Ranjan Gogoi.

By abrogating Article 370, the Central government had revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides Justice Ramana, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, R Subhash Reddy (since retired), B R Gvai, and Surya Kant were part of the bench which, on March 2, 2020, had declined to refer to a larger seven-judge bench the batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

NGO, People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUBL), Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, and an intervenor had sought referring of the matter to a larger bench on the ground that two **More on P6**



Power Shortage In Ramazan Fuels Anger In Kashmir

Residents Hit Streets, Block Roads To Protest Massive Outage



Women protesters turning away an elderly scooterist during an anti-PDD demonstration in Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Strong resentment is brewing against the administration in Jammu and Kashmir, especially the power development department (PDD)

over what the residents term an unprecedented electricity crisis in the holy month of Ramazan.

Here in Srinagar, a group of women on Monday morning hit the streets in Basant Bagh locality and staged a protest against the PDD's failure in providing proper electricity supply in the holy month of Ramazan, especially during Sehri and Iftar times.

Chanting slogans against the PDD, **More on P6**

KPDCL Pleads Helplessness

J&K No Exception, Power Crisis Pan-India: CE

Zaid Bin Shabir

Besides an already sweltering inflation wreaking havoc in Kashmir, the acute power shortage has triggered massive blackouts across parts of J&K and has further raised apprehensions among officials of a new yet brutal power crisis that could viciously jolt J&K and enforce a daily load shedding of more than 15 hours. Notably, a massive surge in demand for electricity has prompted states including J&K, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh to cut off the normal supply. The disruption, which currently stands for as long as ten hours in J&K, has forced customers to either endure the trouble in the month **More on P6**

6 WE WERE PROMISED SKIES AFTER THE ABROGATION of Article 370 but we are suffering for basic amenities, One of my friends returned from New Delhi yesterday and told me there is 24 hour electricity there"

Militants Attack Police Party In Anantnag

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Monday attacked a police party with a grenade in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

According to official sources, unknown militants lobbed a grenade towards a police party in the Padshahibagh area of the district on Monday evening.

No one loss of life or injury was reported in the incident even as police party, mainly comprising its Special Operation Group, fired few rounds in air after the attack, official sources said.

They said that a grenade exploded at a distance from the police party and no casualty was reported. Later police, paramilitary CRPF and army's 3RR cordoned off the area and started searches to nab the attacker (s). However when this report was filed, no arrests had been made. A police officer confirmed the **More on P6**

AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

Govt Holds Payments Of Empanelled Hospitals, Patients Suffer

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: When Doctors told Waseem Adil that the gall bladder of his wife needs to be removed immediately by Laparoscopic surgery, he thought that the Golden Card would come to rescue as he was running short of money.

Adil, who lives in South Kashmir's Shopian immediately, rushed his wife to Shifa Hospital in Srinagar. On reaching there, he was told that they can't cover this surgery under the Golden Card scheme.

"I was told that the scheme is valid for only two diseases," Adil told Kashmir Observer. The "financially poor" man then rushed his wife to Modern Hospital in Srinagar where he was told the same story and was asked to pay Rs 40000 to conduct the surgery. "I was helpless. I couldn't see



the conditions of my wife," he said. In order to save the life of his wife, Adil then started collecting money from his relatives and friends.

"I collected the money in the shortest possible time and submitted it before the receptionist," Adil said.

A discharge certificate from the hospital, a copy of

which lies with Kashmir Observer, shows that Adil's wife Asiya with MRD number MJ-159-03-2022 was operated on March 16, 2020. Like Adil there are thousands of patients who were turned back from the private hospitals by the **More on P6**

Mid-Day Meal Scheme Benefitted 8L J&K Students: Govt

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: More than eight lakh children of Jammu and Kashmir have benefitted from the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the union territory administration said as it was on the course to ease the life of its citizens through the efficient and optimal implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

"From the days of being under achievers to achieving front-runner status, the statistics reveal that the growing population is being significantly covered under the centrally sponsored schemes in J&K," an officials spokesman said.

The spokesman said the Mid-day Meal Scheme programme of the Government of India designed to better the nutritional standards of school-age children nationwide, over 8.30 lakh children have been benefitted by this scheme across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Similarly, under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, a pioneering programme in the education



sector of the country, 1,588 Information Communication Technology labs, 1423 Computer-aided Labs, 803 Vocational Labs have been established in J&K besides uniforms and textbooks worth Rs 67 crore were provided to 7.8 lakh children. The Scheme is a major catalyst to bridge the digital divide amongst students of various socio-economic and other geographical barriers," he said.

Moreover, around 8.96 lakh beneficiaries were covered under Poshan Abhiyan, an overarching umbrella scheme to improve the nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers to prioritize **More on P6**

India's Military Expenditure Up By 0.9% In 2021: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's military expenditure increased to USD 76.6 billion in 2021, marking a 0.9 per cent hike over the 2020 figures, according to a report released by defence think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on Monday.

"China, the world's second largest spender, allocated an estimated USD 293 billion to its military in 2021, an increase of 4.7 per cent from 2020 and 72 per cent from 2012," the report said. The militaries of India and China have been in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh for the last 23 months following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas on May 5, 2020. Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops deployed along

the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"India's military expenditure of USD 76.6 billion in 2021 was the third highest in the world. Its spending was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012," the report issued by the Stockholm-based defence think-tank said.

Amid ongoing tensions and border disputes with China and Pakistan that occasionally spill over into armed clashes, India has prioritised the modernisation of its armed forces and self-reliance in arms production, it noted.

In a drive to strengthen the indigenous arms industry, 64 per cent of capital outlays in the 2021 Indian military budget was earmarked for acquisitions of domestically-produced arms, the report said.

"The five largest **More on P6**

DSEK Withdraws CEOs Orders On Merger Of Schools

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Taking strong exception to merger of schools by Chief Education Officers (CEOs) sans approval by competent authority, Director School Education Kashmir has strictly refrained them from issuing any such orders, terming them same as "sheer misuse of official authority and overstepping."

The DSEK has also withdrawn all such orders.

In an order issued here, DSEK said underlined that the competent authority for clubbing or merger of schools was only Government.

"It has been observed that Chief Education Officers and Zonal Education Officers on their own issue orders for clubbing/merger of schools,"

the DESK said in an order, adding, "Issuance of such orders is sheer misuse of official authority and overstepping of jurisdictional authority by the delinquent officers."

The DSEK said all the Chief Education Officers and Zonal Education Officers are hereby put under strict instructions not to issue clubbing/ merger orders.

Meanwhile the DSEK rescinded ab-initio two orders— Order No: CEO/A/11/3909-14/22 Dated: 20/04/2022 issued by Chief Education Officer Anantnag and Order No: ZEO/K/135/22 Dated: 26/02/2022 issued by Zonal Education Officer Kulgam.

"Further, any other clubbing/merger orders issued without express approval of the Competent **More on P6**

Kashmiri Sufi Saint Known As 'India's Defence Minister'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: He was lean, tall and awe inspiring. Through the lanes and bylanes of Srinagar city, he walked briskly wearing a great coat, a big hat and carrying a long staff. He walked so briskly that his disciples had a tough time keeping pace with him.

He was known as the 'defence minister of India' and children followed him during his walks in old city Srinagar. This was Swami Nand Lalji of Nuner village in Ganderbal district.

Kashmiri Muslims and Hindus fondly called him 'Nand Bab' (Father Nand Lal). He was the son of Raj Guru of Maharaja Amar Singh, Shanker Sahib and his wife Subadhra Ji of Purshyar in Habba Kadal area of Srinagar. Swami



Nand Lal shifted his residence to Nuner village in Ganderbal to live with his brother who was adopted by his maternal aunt there. Nand Bab was employed in the police department and

posted in Ladakh. His return from Ladakh proved to be a turning point in his life. He took to spiritualism and became a mystic saint. He blessed everyone who went to him.

There were no barriers of caste, creed, colour or religious belief in his companion.

His disciples, from all communities of Kashmir, believed that Swami Nand Bab's spiritual assets were inexhaustible. He would grant boons, favours from his spiritual assets.

His elderly neighbours in Nuner village and other places en route to Ladakh remember vividly when Nand Bab did in 1962. When India and China were swearing by the 'Panchsheel' (Five Principles of peaceful **More on P6**



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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Pizza Places You Might Want To Check Out In Kashmir

Muneeb Naqeeb

Srinagar- Pizza has gained a reputation of being one of the world's most famous and favourite foods. Every country has its own style of making and baking its pizza. The roots of modern pizza can be traced back to Italy, and as globalization took place the Pizza found its way around the globe.



The origin of pizza however dates all the way back to the 6th century, rooting from Iran or Greece. Around 2500 years ago the Soldiers of Persia would garnish a flat piece of bread with dates and cheese, later this culture was adopted in Asian Greece and they named this flatbread as "Pitta" garnishing it with cheese, oil and herbs. Give it a few years this "Pitta" found a new name "Picta" in Latin. As Picta made its way into Italy The name "Pizza" was coined.

In Kashmir Pizza took quite some time to become popular. Taste is really a subjective matter but Pizza had already made its way of dominating the Kashmiri market. As Pizza came to Kashmir, it took its time to adapt to the flavours of Kashmir. In about a decade of its arrival in Kashmir, particularly the non-veg Pizza started to gain popularity. It tickled the taste buds of the youth, and became a go to meal for people from every walk of life.

Experience under his belt, fine tuning the art of cooking all so well. "The Caliph", at the bay of Hyderpora bypass a restaurant is making quite a name for itself, owned by "Mohammad ShafiShora" an A class contractor and His son "Shadaab-ShafiShora" a medical student by profession and a foodie at heart run the place quite eloquently. The father son duo focus upon the quality and the quantity of the Food. They try to meet the expectations of the customer in every way possible, with highly trained staff the job indeed is well done. The restaurant feels quite nice as one enjoys his end of the day chatter and a hot slice of Pizza. The restaurant offers a variety of pizzas but Spicy Chicken, Mexican Pizza and the Golden Delight Pizza are the three musketeers of the restaurant.

Here are my top three picks to enjoy a delicious slice of Pizza in Srinagar; "Amigos" in Spanish Means Friends, but in Kashmir Amigos is a very famous restaurant owned by "Tariq Ahmad Bhat" a very successful entrepreneur from Kashmir. He started his venture all the way back in 2008 with two people, three serving tables and an investment of 1.2 lakh Rs. Slowly but steady-

ly the place got popular, the reason behind the popularity of this restaurant is the quality of the Food and the ambience of the place. Within 15 minutes of ordering your favorite Pizza, the ever so satisfying and mouth-watering meal is served hot and fresh. For Pizza lovers across Srinagar this restaurant has gained quite a reputation. With more than 50 varieties of pizza Amigos sure does stand out.

"Eatalian" a quite cozy and comfortable restaurant at Nigeen Srinagar, is one of the goto places for students of Kashmir University and N.I.T Hazratbal. Owned By Issar Mir, a

graduate from Central University of Kashmir, who after completing his Law Degree wanted to shape his passion for food into a business. They serve a variety of veg and non veg Pizza's, the restaurant is thriving in a very competitive place. The quality of their food is something really appreciated by the customers. The Pizza might take a few minutes Extra to be served, but the wait is worth your time. Best things come to those who wait, aptly fits this restaurant. "Eatalian speciality" is one of the bestselling and most recommended Pizzas of the restaurant, the chef of the restaurant has more than a decade of

Experience under his belt, fine tuning the art of cooking all so well. "The Caliph", at the bay of Hyderpora bypass a restaurant is making quite a name for itself, owned by "Mohammad ShafiShora" an A class contractor and His son "Shadaab-ShafiShora" a medical student by profession and a foodie at heart run the place quite eloquently. The father son duo focus upon the quality and the quantity of the Food. They try to meet the expectations of the customer in every way possible, with highly trained staff the job indeed is well done. The restaurant feels quite nice as one enjoys his end of the day chatter and a hot slice of Pizza. The restaurant offers a variety of pizzas but Spicy Chicken, Mexican Pizza and the Golden Delight Pizza are the three musketeers of the restaurant.

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از نیابت اچھل
مضمون درخواست منجانب: فرزند احمد ذوالعزیز صاحب اللہ ڈار ساکنہ موضع اچھل دوآگاہ تحصیل و تارگام بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس آر آ 294 کن تریکیہ فیروز

اشہار برادار گاہی بر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں مملکتیڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنڈہ حد ضلع گڑشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے کنڈہ کی ماہوار آمدنی اور سائل کا کنڈہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	فیروز احمد ذوالعزیز	47 سال	ملازم	
02	کنڈہ نیکم زہیر	36 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	تریکیہ فیروز دختر	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	عیان فیروز پسر	10	زیر تعلیم	
05	حامد صیب پسر	05	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنڈہ نہیں بتلا یا گیا ہے۔ لہذا ازیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ مبعاد گذرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

Subject: Grant of Registration of the proposed travel unit the name & Style "M/s Rut Kadam" situated at chadoora.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh S/O Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/O Bugam Batapora Tehsil Chadoora, District Budgam, Kashmir Intends To Apply In The Department Of Tourism For Registration Of My Proposed Travel Unit Under The Name And Style "M/S BABAR TRAVELS" Situated At Chadoora, Kashmir Under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I Will Submit State Subject/ Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate Of Five Years, Character Certificate, Bank Statement, Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed Duly Attested By Sub Registrar, Printing Material, Photograph Of The Unit 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 Ut 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 Objection, If Any And The Same Should Reach To The Deputy Director Tourism Registration, Trc Srinagar For Information Of General Public/ Financial Institution / Bank/ Organisation, Etc For, Kashmir (e-mail id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) Within A Period Of Seven Days From The Publication Of This Notice In Leading Local Newspaper/Newspapers Of The valley. No objections beyond a period of seven days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under the rules.

fs ko

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B LANDSCAPING DIVISION, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE
NIT NO.E-02/2022-23/LSD/SRINAGAR/JAMMU
DATED:- 23/04/2022

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, E-TENDERS (IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) ARE INVITED ON PERCENTAGE BASIS FROM APPROVED AND ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS REGISTERED WITH J&K STATE GOVT., CPWD, RAILWAYS AND OTHER STATE/CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt in Rs.)	Earnest Money/ Bid Security (Amt in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1	Supply of trees/shrubs/flower seedling material for various sites of sub-division 3rd (for the year 2022-23)	Rs.3.00Lacs	Rs. 200/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	Working Season	30.04.2022 at 11.00AM	"Registered Supplier (registration with Floriculture Departement)"	MH 3054 M&R (Srinagar)
2	Supply of various types of tree / sherbs / flowers / plants / seeding and plantation material from various sites of sub-division 2nd (For the year 2022-23).	Rs.4.0Lacs	Rs. 200/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	Working Season	30.04.2022 at 11.00AM	"Registered Supplier (registration with Floriculture Departement)"	MH 3054 M&R (Srinagar)
3	Hiring / running of load carrier (Tata Mobile) for watering of plants / washing of grill fencing at various sites of sub-division 1st (for the year 2022-23).	Rs.5.4Lacs	Rs. 300/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	Full Season	30.04.2022 at 11.00AM	"DEE"	MH 3054 M&R (Srinagar)
4	Hiring / running of load carrier (Tata Mobile) for watering of plants / washing of grill fencing at various sites of sub-division 2nd (for the year 2022-23).	Rs.3.60Lacs	Rs. 200/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	Full Season	30.04.2022 at 11.00AM	"DEE"	MH 3054 M&R (Srinagar)
5	Hiring / running of load carrier (Tata Mobile) for watering of plants / washing of grill fencing at various sites of sub-division 3rd (for the year 2022-23).	Rs.3.0Lacs	Rs. 200/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	Full Season	30.04.2022 at 11.00AM	"DEE"	MH 3054 M&R (Srinagar)

Position of Funds:- Available.
Administrative approval:- Accorded.
Note:- The above mentioned work shall be mandatorily completed during the current financial year 2022-23.
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	23.04.2022	
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23.04.2022	04.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	23.04.2022	from 04.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29.04.2022	up to 04.00 PM
5.	Deadline for receiving the Hard copy (Original e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt and EMD)	Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder (L1) only within seven days after Financial evaluation.	
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.04.2022 at 11.00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar	

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt (Non-refundable) along with bid security declaration certificate as per format (Annexure A), failure to do so shall render the bidder as Non-Responsive.

1. First lowest bidder has to submit Performance security Deposit 3% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG (BG validity should be 45days more than bid validity days i.e 120+45=165Days) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority).
2. Bidder have to submit a Affidavit from ist class magistrate that he will complete the work on time, otherwise necessary action will be taken against the contractor under rules.
3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
6. 50% of the normal deposits (deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.
7. Additional performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after virtual completion of the work.
8. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG shall be released after DLP is over successfully.

No:- LD/ 301-09
Dated:- 23-04-2022

DIPK-1071/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Landscaping Division,
Rajbagh, Srinagar

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir
NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Fayaz Ahamd Shah S/o S Abdul Majid Shah R/o Chattabal Guzarbal Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Ghulam Nabi Baba S/o Mohd Yousuf Baba R/o Katti Masjid Saraf Kadal Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 08388/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01AM-0252.

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S New JK Road Ways Namely Mohd Yaseen

NOJK-RTOK 1235
Dated: 25/04/2022
fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Sajad Qadir S/o: Ghulam Qadir Ganaie R/o: Kuthar Gund Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 7266 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank Ltd B/U Rangreth. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.685
Dated 23/04/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb/MCB

از نیابت پھالان با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار پھالان
مضمون: درخواست منجانب مڈ محمد عبداللہ بٹ ساکنہ چار تحصیل پھالان برادعاطنگ تارخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ پابت دست خود

اشہار برادار گاہی بر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل کی درخواست دفتر بذمہ زیر کا رہا ہے اس بارے میں ضابطہ ایس ایچ اوقیان پولیس کیری سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس عیاں ہے کہ سائل کے دستخیز تاریخ پیدائش متعلقہ تھانہ میں حال اندر ان نہیں ہے بیان چوکیدہ اطلاق قلمبندی کیا گیا اور پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جسے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا سکنوت دار ہے مطابق پیدائش سائل کے پیر کی یوم پیدائش بذیل ہے۔

نام تاریخ پیدائش مطابق سکنوت

زکرہ بٹ مڈ محمد عبداللہ بٹ 9-5-2019 تایواری پورہ

سائل مندرجہ ذیل پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کرے مبعاد گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار mks

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name has been wrongly written in driving license bearing DL No: JK032000001061 as Ali Mohammad Ito while his correct name is Habib Ito which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

ABDUL MAJEED ITTO
S/O HABIB ITTO
R/O DARIGUND BIJBEHARA ANANTNAG

rna

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars

Insha Lateef
Father's name: Lateef Ahamd Ganaie
Mother Name: Zamrooda Begum
Roll No: 23216118 Year 2020 Session Annual Regular

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore

fko

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Power Outages Trigger Protesters In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Protestors took to the streets in various city localities to protest power outages during the holy month of Ramadan.

Although power cuts are not uncommon, unscheduled power cuts during the holy month of Ramadan is surprising people.

Protests were held in several localities with one such protest taking place at Habba Kadal.

Women protesters blocked the roads and shouted slogans against the administration for what they call "the inability of the present dispensation" to provide them with uninterrupted electricity.

The protesters alleged that there have been unscheduled



power cuts during Sehri for the past two weeks.

"We are practicing Muslims, we fast during Ramadan and these times hold special

significance for us" said Shameela, one of the protestors.

"There is no electricity during sehri and iftar times, so we appeal to the LG ad-

ministration to look into our woes". She said.

The protestors said they do belong to poor families but they make sure they paid their elec-

tricity dues on time.

Chief Engineer Kashmir Power development Corporation Ltd (KPDCL) said that the problem is not specific to Kashmir as other states are also witnessing electricity shortages.

He said this year there is a rainfall deficit of around 70 percent which has resulted in more demand for electricity

"There is a gap between the demand and supply and rainfall deficit has hit electricity generation badly" he said.

It is pertinent to mention, the power outages have triggered protests in the city for the last few days.

Protestors, mostly women, have blocked roads in a bid to pressurize authorities to provide uninterrupted power supply during the holy month of Ramadan.

DIAL-EMMA

- 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
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
24 Ramadan
1443

FAJR	4:19
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5:15
Magrib	7:14
ISHA	8:41

Workshop Block At ITI Women Inaugurated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Principal Secretary Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon on Monday inaugurated a workshop block at Women Industrial Training Institute Bemina and Conference Hall at Directorate of Skill Development Bemina, Srinagar.

The Workshop Block has been completed in three phases with the first phase being initiated by the executing agency PWD-R&B in the year 2017-18. All the phases have been completed in all respects. Samoon directed the concerned to speedily the operationalization of the lift and said that students should be provided all the facilities.

Dr Samoon said that the government is committed for the welfare of the student community and is taking many initiatives for providing them better facilities. He said that the Workshop Block will provide hands-on training opportunities for the students and will

help the students to become job ready.

Principal Secretary said that the skill set of students has to be enhanced and emphasised for providing quality teaching and other facilities to the students, adding that focus should be laid on strengthening of ITIs across the UT. He said that students should be exposed to the industrial set up and empower them through various training programmes. He further said that heritage courses should also be given a special focus in ITIs to preserve our traditional craft. He also interacted with the students and faculty there.

On the occasion, Dr Samoon also distributed certificates to pass out trainees in their respective fields and emphasised upon them not to keep their focus only towards government jobs but should be able to optimally utilise their skills for income generation. He also distributed certificates among the students of skill competitions organised by the Women ITI.

NHM Employees Seek Release Of Salary Before Eid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Health Mission Employees, Kashmir have sought the release of pending salary before Eid. The National Health Mission Employees Association has said in absence of salary, the employees are suffering.

Senior member of the association Adnan Amin said that all the cadres

of National Health Mission employees have been working from zeal since one and half decade.

He said the employees are working in each and every corner of the UT at tertiary care hospitals, primary level health centers and apex institutes.

HE said that a section of the fraternity, i.e. the paramedics, are working on extremely meager wages which makes it difficult for them to fulfill the basic requirements of life.

"Despite spending prime time of our lives in the service of people, our jobs are at stake, which is sheer injustice" the Association in a statement said.

They requested the LG administration to frame a job policy for NHM employees in order to secure their jobs. Adnan Amin senior representative JKNHMEA, voiced optimism that their pending salary shall be released before Eid.

4 Residential Houses Damaged In Fire At Brane Nishat

Agencies

Srinagar : Four residential houses were damaged in a massive blaze in Brane Nishat area in outskirts of Srinagar on Monday.

They said the fire emanated from one residential house around 5:30 p.m. and engulfed at least three other houses in the vicinity.

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Central Stationery Deptt
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar

Request for Dasti Quotes for supply of Table Stationery item i.e White A4 photocopier paper

J&K Bank Central stationery Deptt; Nowgam, invites Dasti Quotes from local vendors for the supply of table stationery item i.e "White A4 Photocopier paper". The interested vendors can obtain Dasti Quote RFQ Document from central stationery Deptt; Nowgam during Business hours and can submit their Quotes(Bids) from 26.04.2022 to 02.05.2022 till 17.00 hours in a sealed envelope, addressed to In Charge Central Stationery Department, Nowgam Bye Pass Srinagar.

Date: 25.04.2022 DIPK-NB-489/22

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Genuineads/9419031137

This Day In History

- 1514- Copernicus makes his 1st observations of Saturn
- 1755- 1st Russian university opens (Moscow)
- 1803- Meteorites fall in L'Aigle, France
- 1803- Meteorites fall in L'Aigle, France
- 1828- Russia declares war on Turkey to support Greece's independence
- 1865 - Battle of Durham Station, NC (Greensboro)
- 1865 - Battle of Ft Tobacco, VA
- 1904 - Bell Telephone Company of Antwerp Belgium forms
- 1915- Italy secretly signs Pact of London with Britain, France & Russia
- 1920 - Harlow Shapley and Heber D. Curtis hold "great debate" on the nature of nebulae, galaxies and size of the universe at US National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
- 1926- Germany & Russia sign neutrality/peace treaty
- 1928- Madame Tussaud's waxwork exhibition opens in London
- 1929- 1st non-stop England to India flight lands
- 1942- Coal mine explosion kills 1,549 at Honkeiko Manchuria
- 1944 - Papandreou government in Greece forms
- 1945- World War II: Battle of Bautzen - last successful German tank-offensive of the war and last noteworthy victory of the Wehrmacht.
- 1954 - Nationwide test of Salk anti-polio vaccine begins
- 1956- First modern container ship, the Ideal X, leaves Port Newark, New Jersey for Houston, Texas
- 1959- Cuba invades Panama
- 1961- French paratroopers' revolt suppressed in Algeria
- 1962- Ariel I Launch (1st UK Satellite)
- 1962- US/UK launch Ariel; 1st international payload
- 1964 - Tanganyika & Zanzibar form The United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar
- 1966- An earthquake of magnitude 7.5 destroys Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 1967- San Marco 2 Launch (1st Equatorial Launch)
- 1968 - US underground nuclear test, "Boxcar," 1 megaton device
- 1971- Turkey state of siege proclaimed
- 1978 - France sends troops to Chad
- 1978- NASA launches space vehicle S-201
- 1984- President Reagan visits China
- 1986- France performs nuclear test
- 1986- World's worst nuclear disaster: 4th reactor at Chernobyl nuclear power station in USSR explodes, 31 die, and contamination reach much of Western Europe.

From KO Archives

Withdraw Ban On Dance Bars: Farooq

Shillong - National Conference patron, Farooq Abdullah today came out strongly against the government move to ban dance bars in Mumbai and other cities across Maharashtra.

Farooq believes the banning of dance bars would encourage prostitution.

"Where (they dancing girls) will go now for money to buy food, medicine and education expenses of their children? Mumbai, as we know, is a costly city and those dancers were so far eking out a living without selling their bodies," Abdullah told a gathering on spreading awareness of HIV AIDS here Friday.

"With the Maharashtra government banning the dance bars, these women would be forced to go in for prostitution which would in turn spread the dreaded virus of AIDS into the society," the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir alleged.

The NC leader also voiced concern over truck drivers 'transporting' the HIV/AIDS while ferrying goods.

Lauding the efforts of Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association, which organised die campaign today, for spreading the awareness among the Jawans' families, the Rajya Sabha member said he was sanctioning Rs 5 lakh to the organisation to start AIDS awareness campaign in local languages in remote areas; of the North East

(Kashmir Observer, 26 April, 2005)

از ریاست ریجنل پورہ بااعلام غلام علی الدین صاحب دہ جوادول
مضمون درخواست منجانب محترم اقبال خان ولد عبدالمطیف خان کنہ جیسی سیکھارہ تحصیل منٹ
بعض حصول لیکن ہیئر فیکٹ
اشعار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
ماملہ کی نسبت پوری حالت سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے۔ جنکے رو سے سائل کا لاکھائی شہیر احمد خان ولد محمد اقبال
خان مورخہ 13/04/2022 کو دوران ملازمت فوت ہو چکا ہیں۔ موتی ٹھکانگی میں آرمی طور کام کرنا تھا۔
موتی کے درکار جائزہ بدیل ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	رشتہ رازہ موتی	پیشہ	عمر	آدنی
01	محمد اقبال خان ولد عبدالمطیف خان	باپ موتی	سرکاری ملازم	68 سال	LPC
02	کاشن زین محمد اقبال خان	ماں موتی	کھریلو کام	45 سال	
03	ریحانہ بیوہ شہیر احمد خان	بیوہ موتی	کھریلو کام	46 سال	
04	زینا سلام ولد شہیر احمد خان	لڑکا موتی	نانا لگ بچہ	43 سال	

موتی کا کنوہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ سر فیکٹ آگاہی کر کے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر منٹ
سات دن کے اندر اندر درجیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد کنوہ نے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
(تحریر الصدرا گیکریو محترمیت دہ جوادول)
rna

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
SKIMS Medical College-Hospital Bemina, Srinagar (J&K)-190017

Advertisement Notification No: SKIMS-MC (04) Acad, of 2022; Dated: 25-04- 2022

SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, Srinagar invites applications on prescribed format from eligible candidates for Vacant I Likely Vacant tenure posts as Senior Residents (Registrars) in the following disciplines:

S.NO.	Senior Residents (Registrar)
01.	General Medicine & Medicine Casualty
02.	General Surgery & Surgical Casualty
03.	Ophthalmology

Date of issue of Application Forms: 26th April, to 11th May, 2022 till 2 PM.
Last Date of receipt of Application Forms: 11th May, 2022 till 2 PM.
For more details and other information log on to SKIMS-MCH Website:
<http://www.skimsmc.edu.in> Academic Section Notice Board.

DIPK-NB-483/22

No: SKIMS/MC/Acad/Advt./ 34-44
Dated 23 April, 2022.

Sd /-Prof. Irfan Robbani Principal

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

PM's visit

In a telling statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday assured the youth of Kashmir that they will not suffer the way their parents and grandparents had in the past as he addressed the 30 lakh elected rural local body members across the country on the occasion of Panchayat Divas celebrations from the Samba district's Palli village. He asserted that he will live up to his word and that he had come to Jammu and Kashmir to give the people this assurance. The PM also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of a slew of projects for the Union Territory.

This was the prime minister's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and was primarily meant to give impetus to the development activity in the union territory. Over the last two and a half years the centre has made every effort to bring investment to the UT. The results have not been to the expectations. But in the recent past, the attempt to bring investment has picked up some momentum. In March, the CEOs from several Gulf countries - mostly from real estate, hospitality, development, food processing and agriculture - visited Kashmir to explore the investment opportunities. The visit came two months after the J&K government inked several agreements with the global investors at the Dubai Expo2020.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the government is hopeful to bring an investment of over Rs 70,000 crores in the next six months. The visit of the UAE CEOs has created some hope on this score. People in the UT would like the economy to grow to produce jobs. In recent years, unemployment among youth has become rampant. The reason for this, in part, is the extended successive lockdowns over the last two years owing to political turmoil and subsequently because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This wrought havoc with businesses, particularly tourism, the mainstay of the Kashmir economy which left a large section of the population without jobs. But in recent months with the abating of the pandemic, tourists have made their way back to the Valley in thousands. This has given a leg up to the otherwise battered economy.

One can only hope that the situation looks up from here on. And the PM Modi has assured the people of the UT that they will. For widespread unemployment to end, the Kashmir economy has to look up. And this won't be possible by the revival of tourism alone.

OTHER OPINION

Bumps ahead: On IMF's India growth forecast

The IMF expects India to grow 8.2% this year, but has flagged multiple risk factors ahead

In its latest World Economic Outlook report, the IMF has pared global growth hopes for 2022 from 4.4% projected in January, to just 3.6%, a sharp decline from the estimate of 6.1% for 2021. The invasion of Ukraine has significantly dampened post-COVID recovery prospects, with the IMF highlighting volatile yet sharp commodity prices and supply chain disruptions. Fresh pandemic-driven lockdowns in China's key manufacturing and trade hubs also compound supply worries and could slow its own growth from 4.8% to 4.4% this calendar year. India's growth through 2022-23, which the IMF had pegged at 9% in January, has now been projected at 8.2% — lowered by the same extent as overall global growth. This headline number is more optimistic than projections from the World Bank (8%), the ADB (7.5%) and the RBI (7.2%). In 2023-24, however, the IMF expects growth to slip to 6.9%, while the World Bank expects it to be at 7.1%. The IMF has emphasised that these projections are much more uncertain than usual due to the 'unprecedented nature of the shock' to the world economy. Growth could slow much more while inflation could turn out higher than expected. The multilateral lender expects India's retail inflation to now average above the RBI's tolerance threshold at 6.1% and the current account deficit to touch 3.1% this fiscal year.

The chief factors cited by the IMF for lowering India's growth trajectory include higher oil prices, inflation that would exacerbate weak domestic demand, and the likelihood of a drag on net exports. Indian policy makers need all hands on deck and undivided attention to cope with the multiple headwinds, which include the need to smoothen interest rate hikes, spur consumption, manage fragile fiscal math and currency fluctuations amid volatile foreign capital flows. It would be equally critical to devise a medium-term action plan to minimise the scarring effects of this 'crisis upon a crisis', as the IMF expects employment and output to persist below pre-COVID trends till as far as 2026, amid a further dip in global growth after 2023.

The Hindu



Haider Abbas

Cancelling Russian Arms Deal

How India Could Be Forming An AUKUS-Like Military Pact With The US & UK?

These developments drive home the fact that India's indigenization drive, regardless of its motivations, will inevitably have the end result of lessening India's dependence on Russian arms

In a clear indicator, New Delhi last week canceled a deal with Russia to buy 48 Mi-17 V5 helicopters after India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met their American counterparts in Washington.

Though New Delhi has claimed that the move was to push indigenization and taken much before the Ukraine war, many feel that India is gravitating toward the US.

What however does convey are the timings of the decision as the move will amuse the US and anger Russia. Moscow which is now reeling under NATO, US sanctions will definitely feel the pinch.

Also last month, India announced a phased import ban on 107 defense items. This ban will come into effect between December 2022 and December 2023.

Several Russian defense parts such as the sub-systems for Russian weapons and platforms including T-90 and T-72 tanks, BMP-II infantry combat vehicles, warships and submarines and anti-tank missiles are among the imports that will be banned.

These developments drive home the fact that India's indigenization drive, regardless of its motivations, will inevitably have the end result of lessening India's dependence on Russian arms.

India does have a successful history of using Mi-17 V5 helicopters as they were deployed during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as well as during the 2016 surgical strikes. However, it was this helicopter that crashed killing India's first CDS, Bipin Rawat.

India's support for the US is likely to extend in regions where New Delhi has a strong influence. Mauritius PM Pravind Jugunath,

who was camping in India for a week had met Indian PM Narendra Modi to 'iron out the intricacies' and help Mauritius get back Chagos Island from the UK.

The island is claimed by Mauritius while the UK does not recognize Mauritius's sovereignty over it.

The fact is that Mauritius has long made noises over the same and according to a BBC Mauritius says it was forced to give it up in exchange for independence, which it gained in 1968.

The Chagossians were evicted and the UK then invited the US to build a military base in Diego Garcia. US planes have been sent from the base to carry out bombing raids in Afghanistan and Iraq. The facility was also reportedly used as a "black site" by the CIA to interrogate terror suspects.

In 2016, the UK lease for the base to the US was extended until 2036. The UK has repeatedly apologized for the forced evictions, which Jugunath has said were akin to a crime against humanity.

It has also promised to hand the islands over to Mauritius when they are no longer needed for security purposes.

The UK, since 1810, made Mauritius its colony and sliced off Chagos archipelago (a group of islands) outside Mauritius, before it granted independence to Mauritius and made Chagos, an overseas territory, and gave one island Diego Garcia to the US for its military base.

Mauritius went to the international court of justice over it but the British, American control did not waver.

India-US-UK Trolka

The big question is whether the UK will abdicate its claim from it? Perhaps never, as owing

to its strategic importance, so as to ward off China from the Indian ocean, it is now a convergent interest of all the three nations — UK, US and India.

The UK, US, and India are all together against China in the South China Sea while India faces a Chinese challenge in Ladakh and its North-Eastern states.

US presence in the Indian Ocean will also come much to the help of India as the US stores its nuclear weapons and submarines in Diego Garcia that could possibly rescue India in case of a conflict with China.

The probability of Chagos going back to Mauritius will be detrimental to India's interests, hence, New Delhi would surely look forward to coalescing with the UK to prevail over Mauritius.

Owing to the considerable influence which India exercises in the Mauritian polity, as it always supported Mauritius causes in the international court of justice, the possibilities of Pravind Jugunath sealing the deal are quite ripe, as millions of dollars from the US are to make way in lieu of it.

Boris Johnson who was UK's foreign secretary in 2017 had then sought Indian help to solve the issue but could not see it through, is looking to make it happen with Narendra Modi's help this time

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 Eurasian Times

The writer is a former UP State Information Commissioner and writes on international issues



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Why are Kids Treated Harshly at Mosques?

For centuries, there has been a lot of controversy around kids and mosques. Some people argue that kids shouldn't be allowed in the mosque as they make too much noise and disrupt the prayers. Others believe that kids should be allowed into the mosque to learn about their religion.

The truth is, Kids will be kids, be it any part of the globe, they will be noisy and playful even in the holiest of the places. We expect kids to behave like adults and be quiet and still during prayers, and when they inevitably make noise or play, we respond with violence. Why do we do this? This is an unfortunate reality that many of us have grown used to. We should let kids inside mosques so that their

learning process of religion doesn't get hindered. Mosques are a place for worship, not for terrorizing kids. They can't learn properly if they are constantly shushed and told to be quiet. It's not unusual to see children running and making noise in mosques.

And yet, time and time again, we see videos and pictures of adults physically and mentally assaulting these kids for not complying with adult expectations. The Child in the picture was physically assaulted by an Oldman for not complying with the adult expectations of keeping mum during prayers, fearing that Oldman would beat him up, the child climbed on his father's shoulder and refused to come down. In Islam children are regarded as a gift of Allah.

They are considered as a priceless treasure from God. They should be taught that mosques are the places of peace and reverence and silence should be adopted at such places or there should be a designated place in the Mosques for kids where they can learn and play at the same time without disrupting the prayers.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) loved children to such an extent that his grandsons Hussain (A.S) and Hassan (A.S) used to climb on his shoulders while he prayed. He never said anything to them or discouraged them from being near him. We should follow his example and love and accept our children just as they are. We need to stop people from resorting to violence in Mosques. Not only is this

behaviour unjust, but it's also counter-productive. We should be encouraging these kids to participate in religious activities and learn about their faith rather than discouraging them.

If we fail to stop people from assaulting kids just for being kids, then their will be the time when kids will stop going to mosques fearing that it's the place where they will be harassed and shushed. Ultimately, it's our responsibility as adults now to create a positive learning environment for kids in mosques. This means letting them explore and learn about their religion in their way and without fear of being punished.

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Of Reducing Rush and Ranks: Rendezvous with a Career Civil Servant

Unlike the feverish rush created by a certain poster boy for civil services exams a decade ago, the recent Kashmir Administrative Services exam date has drawn a lukewarm response in Kashmir where last year's UPSC debacle has prompted the decorated administrator and topper of his batch to simplify the complex.

Asma Majid

While retreating in the quietude of his drawing room and basking in the felicity of his post-work years, Sheikh Mushtaq glances at the souvenirs of his achievements.

He may have hung up his hat as a civil servant but he's not unaware of the alteration of pattern in the field of civil services — the exam he topped in 1984.

The career bureaucrat is well-versed with the kind of decline Kashmir has been witnessing in registering selections in the said field.

Over the years, the candidates from Kashmir valley have been lagging behind in qualifying the Civil Services Examination (CSE), as the number of selected candidates in the year 2021 turned out to be the lowest in the past decade.

"The disturbed conditions of Kashmir are the main reason that the students have not been able to make much progress in this regard," explains Sheikh Mushtaq (IAS), former Commissioner Secretary to Higher Education Department. "The students are under constant stress and deprivation."

Citing economic devolution triggered by strikes and Covid lockdowns as another major hurdle for the students to actualize their dream of becoming civil servants, Sheikh Mushtaq goes on to explain as to how the income of people in the Valley has significantly reduced to a great extent, which plays a key role in determining the kinds of careers students opt for.

For Sheikh Mushtaq, who has served in different departments in the administration throughout his impeccable career, cracking civil services is all about one's will power and an innate desire to serve the people. He recalls his own emergence as a lad born and brought up in his humble abode at Old Town, Baramulla to an IAS, crowned with the recognition of being the most honest and upright officer.

Being the youngest in a joint family, Sheikh Mushtaq recalls how he never craved to ascend the social ladder, but did harbour the wish to make life better for his dear ones. The retirement of his father even before he could pass his matriculation marked the beginning of a struggle which had to continue till he could set things right in his career.

Nursing the desire to land in Medical Profession someday, the love of his dear brother was enough to drag him to Arts Stream, a decision that he took without the knowledge of his family and which brought forth severe reproof.

Taking the college phase of life with a canty attitude and little seriousness with regard to studies, Sheikh Mushtaq was awakened to the realisation of studies being the only way out of the travails of life.

After having thus emerged as a Gold Medalist in his Post Graduation from the Department of English, University of Kashmir, he never looked back.

Although, diligent to his duties as a Govt. Teacher, he felt far from satisfied with the mechanical lifestyle that he was supposed to adhere to and thus decided to give up the job but the consideration of being a helping hand to his family overruled his desire. Thus, while serving as a teacher and later on as a lecturer in the Department of Education and as a CTO (Carpet Training Officer) in the Department of Handicrafts, the zeal of his passion for civil services only grew until he relinquished all the other choices in favour of his sole love.

"I had a passion for Civil Services and I qualified KAS in 1984 with the support of my family," the Officer says as he



The former IAS officer is happy that students nowadays have an access to all sorts of books and reading material via the internet. Yet, he believes that only reading does not suffice when it comes to civil services

unbosoms himself. "It was a dream and its attainment led me to overcome the difficulties and depravity that my immediate family and my hometown at large was facing."

Securing the top position in his batch, there was much more to his dream than a mere gratification of desires. He looked at civil services as a medium through which he could help not only his family but a lot many people around him who he had always seen to be in need of a continuous assistance from officers and bureaucrats.

"In my entire service career," reveals the topper, "wherever I worked, it was my intention and inclination that I should be beneficial to my people and do as much as I can to solve their problems."

Swept by a wave of nostalgia, Sheikh Mushtaq recalls the days when he had already embarked on his journey to crack the civil services and the kinds of difficulties he had to face in order to sit for the daring exam.

"There was a shortage of books and reading material. I vividly recollect that during my Post Graduation, I wanted to read *The Romantic Agony* by Sir Mario Praz but it wasn't available either in the Departmental Library or the Central Library of the University of Kashmir," he says as his face contorts in a grimace of pain.

But unwinding right away by a flurry of fond memories, he remembers being particularly grateful to his late friend, Ghulam Muhammad Ajair who, amid that crisis, happened to have a good collection of books and never refrained from sharing those with his friends.

The former IAS officer is happy that students nowadays have an access to all sorts of books and reading material via the internet. Yet, he believes that only reading does not suffice when it comes to civil services.

"I had a good number of friends and we would always have discussions on topics of

General Knowledge, Philosophy, Politics, etc," he says with a sparkle.

He later on realised that those discussions were not in vain and did serve their purpose in the long run. Without those, he may not have succeeded with such flying colours in life as he did.

The much-coveted civil services is not looked at by Sheikh Mushtaq in the same vein as many of the aspirants nowadays do. He believes that the core of the field is to deliver one's responsibilities properly and thus facilitate things for the masses.

"The job of a civil servant is to assist, guide and provide services to people, particularly to the poorer sections of the society," he asserts.

He goes on to say as to how a civil servant has to operate within the set parameters and framework of rules and any laxity or transgression on his/her part can create a state of total chaos in the administration. Nonetheless, he's aware of the limitations of the predefined norms that many a times cripple the civil servants in the proper deliverance of their duties, making the indigent suffer.

Recalling the moments of anguish, he says, "I used to feel deeply pained in such situations. But keeping in view the objective of serving people, one is bound to proceed accordingly."

Although he doesn't hold any grievance towards the system of administration but does look forward to a standardized practice to be laid down in accordance with the set framework to make things more feasible for general public.

He's of the opinion that serving people is a two-way process: "When people are properly served and guided, they also contribute towards the betterment of the society."

As career bureaucrat, Sheikh Mushtaq had his high and low moments in life as a civil servant. "Sometimes one feels very happy and at other times,

completely disappointed," he says. "But I deem it all as an integral part of the career, the remedy of which is a complete devotion to one's duties."

He recollects the support of comrades like M. Shafi Pandit, Former Chairman, JKPCS and S.S Rizvi, Former Additional Chief Secretary, Kashmir, recalling them as ones who always propped him up in such situations.

Looking at the present scenario, Sheikh Mushtaq is upset with the way civil services is widely extolled and deemed as the one profession which overrules all the other. He idealises the concept of a multi-faceted society which carries equal weight in terms of different professions.

"We can't have a better society without professionals who excel in medicine, engineering, research and in different aspects of life," he says with a straight face.

Denouncing the servility

Taking the college phase of life with a canty attitude and little seriousness with regard to studies, Sheikh Mushtaq was awakened to the realisation of studies being the only way out of the travails of life

of mind which looks at civil services as the only glorifying profession, he feels that it is this mindset that disables the experts to opt for their respective fields and eventually incapacitates the administration, the resultant of which is a bloated bureaucracy.

Having himself served as a teacher, he holds high regards for the teaching profession and lauds it as the "master of all professions."

He looks up to the European society and particularly the Scandinavian culture wherein 'teaching' is considered the best, both in the estimation of the government as well as the general public.

Sheikh Mushtaq especially wishes the civil services aspirants to be aware of what they are going into. He's not hesitant to share his own compunctions of conscience while having served in the administration in his 30-year long career.

While reminiscing the last phase of his tenure wherein he held the post of the Commissioner Secretary to Higher Education and several other positions in an ex-officio capacity, he says, "I then realised that I shouldn't have left the field of Education. With my hardwork and passion for English Literature, I would've become the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir through academic excellence and contributed to the field of Education in a better manner."

Well-versed with the current happenings, Sheikh Mushtaq is not unaware of the recent selections in the administration from Jammu Division. While rhapsodizing over the success of those students, he comments on the diminishing selections from Kashmir Valley as well.

"In Jammu, there's a continuous environment and milieu of studies and coaching centres, providing facilities to students round the year," he says, highlighting the fact of an easy access to other national institutions via Jammu.

He attributes much of the lack of productivity in Kashmir to the dormancy of winter season coupled with a lack of infrastructure and facilities.

According to him, all these reasons combine together notwithstanding the fact that Kashmiris have a fertile mind and that they are very sharp but unable to translate their fertility of mind and sharpness into success because of these debilitating factors.

In the hush of the room, the sparkling accolades of the former IAS officer serve to be the testimonials of his exemplary service career. Presently serving as a part-time faculty in JK IMPA (The Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development and also associated with NIRD (National Institute of Rural Development), he has some prudent words to offer to all those who seem to him as his former reflections.

"One should take all the difficulties coming in way with stamina, determination and perseverance," asserts the topper.

Having ingrained the concept of civil service, he believes that life is only worth living when one facilitates things for others; in terms of money, advice and relieving them of their pain. Quoting a Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), he says, "The best among mankind is one who brings benefit to others."

This, he believes, has always been the one affirmation of his life. "When we live for others, life becomes charming, peaceful and in fact glorious," he says with a smile.

Sheikh Mushtaq is still doing his bit and anticipates the fruition of his dream of a dynamic society with the spirited efforts of the next generation.

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Group of intellectuals, academicians publishes 'fact-finding' report on Jahangirpuri violence

AGENCEIS

NEW DELHI: A group of intellectuals and academicians, led by Supreme court advocate Monika Arora, Monday released a 'fact-finding' report on the communal clashes in Jahangirpuri, days after visiting the violence-hit area.

Shruti Mishra, a member of the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA), said the "witnesses told them that the Hanuman Jayanti procession was carried out peacefully in C-block area of Jahangirpuri on April 16, and that the crowd was provoked by Ansar (the prime accused in the violence) when they were passing by the mosque."

"Those who were involved in stone-pelting on Sunday (April 16) were so aggressive, that they did not even spare the policemen present at the spot. They also attempted to break the idol of lord Hanuman," Mishra said,

while releasing the report here.

Also present during the release of the report was Uma Shankar, who was leading the Hanuman Jayanti procession and the only civilian who was injured (as per Delhi police).

He claimed that he was attacked with a sword when the violence broke out. He said the procession was carried out "peacefully" and that "women in large numbers were pelting stones at them when they were crossing the area where the mosque is located (C-block)".

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Prem Sharma, who was questioned by the Delhi Police in connection with the violence, was also present during the release of the report.

He claimed that permission was granted by police for their procession and that they have been carrying out similar kind of "peaceful processions" for years.

"Delhi police FIR seemed to

be an attempt of balancing act. We have noticed that a section in Jahangirpuri's C-block has been occupied by illegal immigrants," said Supreme court advocate, Monika Arora.

Social Activist Monica Aggarwal, who was also a part of the five-member 'fact-finding' team, said several innocent people suffered losses due to the violence.

"A young man, who is not even a resident of Jahangirpuri, was attacked and his bike was stolen when violence broke out there. It had not even been a year that the young man got a job and purchased a bike with his hard earned money. He was passing by the C-block area with a five-year-old kid when he was attacked," she said.

So far, 25 people have been arrested in connection with the violence, while two juveniles have been apprehended. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police is investigating the case.

AGENCEIS

NEW DELHI: Two labourers died and three others were rescued after a three-storey house that was undergoing renovation collapsed in south Delhi's Satya Niketan area on Monday, police said.

Another labourer, who was outside the dilapidated building at the time of the incident, had a narrow escape, they said, adding that an FIR has been registered in the matter. The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) also announced a probe into the incident.

Around 1.25 pm, a PCR call was received at South Campus police station about the building collapse in Satya Niketan, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Manoj C said, "One labourer who was outside the building had a narrow escape. He sustained injuries and was admitted to a

hospital for treatment."

"Southwest district police with assistance from Delhi Fire Services and NDRF began the rescue operation at the spot and rescued all the five trapped labourers," he said.

Two labourers died later and the remaining four are undergoing treatment, he said.

"An FIR has been registered in the matter," the DCP said.

The deceased have been identified as Bilal and Naseem and the injured as Md Firdaus, Aslam, Sarfaraz and Musahid, the police said.

The rescue operation lasted for over three hours.

Earlier, Director of Delhi Fire Services Atul Garg said, "We received a call around 1:24 pm about a house collapse in Satya Niketan building number 173 here. Six fire tenders have been rushed to the spot."

Since this building was in a congested area, the main challenge was to take the rescue

vehicles inside. It was a difficult task, he said.

All the five labourers who were trapped under the debris have been rescued and rushed to a hospital for treatment. The rescue operation has ended, Garg said.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) pressed its sniffer dogs into service to search for survivors, and used drilling equipment and cutters.

An NDRF personnel said the labourers got trapped in the kitchen area of the house.

A senior fire official said according to preliminary inquiry, it seems that the building was not in a good condition to undergo renovation.

"This was an old building and it was not in a good condition to undergo renovation. We found out through local inquiry that the said building was being renovated to convert it into a PG accommodation. So, they must have broken some structure for

this purpose which led to the collapse," he said.

"Since renovation was underway, no one was living in the building. It has also been found that there was no proper building plan. It was not a planned construction and was also not approved by the concerned authorities," he said.

SDMC Mayor Mukesh Suryan said the civic body will launch a probe into the building collapse. A notice was served last month to the building owner for carrying out renovation work in the building. On April 11, the Delhi Police was requested to stop the renovation, he said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the incident "very sad".

"This accident (building collapse) is very sad. The district administration is engaged in relief and rescue work. I myself am taking every information related to the incident," he tweeted in Hindi.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

SC Agrees

judgements of the apex court -- Prem Nath Kaul versus Jammu and Kashmir in 1959 and Sampat Prakash versus Jammu and Kashmir in 1970 -- which dealt with the issue of Article 370 were conflicted each other and therefore, the current bench of five judges could not hear the issue.

Disagreeing with the petitioners, the bench had said it was of the opinion that "there is no conflict between the judgements".

The five-judge bench, which would hear the pleas, will have to be reconstituted as Justice Reddy has retired in January this year.

Power Shortage

the protesters blocked the road and restricted the movement of traffic.

The protesters said they pay electricity bills but in return they have to light candles during the holy month of Ramadan.

"I got an electricity bill of Rs 6000 last month. I pleaded before a PDD official for some rebate but he straightaway refused to do so. Later, I sold my daughter's earrings to pay the electricity fees, Shakeela, an angry protester, told Kashmir Observer.

She said what makes things ugly is that the people are being left at God's mercy during crucial times of Sehri and Iftar.

The massive power cuts are coming at a time when the administration has started a drive to install smart meters across this capital city, promising uninterrupted power supply.

The power situation is no different in other parts of the Valley, even as the outage has started forcing people out on the roads

In north Kashmir's Baramulla town, the traders' federation held a strong protest against the PDD over the 'unprecedented' power shortage. Holding candles in their hands, the protesters denounced what they called "hoax" claims by the government.

"We were promised skies after the abrogation of Article 370 but we are suffering for basic amenities," a protester said.

"One of my friends returned from New Delhi yesterday and told me there is 24 hour electricity there" he said.

The protesters further alleged that the notion is being created that the electricity crisis is nationwide, but it is totally "false and fabricated". The protesters threatened not to pay their bills, if electricity is not restored at the earliest.

"We have never seen such a power crisis in Kashmir before," Abdul Aziz, one of the protesters, said, adding that the prolonged power cuts, mostly during Sehri and Iftar time, have infuriated people.

Pertinently, on Saturday last, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole acknowledged the unprecedented shortage of power supply and directed the PDD to divert commercial and industrial power for domestic use during the peak hours

Besides, he also appealed to the general public not to use crude electric gadgets to save power during these "unprecedented times", Pole said, as per an official spokesperson.

KPDCL Pleads

of Ramadan, look for costlier back-ups or protest against the crisis.

However, as the tribulations for Kashmir's population is yet to settle, an official from Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) says that the crisis cannot be contained individually in Kashmir until the pan-India situation subsides.

"Undoubtedly, there's a massive power crisis in J&K, which as of now hasn't settled down. We know our people are dismayed by our department

but they too should know that there's absolutely nothing that we can do about this situation." KPDCL Chief Engineer Javid Yusuf Dar told Kashmir Observer.

It's not the state grid but the National grid, Chief Engineer noted, which is wrapped under the crisis. It's a pan-India situation and not just J&K's lone blackout. With each passing day, the crisis across the country is augmenting and so is it in Kashmir.

"When the National grid, which is capable of producing more than 2 lakh MW of electricity, itself has suffered disturbance, how can anyone expect that Kashmir's 2300 MW capability can remain coherent," Dar said.

While making all possible efforts to mitigate and overcome the power shortage triggered by inadequate coal stock in India, Dar said that people should brace up for increased power curtailment hours, unless the National grid returns to its normal position.

He further added, "We cannot provide you with any timeline of the end of the crisis. However, when the crisis across the National grid settles down, it'll subsequently abate the crisis in Kashmir."

However, sources from KPDCL told Kashmir Observer that because of the growing crisis at National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC), in the coming days, KPDCL will be forced to resort to increased hours of load shedding.

"Even though I'm confident that the Government of India will overcome the shortage which is a temporary phenomenon, I fear that it won't be anytime soon. Kashmir should brace up to experience load shedding hours of at least 16 hours in the coming days, as it's believed that 12 more states may be hit by the crisis, which will have a direct impact on Kashmir's power supply," a senior official from KPDCL told Kashmir Observer.

Pertinently, KPDCL Chief Engineer, Javid Dar had told Kashmir Observer that the less rainfall is also the reason for power shortage in the UT.

"There is a 70 percent rain deficit. Also, the Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project supplies around 450 MW and we get the supply from other projects which sums up to 900 MW's but the demand is 1500 MW's in the valley," he said.

Dar further said that with more rainfall, the water in Chenab might rise and the department can provide more power supply.

He said the demand supply during Sehri and Iftar time is 1500 MW's but the department is only able to produce 1100 MW's.

Militants Attack

grenade attack to a local news agency GNS and said that a case has been registered and further investigations are underway.

Govt Holds Payments

administration on the pretext of 'delay in payment by Government' or that they don't cover all the surgeries under the Golden Card scheme.

One hundred sixty five Government and private hospitals in J&K have been empanelled under the scheme.

PMJAY or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is a flagship health insurance scheme by the Government of India. Also known as Ayushman Bharat Yojana, it provides financial security to the beneficiaries against hospitalization expenses in case of a medical emergency. It has been designed to cover the poor, vulnerable and the economically weaker sections of the society.

It was launched in September 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This scheme provides a cover of Rs 500,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

In J&K, the Golden Card issued under SEHAT Scheme of the Government enables all residents including employees and pensioners as well as their families to avail cashless quality health care services across public and private empanelled hospitals.

There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender. All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.

However, all is not well with this scheme in the newly carved Union Territory (UT) as the poor patients are often turned away from private hospitals.

Reports said that top private hospitals in Srinagar, including Shifa Hospital, Florence Hospital, Khyber Institute and many other hospitals don't cover all the surgeries under this scheme.

"Only few are covered under this scheme. Also the government hasn't empanelled many surgeries under this scheme," sources from the Health department told Kashmir Observer.

"We want to know whether this card is valid anywhere or it is simply a deception to people of Kashmir," Adil laments.

The list of hospitals empanelled to provide cashless treatment to patients with Golden Card on the other side claim that the Government has not cleared their payments since the last three months.

According to a report, the financial liabilities of the scheme have mounted to Rs 70 crore which prompted the private hospitals and nursing homes to refuse dispensing services.

According to the directives from the Union Health Ministry the amount needs to be cleared to the concerned hospitals within 15 days.

"We conducted general surgeries, cardiology surgery, oncology and urology surgery under this scheme. We have been empanelled by the government for only four surgeries," an official from Golden card department from Florence Hospital, Chanapora told Kashmir Observer.

He said the Government has not cleared the payment of around Rs 2-3 crore under this scheme from the last three months.

"We have covered at least 600 patients from the last three months under this scheme, however the payments have not been cleared by the government yet," he added.

An official from Shifa Hospital told Kashmir Observer that they also haven't received the payment from the insurance company from 26 December 2021 till date and are still looking after the patients under this scheme on humanitarian grounds.

"Even today we admitted six patients under this scheme but the government doesn't understand," he said.

As per MoU, the Insurance company Bajaz Allianz has to pay the claim amount to the hospitals however the Insurance company has failed to do so as of now.

"We haven't received the amount from the Health Department for many months. How will we pay," an official from the Insurance company said.

According to the reports, the agreement with the Bajaz Allianz expired on March 15, 2021 and now the MoU has been signed with the new Insurance Company- IFFCO Tokyo for the next year.

Mohammad Yaseen Choudhary, Mission Director, National Health Mission told Kashmir Observer that the Rs 68 Cose liability crisis will be cleared in a phased manner and the first installment has been cleared on Last week on April 22.

Choudhary, who holds the additional charge as CEO of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna said it is the hospital's choice as to which specialities they want to empanel.

"They aren't bound by rule to empanel all specialities," he added.

Mid-Day Meal

the efforts of all stakeholders on a comprehensive package of intervention and services targeted on the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

To accord high priority to water conservation and its management, 54,304 Hectares have been covered under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

The scheme has been formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation Har Khet ko pani' and improving water use efficiency More crop per drop' in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) a multidimensional programme, is providing guaranteed wage employment, creating durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural households across the rural people here, he said.

Natural Resource Management and water conservation measures are changing the landscape of rural India. The livelihood thrust in MGNREGS has been brought in to raise incomes and improve skills for diversification of earning opportunities of poor households. According to the official documents 405.38 lakh person-days under the scheme were generated in 2021-22.

Jammu and Kashmir was declared the open defecation free (ODF) and launched the Swachhta Hi Seva a fortnight-long cleanliness campaign for public awareness and involvement of the community. At the launch of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), J&K was self-declared as ODF.

With the sustained efforts of all the stakeholders, Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 100 per cent toilet coverage and became ODF one year in advance .

All the 22 districts, 4,171 gram panchayats and 7,565 villages in the state are self-declared ODF as per Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) SBM (G) guidelines.

An official said that apart from constructing 1.1 million individual household toilets (IHHLs) and 1,350 community sanitary complexes in J&K, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has played a vital role in bringing about behavioural change in the people, the spokesman said.

Moreover, 105 projects were completed under Smart City Projects aimed at transforming Jammu and Srinagar into modern, sustainable and economically vibrant cities with a dedicated focus on improving infrastructure and services besides increasing mobility, he added.

The ambitious project, on completion, would strengthen urban infrastructure, improve city services, public aesthetics, ease of living, and provide a clean and sustainable environment besides enhance administrative machinery in both the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar, the spokesman said.

India's Military

military spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, which together accounted for 62 per cent of world military spending. The USA and China alone accounted for 52 per cent," it mentioned.

According to the report, military spending in Asia and Oceania totalled USD 586 billion in 2021.

"Spending in the region was 3.5 per cent higher than in 2020, continuing an uninterrupted upward trend dating back to at least 1989," the report said.

"The increase in 2021 was due

primarily to growth in Chinese and Indian military spending. Together, the two countries accounted for 63 per cent of total military expenditure in the region in 2021," the report added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had, on April 21, said the ongoing talks with China for a peaceful resolution of the eastern Ladakh row will continue and that the disengagement of the troops and de-escalation of the situation is the way forward.

In an address at the biannual Army Commanders' Conference, Singh had also said the Indian troops are standing firm, braving extreme weather and hostile forces, to defend the country's territorial integrity.

In the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, he had asked the top Army commanders to prepare for every possible security challenge that India may face in the future, including that of unconventional and asymmetric warfare.

DSEK Withdraws

Authority are hereby deemed to have been withdrawn," DSEK order added. (GNS)

Kashmiri Sufi

coexistence signed by India and China in 1954), Nand Bab started his walk to the Sino-Indian border in Eastern Ladakh. "Muj Ko Hamlawar Ko Rokna Hai", (I am going to stop the aggressor), he told people who tried to find out the reason for the Swami's emergency walk to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

It was after the Sino-Indian war of 1962 that Nand Bab came to be known as the 'defence minister of India'.

The title was truly earned by the saint because he knew months in advance what the then defence minister of India, Krishna Menon did not know till it happened. He would carry a stenographer with him towards the later part of his life. 'Orders' and predictions made by the saint were dictated to the stenographer.

Among some of his 'orders' were the removal of Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad as the 'Wazir-e-Azam' of J&K. Months before the Bakshi was asked to tender his resignation under the Kamaraj plan, Nand Bab had dictated to his stenographer, "Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad May Do Dulari, Haridwar Rawana" (Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad along with his two wives is despatched to Haridwar).

Incidentally, Late Bakshi had taken a second wife months before he lost power. Another incident recalled by elders in Fateh Kadal area of old Srinagar city is of mid 1960s. "He came to Fateh Kadal and drew a line in front of a Kashmiri Pandit home and said, "Aaj Malik Angan Mein Atishbazi Hogi" (Today there will be a grand firecracker show of light and sound in Malik Angan). The entire locality was gutted down in a huge blaze the same night except the Kashmiri Pandit's home where the saint had drawn a line", recalls G.L. Daftari, 73, who lived in Fateh Kadal area of Srinagar before the exodus.

Similarly, when the Indian Airlines Fokker F-27 Friendship 200 passenger plane crashed in the Pir Panchal mountain range on February 7, 1966, rescue teams remained clueless about the crash site, but Nand Bab told a gathering of devotees in his native village, "Jahaaz Khew Hoon Hingan" (The plane has hit the twin peak at Banihal) and that is where the wreckage of the aircraft was finally found. 37 passengers lost their lives in that crash.

Without any discrimination between communities, Nand Bab is known to have organised marriages of many orphan girls in different parts of the Valley. His reputation travelled far and wide.

The then Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi had passed special

instructions to the guards at the Teen Murti House not to stop the saint at the gate whenever he wished to visit the Gandhi family.

Dr. Shiben Krishen Raina has written a research paper on the saint in which he says, "Swami Nand Bab stands out in the tradition of such mystics who are known for their godliness, spiritual power, prophecies, foresight, piety and holiness".

Swami Nand Bab passed away on October 10, 1976 in Delhi after a brief illness. His message of universal love, brotherhood, compassion and tolerance lives in the hearts and minds of those whose souls are still not consumed by hatred and violence. (IANS)

Jama'at Member

that he was collecting funds money in the name of banned organization Jama'at-e-Islami in Baramulla town, a police spokesperson said Monday. Ganie was riding a scooter when apprehended.

The spokesperson said that three receipt books of Jama'at, 1 mobile phone and a cash of Rs 15900, which he had collected from the people in the name of banned organization Jel, was also recovered.

"During further investigation, a search was also carried out at his house at Kanlibagh Baramulla where from 2 JK Bank Passbook, 3 JK Bank Cheque Books and blank booklet of Jama'at-e-Islami was recovered," he said.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case FIR number 68/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Baramulla and investigation has been started.

"Police requests general public to help them in identifying anti-national & anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment, so that action can be taken against them," he added.

2 Held For 'Planning

personnel of CRPF 110 battalion arrested Rayees Ahmad Mir of Chandhara and recovered one pistol along with ammunition from his possession, a police spokesperson said Monday.

During preliminary interrogation, he said, Mir disclosed that he received a pistol with ammunition and was tasked by LeT militant code named Haji to attack and kill at least two migrant labourers in Pampore town. Mir, he said, was promised to be recruited as militant after execution of the attack.

According to the spokesperson, the accused sought aid of his friend Shakir Hamid Bhat of Alchibagh, Sambroa to identify the target and provide him motorcycle for executing this "terror act".

He said that the timely intelligence and swift action by joint team not only led to the arrest of a hybrid militant and his accomplice but also prevented "terror incident and saved precious lives of innocent civilians".

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case FIR No.43/2022 has been registered in police station Pampore and further investigations continue.

Shooting Stone

came down rolling and hit her head, reports said.

The injured woman was removed to the primary health centre (PHC) Sultankandi by her parents for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her dead, reports added.

J&K Logs 14

reported the other seven cases with Budgam recording three followed by two each in Baramulla and Srinagar districts.

There are 50 active cases of the disease in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,203, the officials said.

Over 60 Apple Trees Uprooted Near Narbal

Affected Orchardist Urges LG To Intervene



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An aggrieved orchardist who owns a big apple orchard near Sozeth Narbal on Srinagar Baramulla highway has appealed LG Manoj Singa to intervene as his 60 fully grown apple trees have been uprooted by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) assisted by officials from District Administration Budgam.

Details available reveal that the Government is acquiring around one acre land (8 kanals) owned by one Altaf Hussain Shawl at Sozeth and Mirgund villages on Srinagar Baramulla highway for the Srinagar Ring Road project. The land owner told reporters that he has not been paid any compensation as the matter is sub-judice before J&K High Court.

Shawl, like many other land owners, wants fair compensation as per central law (RFCT-LARR Act 2013). Shawl's 150 fully grown apple trees are coming to the alignment of this road. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on April 20th 2022 uprooted his 60 apple trees (aged 18 to 22 years) without any notice, he said.

"The notification for acquiring my one acre land in Mirgund and Sozeth villages was issued in 2017 by Govt under the erstwhile J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934. The notification under section 6 of that act lapsed due to efflux of time in 2019. Fresh

notification was to be issued under existing law (RFCT-LARR Act 2013). Govt is adamant & continues to follow the repealed law of J&K. Our case is sub-judice in the High Court.

The Govt misinterpreted the recent order of the court which asked NHAI to go ahead with construction work. The said High Court order was for those areas where people had received compensation money even under repealed act. In my case, neither compensation for land nor for fruit bearing trees has been paid. Our trees have been axed mercilessly. This is simply an act of transgression. I appeal LG Manoj Singa to intervene as he is himself a farmer," Shawl added.

Pertinently there are many similar cases wherein people allege forcible land acquisition and uprooting of fruit trees. In Wathoora village of Budgam around 100 plum and apple trees were uprooted by Govt and NHAI for Srinagar Ring Road on March 30th last month. The land owners say that they have been paid compensation as per 28 year old rates when plum per kg rate was Rs 13 and apple was sold @ Rs 16 per kg? In Gud-sathoo and Budoo Bagh areas of Budgam hundreds of apple trees were axed last year in November. In Rambir Grah area of Srinagar more than 400 apple trees were axed and compensation was paid as per 26 year old rates.

Sarpanch Killed, 6 Injured In Pattan Accident

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Sarpanch from Kupwara was killed and four other PRI members besides two policemen were injured when a bus they were travelling in met with an accident near Pattan in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday.

Official sources told that SRTC bus carrying PRIs and policemen had a head-on collision with a tipper vehicle near Renzi Tappan Pattan, leading to the death of one Fayaz Ahmad Bhat son of Samad Bhat from Gulgam Kupwara and injuries to six others

identified as Haqeeqat Shah son of Abdul Qayoom, Abdul Qayoom Shah son of Aladin of Gugloosa Kupwara, constable Abdul Hameed Bhat son of Abdul Jabbar, Abdul Jabbar Lone son of Abdul Rahim Lone of Sherwanipora Baramulla, SGCT Mohammad Iqbal Sheikh son of Ghulam Mohiuddin, Abdul Ahad Khan son of Wali Mohammad Khan of Nutnoosa.

The injured have been hospitalized.

A police officer told a local news agency GNS that a case has been registered and further investigations taken up.

Singla Reviews Amarnath Yatra Arrangements

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Monday reviewed the movement plan, facilities plan, traffic management plan for smooth conduct of SANJY-2022.

A thorough deliberation on various traffic management steps to be taken prior to commencement of the SANJY-2022 was held during the meeting.

The DC said that in view of the heavy inflow of tourists, ensuring adequate parking facilities are available in the town. He said that steps must be taken to ensure that vendors are adjusted to avoid congestion on the roads. A detailed movement plan for yatries and availability of facilities was also discussed.

The availability of essential amenities on the route was deliberated upon. Installation of water ATMs, signages, installation of street lights, LED boards

for displaying public information were discussed with concerned officers.



Dr Singla said that notified govt rates must be implemented in letter and spirit and any complaints of overcharging must be dealt with under law. The deployment plan for magistrates during the SANJY-2022 was also discussed.

The concerned officers put forth their opinions regarding various agenda points.

They assured that detailed plans regarding discussed issues will be prepared and implementation expedited to ensure readiness for SANJY-2022.

BJP Has Pushed Kashmir Youngsters Towards Despondency: Mehbooba



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief and former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said that her party sees no hope in the Sunday's speech of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jammu alleging that Kashmir has been turned into a laboratory and that the political process here has been destroyed.

Addressing a news conference, Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the BJP-led Central government has pushed the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir towards despondency.

"What hope can we have? The prime minister spoke about the youngsters and the future of Jammu and Kashmir. What future do they have? As if the PSA (Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act) was not enough, youngsters are now being booked under the UAPA," former Chief Minister said.

She said Modi's statement was ironic as opportunities of employment and business in Jammu and Kashmir are being given to outsiders.

Prime Minister Modi had said that the youth in J&K will not face what their fathers and grandfathers faced.

"Yes, PM is right in saying that youth here wouldn't see what their grandfathers and fathers have witnessed as they will be booked under UAPA, harassed by NIA and other agencies, they will be jailed, they will be shifted to Tihar jail.

She said the Centre has put up the land of Jammu and Kashmir

Don't See Silence In J&K As Normalcy: Tarigami

SRINAGAR: CPI (M) senior leader and former Kulgam legislator, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami on Monday said that the Panchayati Raj system is not new in Jammu and Kashmir, but it existed even before the partition here and that the government must not push the people towards the wall.

Addressing a press conference at his Gupkar residence, Tarigami said that the Prime Minister has made an appeasing statement for the youth, but questioned why several youth were put behind the bars ahead of visit.

"The Prime Minister has made tall claims to appease the youth, but it won't serve the cause as there is a need to change the ground situation. What matters for the youth is to provide them employment, ensure a free atmosphere for them and give them security," he said.

"I want to inform the government that the anger is increasing and don't push them to the wall. Also, don't consider silence as normalcy," Tarigami said.

He added that the government is beating the drums with regard to the Panchayati Raj system here, but the fact is that it is nothing new in J&K as such a system was already existing in the Union territory even before the partition.

Tarigami further added that the government at present is claiming about the new Kashmir, but the fact remains that this all existed in 1944, which is the outcome of the peoples movement. He added that the implementation of GST was a big blow to the federal structure of India.

"The government has claimed that the States will get their share under GST, but nothing has been given to the States so far," he said.

Tarigami further said that the situation has changed on the ground as the Governors at present have become parallel centres in States especially the places where opposition governments exist.

He further stated that the Prime Minister in a meeting of J&K leaders said 'Doori door Karni Hai', but unfortunately nothing happened on the ground.

About the present power scenario, Tarigami said that the government should intervene and the 50 per cent of electricity being generated from J&K should be given to the consumers here so that the people could have a sigh of relief.

"At present 45 per cent electricity supplied to different states is being generated from J&K and the government should intervene to provide at least 50 per cent to the consumers here," he said.

for sale, adding, "It is offering a 50-per cent stamp duty reduction for people buying land here."

"Jobs are going out, mining leases and liquor licences are also given to outsiders. The electricity produced in Jammu and Kashmir powers homes and factories across the country, but the situation in Kashmir is terrible on this

front as well," Mufti said.

The former chief minister also said that the people here have been pushed to reel under darkness even in the holy month of Ramadan. "The government left no stone unturned to push J&K towards darkness. The present power scenario is ample proof," she said

Novel Initiates Taken For Development Of J&K: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday that his administration has implemented many novel initiatives to facilitate equitable development of all regions of the Union Territory, with special focus on its remote and far-flung areas.

Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with Vice-Chairperson, District Development Council, Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir at the Raj Bhavan here, an official spokesperson said.

Mir, he said, discussed with LG various matters pertaining to the development of District Kupwara.

The Vice-Chairperson submitted a detailed memorandum to the Lt Governor apprising him of the concerning



issues and demands of District Kupwara, besides highlighting the developmental concerns of Lolab area.

He highlighted the need for posting ample staff in various government institutions in the area, expediting completion of Allama Anwar Shah Stadium Kuligam, sanctioning of Fire Station at Check Warnow & Krusan Lolab, and creation of Separate Grid Station at Lolab, among other important developmental and

administrative issues.

While listening to the Vice-Chairperson, the Lt Governor observed that UT administration has implemented many novel initiatives to facilitate equitable development of all regions of the UT, with special focus on its remote and far-flung areas.

He assured him of appropriate redressal of all genuine demands on merit and urged him to continue his endeavors of public welfare.

Cong Holds Inter-Faith Prayer In Jammu Says Politics Of Hate' A Threat To Nation

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress on Monday organised an inter-faith prayer meet here with its leader G A Mir expressing serious concern over politics of hate and vendetta.

Mir led the Sarv Dharam Prarthana Sabha' and said both the politics of hate and political vendetta are dangerous for the social, secular and democratic atmosphere in the country.

Various religious leaders enlightened the gathering about the need for upholding the secular character and said no religion preaches hatred and intolerance.

They appreciated the Congress for the initiative and called for necessary steps to counter the forces who are trying to divide the people.

Provocative and mischievous activities are taking place with a nefarious design to disturb peace and the traditional harmony in the country attempts to vitiate the atmosphere of religious brotherhood is very dangerous for the multi religious, multi lingual and multi-cultural nation, Mir said.

He lodged a strong protest of the party over the politics of vendetta, termed it political intolerance of Modi-led BJP government.

Congress party leaders like Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani are being booked and framed under stringent laws in order to deter opposition to speak against the ruling party, he alleged.

He said it is dangerous for the democratic system and against the Constitution of the country which guarantees freedom of speech and expression and right to protest.

Meanwhile, several senior Congress leaders led by Mir visited the residence of National Panthers Party supremo Bhim Singh to enquire about his health and also discussed in detail the current political and social scenario in the country.

They wished the 80-year-old veteran politician,

who is not keeping well for the past sometime due to age related issues, speedy recovery.

Singh was very much concerned about the overall social and political atmosphere emerging in the country, which is vitiating the age old secular fabric, the Congress said in a statement.

The NPP leader said all the secular political and democratic forces must come together to maintain the harmonious social, political and democratic atmosphere in the country.

He also called for a united struggle to seek restoration of the historical Dogra state, without any further delay, the release said.

BJP Going To Build New, Beautiful J&K: Raina

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Thanking the people for turning up in large numbers to hear Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Samba district, senior BJP leader Ravinder Raina on Monday said his party will build a "new and beautiful" Jammu and Kashmir with the cooperation of the local populace.

Raina, who is the president of the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit, also dismissed the criticism of the Congress and other parties over no mention of restoration of statehood and early assembly polls in Modi's speech on Sunday.

"Their pain (opposition parties) is understood after the prime minister's historic rally," he said. On National Panchayati Raj Day, Prime Minister Modi on Sunday addressed a rally at Palli Panchayat in the district in his first public appearance in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

His speech was relayed to all gram panchayats across the country and during the event he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several projects for the union territory that came into existence after the Centre abrogated the article which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are thankful to the people who turned up in large numbers at the rally which shows their love and respect for the prime minister who has a special place for Jammu and Kashmir in his heart," said Raina who was flanked by other BJP leaders including former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta.

Talking to reporters at the party headquarters here, Raina referred to the foundation stone laying ceremony of various developmental projects and Modi's message to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi had assured the youth of Jammu and Kashmir that his government will make sure that they do not face problems related to basic amenities that their parents or grandparents had encountered.

"The BJP is moving ahead to build a new and beautiful Jammu and Kashmir with the cooperation of the people," Raina said.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir, whether Hindu or Muslim, Sikhs or Christians, inhabitants of city or rural areas, Paharist-speaking or Gujjar and Bakerwal, refugees or border residents and other reserved categories and deprived communities, stand with Modi which was evident from the public rally participants by people with enthusiasm," he said.

The BJP leader said that the party's believes in 'Sabka saath, Sabka vikas and Sabka viswas' and with efforts of all, Jammu and Kashmir will continue to tread on the path of peace, prosperity and development.

"There will be no discrimination and equitable development of both regions of Kashmir and Jammu will be ensured," Raina said.

He also talked about the three-tier Panchayati Raj System and said the BJP under Prime Minister Modi strengthened democracy at the grassroots by holding elections and also empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions unlike the past seven decades of National Conference and Congress rule.

Centre Committed To Raising Living Standards Of Citizens: MoS Singh

Press Trust Of India

BARAMULLA: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the Centre is committed to raising the living standards of the people and ensuring inclusive growth for all.

Chairing a meeting at Dak Bungalow here to review the progress of work being carried out under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP), he said it closely focuses on improving people's ability to participate fully in the developmental economy.

The Centre has directed Union ministers to visit various aspirational districts for official appraisal of the ground-level assessment of the initiative.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018, the ADP aims to quickly and effectively transform under-developed districts across the country.

The central government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all, Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said in an official statement.

The minister said PM Fasal

Bima Yojana, electronic National Agriculture Market, Bharat Net facility in each panchayat and financial inclusion would be some of the aspects to be addressed under the ADP.

Deliberating on the mechanism of the programme, Singh said the districts are encouraged to first catch up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country by competing with and learning from others, said the statement issued by the Union Personnel Ministry in Delhi.

Praising the work done in Baramulla under the ADP, he said there is contribution at different levels of work culture, social culture and behavioural culture to achieve the standard prescribed benchmark.

The minister also praised the utility of the model, and said that it is based on a scientific approach which has the scope of a dynamic real-time evaluation.

He said the government is committed to take Baramulla to the maximum of its potential in sustainable development and economic growth with proper follow-ups from time to time.

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Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Gulzar Ahmad Khanday S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Khanday R/o: Rawathpora Khag Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 3179 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Khag .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.700 Dated 25/04/2022

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been received from owner.

Shri : Mushtaq Ahmad Shala S/o: Mohammad Rajab Shala R/o: Zero Bridge Rajbagh Srinagar as Transferor) & Shri. Iliyias Ahmad Rather S/o Ghulam Ahmad Rather R/o Chattergam Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.99/MC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04-8973.

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/ vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 704 Dated 25-04-2022

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

RCB Aim To Stop Buttler Juggernaut Against Rajasthan



Press Trust of India

PUNE: Royal Challengers Bangalore will be aiming to halt the Jos Buttler juggernaut when they take on Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Attention will be on Virat Kohli as well following his second consecutive first ball duck in the competition.

RCB would be hoping their star batter to be back among the runs besides a much improved performance by the batting unit after a shocker in the previous game.

While the Challengers come into the match on the back of a demoralising nine-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan have had two successive wins and are one of the in-form teams this season.

While the focus would be on Kohli, RCB have also power-hitters in captain Faf Du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Dinesh Karthik and Shahbaz Ahmed, who can be destructive on their day and if they fire in unison, the RR attack would have a tough time.

They are up against Rajasthan's varied attack, led by Trent Boult, who has troubled Kohli in the past with the delivery that comes in.

Prasidh Krishna and the spin

duo of wily Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal can also pose problems for the RCB batters. Chahal, with 18 wickets so far, can turn the game on its head.

And ditto for Ashwin, who can be the opposition's nemesis on his day. Add to it the four overs by Obed McCoy; Rajasthan have a decent attack.

For Rajasthan, opener Jos Buttler has been in sublime form, having already hammered three hundreds this season.

Opener Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Sanju Samson have also been toying with opposition attacks and are among the runs. And so is Shimon Hetymar, who can compound the bowling team's woes with his brutal onslaught.

RR would be hoping that the top order delivers once again at the MCA Stadium, which has witnessed high-scoring games.

The weak links in Rajasthan's batting are Karun Nair and Riyan Parag and the duo would need to step up and deliver.

For RCB, they have the best death bowler in Harshal Patel, but he would need support from Mohammed Siraj and Josh Hazlewood.

The four overs by Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who has eleven wickets, could also change the match's fate.

Rohit Reveals Disappointment After MI's IPL Knockout



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: "We haven't put our best foot forward but that happens," admitted Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma after the record-five time IPL champions became the first team to be eliminated from the competition following its eighth loss in a row.

Mathematically, Mumbai Indians were knocked out off the play-off race after the 36-run loss to Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday.

"We haven't put our best foot forward in this tournament but that happens, many sporting giants have gone through this phase but I love this team and its environment.

"Also want to appreciate our well wishers who've shown faith and undying loyalty to this team so far," tweeted Rohit a day after their fate was sealed in the competition.

Both IPL heavyweights MI and CSK have endured tough campaigns this season though the latter remains in the competition.

At the mega auction ahead of the IPL, MI did not retain the likes of Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya who played a crucial role in the team's success over the years.

Their retained players Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Kieron Pollard and captain himself have not performed as per expectations.

Rahul Fined Rs 24 Lakh For Second Over Rate Offence



Press Trust of India

WANKHEDE: Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul has been fined Rs 24 lakh for maintaining a slow over rate in their IPL game against Mumbai Indians.

It was Rahul's second over rate offence of the season. He was fined Rs 12 lakh for the first offence.

"KL Rahul was fined Rs 24 lakhs and the rest of the mem-

bers in the playing eleven were fined Rs 6 lakhs or 25 percent of their match fee, whichever is lower," said the IPL in a statement.

"This was the team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences."

Lucknow Super Giants registered a comfortable 36-run win over Mumbai Indians, as they rode on Rahul's hundred.

No Bio-Bubble For Proteas Series: BCCI Sources

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI in all likelihood will do away with bio-bubbles from the upcoming five-match T20 series against South Africa, keeping in mind the mental well-being of cricketers.

Bio-bubbles became a part of the lives of cricketers with almost all the series (home and away) played in strict bio-secure environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The T20 series will be played across five venues -- Delhi, Cuttack, Vizag, Rajkot, Bengaluru -- between June 9 and 19.

The IPL, which is also being played in a bio-bubble for the safety of the players and the officials, will end on May 29 and the BCCI does not want its players to move to another confined stay just after the conclusion of the league.

"If all goes well and things remain in control like it is right now, there will be no bio-bubbles and hard quarantine during the home series against



South Africa," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Then we are going to Ireland and England and there won't be any bio-bubble in those countries too."

The board is aware that bubble life is not sustainable for long period as staying confined to restricted areas can severely affect the players' mental health.

"Some players have got periodic breaks but if you look at the bigger picture, living in bio-bubble one series after another

and now two months of IPL is simply exhausting for the players," he said.

In UK, there are no bio-bubbles as of now for any sporting activity and hence the Indian team is expected to have a free environment in the country where they would play one Test and six white-ball games in a space of three weeks.

However it is understood that the players will be tested at regular intervals to ensure there are no positive cases within the group.

AIFF Secretary Accused Of Molesting Employees At Work Place

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Entrepreneur Ranjit Bajaj, who owned I-League club Minerva Punjab FC, on Monday alleged that All India Football Federation (AIFF) General Secretary Kushal Das had molested employees at workplace, a charge outrightly rejected by the national body and its top official.

Bajaj, who sold off Minerva Punjab FC in 2020 after owning it for seven years, said there were "two cases of molestation of employees at workplace" and the head of the committee which deals with sexual harassment complaints at the AIFF was "forced by president Praful Patel to bury the report".

"...Kushal Das RESIGN Or I will be revealing details about you which have been buried by @praful_patel #METOO #metoosindia enuf is enuf," Bajaj tweeted.

"...two cases of molestation of his employees at the workplace ...head of madatory (mandatory) sexual harassment complaint officer of AIFF & he was



forced to bury the report by @praful_patel."

Later, speaking to PTI, Bajaj said, "I am not making any allegations against the federation. This is against an individual and he can go to court, make an affidavit. Let him come up with a denial, he must respond in his personal capacity instead of using the Aiff PR machinery."

Das said no such complaint has reached the AIFF committee in the last 10 years.

"There is always a women's cell in the AIFF to look into any kind of allegations like these and there are no such allegations in the last 10 years," Das told PTI.

"But let the women's cell look into the allegations he has made and give a report before I say something and before the executive committee takes a decision."

England Vs Spain: Champions League Reaches Semifinals

Agencies

MADRID: It's England vs. Spain in the Champions League semifinals.

English teams Manchester City and Liverpool are up against Spanish teams Real Madrid and Villarreal, respectively, in Europe's top competition.

Here's a look at first legs taking place this week:

TUESDAY: MANCHESTER CITY vs. REAL MADRID

Madrid is trying to return to the final for the first time in four seasons and City is looking to reach its second consecutive final and continue its quest for a first Champions League trophy. A record 13-time champion, Madrid is coming off a thrilling series against Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 and defending champion Chelsea in the quarterfinals.

Man City is going from one Madrid team to another after knocking out Atletico Madrid in two hard-fought matches in the quarterfinals. The second leg took its toll, especially on the defense, as Kyle Walker injured his ankle and still hasn't returned, while Joao Cancelo picked up another yellow card and is suspended.

With John Stones nursing a hamstring problem, City manager Pep Guardiola will be without a specialist right back for Tuesday's home game. It's a big concern given that Madrid's dangerman Vinicius Junior plays on the left and will likely be up against an out-of-position defender. It's still unknown if Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti will be able to count on midfielder Casemiro and defender David Alaba because of muscle injuries. Both players will travel to England.

WEDNESDAY: LIVERPOOL vs. VILLARREAL

Juventus, Bayern Munich, Could



Liverpool will likely be the biggest test so far, with the English club having only lost one game in all competitions since Dec. 28 -- that being the second leg of the last 16 against Inter Milan at Anfield.

However, Villarreal coach Unai Emery is proving to be a brilliant strategist in European competitions. He led Sevilla to three Europa League titles and then Villarreal to the same title last year. Now Emery has got Villarreal, which is languishing in seventh place in the Spanish league, to the Champions League semifinals for the first time since the 2005-06 season, where it lost to English opposition in Arsenal.

Liverpool has much more pedigree in the competition and is looking to win it for a seventh time, which would match the total of AC Milan. Only Real Madrid has won more European Cups, with 13. Liverpool will come up against a number of players who failed to make it big in the Premier League but are integral to the Villarreal team, in the likes of Juan Foyth, Etienne Capoue, Giovanni Lo Celso and Arnaut Danjuma. Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has no major injury concerns, while Emery should also have his team at full strength. (AP)

Russia Stripped Of Hosting Figure Skating Grand Prix Event



Agencies

LAUSANNE (Switzerland): Russia has been stripped of hosting an event on figure skating's Grand Prix circuit next season because of the country's war on Ukraine.

The International Skating Union said Monday it is looking for a replacement host for the Nov. 25-27 event after its ruling council took the Rostelecom Cup off the schedule because of Russia's military invasion.

Last season, the Rostelecom Cup was held at Sochi and the women's event was won by 15-year-old Kamila Valieva, whose later doping case dominated the sport at the Beijing Olympics.

"The council reaffirms its solidarity with all those affected by the conflict and reiterates its condemnation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the strongest possible terms," the ISU said in a statement.

Russian athletes, teams, officials and event hosts have been isolated from world sports since the invasion started Feb. 24, with governing bodies encouraged to act by the International Olympic Committee. Russia's military ally Belarus has also been widely excluded.

However, Russia could still field candidates at the ISU's

presidential elections in June at a congress in Phuket, Thailand. Current president Jan Dijkema of the Netherlands is stepping down after six years.

The ISU said more than 20 of its member federations urged the council to decide at its online meeting Sunday to exclude Russian and Belarusian officials as candidates for any position and from attending any meetings. The ISU's first vice president is Russian Alexander Lakernik.

However, the ruling committee "concluded that no such council decision shall be taken at this time."

The ISU cited "the fundamental rights of ISU members" and said it was "mindful of securing the validity" of the upcoming congress.

Instead, national federations could decide in Thailand to exclude Russia and Belarus, the ISU said, noting the issue was "depending on the Ukraine situation" and future requests for a vote.

The ISU previously allocated 200,000 Swiss francs (\$209,000) to help Ukrainian skaters and officials. That money will go to member federations that "welcomed Ukrainian skaters displaced by the conflict as a contribution to help them continue their skating activities," the ISU said Monday.

Asian Games In China Will Go Ahead In September

Agencies

BEIJING: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has requested an update from Beijing on the COVID-19 situation in China but remains confident the Asian Games will go ahead in Hangzhou in September, a senior official at the body told Reuters on Monday.

The 19th edition of the multi-sports Games, second in size only to the Summer Olympics, is scheduled to take place from Sept. 10-25 in the capital of Zhejiang province, some 175 kilometres southwest of Shanghai.

A media report last week quoted the OCA's director-general as saying that there was a possibility the Games would have to be postponed because of the month-long COVID-19 lockdown in China's financial capital. A senior official, speaking under condition of

anonymity, said on Monday that the OCA had been in contact with Chinese officials but there was "as of now" no concern about cancellation or postponement.

"The OCA has written to Beijing to get more clarity on the situation and we are waiting for a report," he said.

"The matter will be taken up for discussion at the OCA executive board meeting in Tashkent on May 6."

There was no immediate response to a request for comment from the local organising committee in Hangzhou.

Most international sporting events in China have been postponed or cancelled since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the notable exception of the Winter Olympics, which went ahead in Beijing under strict health controls in February.



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