



P3 CITY

PRICES OF ESSENTIALS SKYROCKET IN CITY, CONSUMERS SUFFER

The skyrocketing prices of daily use commodities including fuels, fruits, milk, meat and vegetables have irked consumers who have expressed anguish over failure of administration to control price-

P5 THINK

BROTHERHOOD IN TIMES OF BILE

Walking in the corridor of All Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, my mother got swayed away with the negativity of the usual hospital smell. Talking to my ailing cousin admitted in the hospital for heart treatment, she overheard a husky voice. The voice was of Dr. Bhan, talking to a couple from Bandipora, a district in the northern part



P7 STATE

FORMER J&K MINISTER, FOUR OTHER NPP MEMBERS JOIN AAP

In what was seen as a boost to the Arvind Kejriwal led party's expansion plan in Jammu and Kashmir, former State Education Minister and National Panthers Party



Quote!

Order without liberty and liberty without order are equally destructive

- Theodore Roosevelt

NEWS DIGEST

Soldier Shoots Self Dead In Jammu

JAMMU: An Army man allegedly ended his life by shooting himself dead with his service rifle inside a camp here on Saturday, officials said. The soldier, a resident of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, was on sentry duty at Jaurian camp on the outskirts of Jammu when he shot himself in the **More on P6**

Misfire Injures Policeman In Budgam

SRINAGAR: A police constable was injured on Saturday after his rifle accidentally went off in Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Constable Muzaffar Ahmad sustained gunshot injuries in his left foot when his service weapon accidentally went **More on P6**

BSF Fires At Pak Drone In Arnia Sector

JAMMU: The border security force (BSF) personnel on Saturday opened several shots at a Pakistani drone along the International Border (IC) in RS Pura in the Jammu division. Around 7:25, the border guards observed a drone with a blinking light coming from Pakistan towards India in **More on P6**

Haji Aspirants Can Deposit Advance Till May 10

SRINAGAR: The Haji Committee of India has extended the date for depositing advance Hajj amount by selected pilgrims up to 10th May, 2022. On the basis of a communication received from the Haji Committee of India, Mumbai, the Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee Srinagar on Saturday informed the **More on P6**

SHOOTOUT IN SRINAGAR

Policeman Shot Dead By Bike-Borne Militants



A CRPF man looks at the safety helmet of policeman shot dead by militants in Zoonimar area of the city on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: A day after three militants, including Hizbul Mujahideen top commander were killed in an encounter, unidentified militants on Saturday shot dead a policeman in Zoonimar area of this capital city.

Constable Ghulam Hassan Dar, working as a driver in the newly introduced Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), was on way to his office when militants fired upon him near Aiwa Bridge along the busy Dr Ali Jan road, a police official said.

A resident of Danawari locality of Eidgah, Dar sustained multiple injuries in the broad daylight attack by militants. He was rushed to the nearby SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) for treatment.

"The policeman had received multiple firearm injuries in his head and shoulder. He was operated and shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital. However, in the evening, he succumbed to his injuries," SKIMS Medical Superintendent, Dr Farooq Jan told Kashmir Observer.

Dar, he said, had suffered blood loss due to the severe head injuries.

ERSS 112, a pan-India integrated single emergency helpline number for various emergency services such as Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Medical Services, Social Welfare and Disaster Management was launched by police in February this year.

The emergency number 112 aims to provide 24x7 emergency responses and immediate assistance to **More on P6**

HE WOULD LEAVE FOR DUTY at 7 in the morning and return in the evening. He is simply a driver in the police department. He has never harassed or caused inconvenience to anyone."

Survivability Of A Soldier Is Important To Us: Vice Army Chief

Agencies

Jammu: Vice Army Chief Lt General B S Raju on Saturday said that for commanders, survivability of a soldier is the most important aspect and to meet this challenge, government directions are clear that "we have to encourage indigenous defence industry."

Delivering a keynote address during the North Tech symposium at Udhampur, Lt Gen Raju said, "The event has two objectives. One is to showcase the latest technology and another is to tell officers, commanders that what's industry offers to meet the challenges on ground."

He said: "I am delighted that

more than 150 companies from the country are here. I also understand that this is one of the largest participation of industry in a symposium of size and scale and scope."

Lt Gen Raju said that "We have very complex operating environment and challenges for we commanders are to empower our men to do their jobs and towards this end we need multiple technologies whether its surveillance equipments shot medium or long range, to be in day and nights, to be operate in mountains and high altitude areas minus 50 to plus 50. We need drones of every kind which do precise surveillance to **More on P6**

Cooking Gas Gets Costlier After Rs 50 Hike

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Cooking gas LPG prices were on Saturday hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder, the second increase in rates in just over six weeks following the firming of international energy rates.

Non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 999.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from Rs 949.50 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the second increase in LPG rates in just over six weeks. Prices were hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder on March 22.

Since April 2021, prices have risen by Rs 190 per cylinder.

Petrol and diesel prices however continue to be on freeze for over a month now. The pause followed rates being hiked by a record Rs 10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22.

Non-subsidised cooking gas is the one that consumers buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates.

However, the government pays no subsidy on LPG in most cities and the price of the refill that consumers, **More on P6**

BJP Will Form Govt With Its Own Chief Minister: Raina

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Days after the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir notified its final report, the BJP on Saturday expressed hope that the assembly elections will be held within the next six months and the party will form the government in the union territory.

The delimitation panel, formed in March 2020, on Thursday notified its final report giving six additional assembly seats to the Jammu region and one to the Kashmir Valley and bringing areas of Rajouri and Poonch under the



Anantnag parliamentary seat. Jammu division will now have 43 assembly seats and Kashmir 47 in the 90-member house.

The delimitation commission has completed its exercise now wait for four to six months (for the assembly **More on P6**

DELIMITATION PANEL REPORT

Opposition Parties Holding Emergency Meeting On Monday

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Several opposition parties on Saturday jointly rejected the delimitation panel report as highly objectionable, biased and politically motivated and called for an emergency meeting here on Monday.

However, many Gujar and Bakerwal organisations welcomed the reservation of nine assembly seats for

Scheduled Tribes (STs) and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for it.

The delimitation panel on Jammu and Kashmir, formed in March 2020, on Thursday notified its final report giving six additional assembly seats to the Jammu region and one to the Kashmir Valley and bringing areas of Rajouri and Poonch under the Anantnag parliamentary seat. The Jammu division will

MISUSE OF SIM CARDS

SIA Searches Multiple Locations In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: In a crackdown against the misuse of SIM cards by militants and their fraudulent sale by telecom vendors, the Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Saturday carried out searches at 19 premises across the Valley, officials said.

The searches came in the face of the ever-increasing misuse of SIM cards by militants", their over-ground workers (OGWs), narcotics smugglers and other criminals, they said.

The SIA in 11 different FIR cases carried out searches at 19 premises spread all over Kashmir, the officials said.

A majority of the premises belonged to the Point of Sale (POS) vendors who sold these SIM cards in violation of the Department of Telecom regulations and in a manner that amounts to forgery and cheating, they said.

The officials said in three cases, preliminary evidence strongly indicated that SIM cards were procured to help militants in **More on P6**

Search Ops Launched Along LoC In Rajouri

Agencies

Rajouri: Army has launched a massive search operation in forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Lam area of Nowshera after a suspicious movement was reported on Saturday, officials said.

Officials said that the operation has been launched after a suspicious movement was noticed on a forward point of LoC in Lam area of Rajouri district.

"The suspicious movement was spotted on Saturday after which army **More on P6**

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J&K Has Second Lowest Percentage In Underage Marriages Of Women

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir has recorded the second lowest percentage of underage marriages for women across India, according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report.

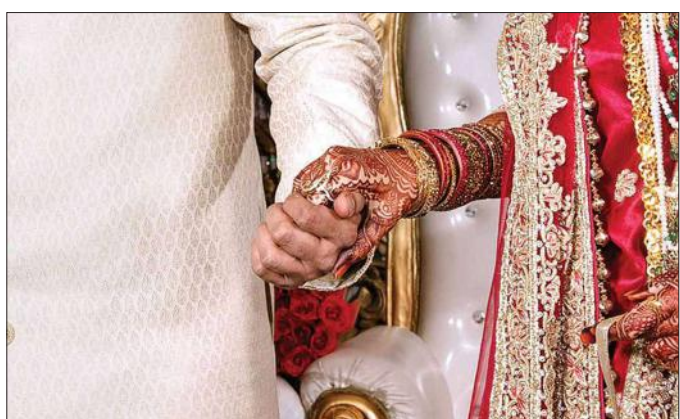
The latest data—NFHS-5—which provides data by socio-economic and other background characteristics that remains useful for policy formulation and effective programme implementation, was released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Vadodara, Gujarat, on Thursday.

Among the states and Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh have recorded a 6 percent (each) average of underage marriages for women while at the National

level about twenty-five percent of women aged 18-29 are married before reaching the legal minimum age, the report said.

"About two-fifths of women marry before reaching the legal minimum age at marriage in West Bengal (42%), Bihar (40%), and Tripura (39%), and about one-third of women marry before reaching the legal minimum age at marriage in Jharkhand (35%) and Andhra Pradesh (33%)." it said.

The report further said that the percentage marrying before the legal minimum age in "Assam is 32 percent, 28 percent in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, 27 percent in Telangana, and 25 percent each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan".



The percentage of women marrying before reaching the legal minimum age of 18, it said, is lowest in Lakshadweep (4%); Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (6% each); Himachal Pradesh,

Goa, and Nagaland (7% each), and Kerala and Puducherry (8% each).

Overall, 20-25 percent of men age 21-29 in Bihar (25 percent), Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh (24 per cent

each), Jharkhand (22 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (21 per cent), and West Bengal (20 percent) marry before the legal minimum age of 21 years.

The lowest proportions of men marrying below the legal age at marriage are in Lakshadweep and Chandigarh (less than 1 per cent), Kerala (1 percent), Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Nagaland (4 per cent each), Karnataka and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (5 per cent each), Himachal Pradesh and Goa (6 per cent each), and Delhi, Punjab, and Maharashtra (9 per cent each).

However, despite such a higher percentage in most of the parts of India, the report also said that the early marriage percentage has been declining over time.

"Marriage before the legal age

MARRIAGE BEFORE THE LEGAL AGE of 18 is 23 percent for women aged 20-24, compared with 47 percent for women aged 45-49. Similarly, for men, marriage before the legal age of 21 years has dropped from 27 per cent for men aged 45-49 to 18 per cent for men aged 25-29."

of 18 is 23 percent for women aged 20-24, compared with 47 percent for women aged 45-49. Similarly, for men, marriage before the legal age of 21 years has dropped from 27 per cent for men aged 45-49 to 18 per cent for men aged 25-29." The NFHS report revealed.

As per NFHS, the median age at first marriage for women aged 20-49 slightly increased

from 19 years in 2015-16 to 19.2 years in 2019-21. For men aged 25-49, the median age at first marriage slightly increased between 2015-16 and 2019-21 (from 24.5 to 24.9 years).

The report further noted that women who have qualified 12 or more years of schooling marry much later when compared to other women. "The median age at **More on P6**



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2

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: AICTE Business Development (Sales) Internship 2022

Description: AICTE Business Development (Sales) Internship 2022 is an opportunity offered by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for selected candidates to work at Merry Go Learn for a duration of 12 months.

Eligibility: Open for candidates who are willing to pursue Business Development as a career. The candidates must have fluency in English, excellent communication, interpersonal, problem-solving, presentation, and organisational skills.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 8,000 per month and performance-based variable
Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/AEB7

Scholarship Name 2: AICTE Tulip Finance Internship 2022

Description: AICTE Tulip Finance Internship 2022 is an initiative by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) that aims to support and facilitate day-to-day activities related to company finance, utilisation of various scheme funds, preparing financial reports and assisting in internal audits.



Eligibility: Open for candidates who hold a B.A. degree with relevant skills and interests.
Prizes & Rewards: INR 10,000 per month
Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ATF7

Scholarship Name 3: National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) 2022

Description: National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) 2022 is an initiative by the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar, and the University of Mumbai - Department of Atomic Energy Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences (UM-DAE CEBS), Mumbai for Class 12

appearing and pass out students. The aim of this test is to support talented students to study at prestigious institutes.

Eligibility: Open for candidates who have passed Class 12 board examination or equivalent in the science stream in the year 2020 or 2021 OR have appeared in 2022 from any recognized Higher Secondary Education Board in India with at least 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent in the Class 12 board examination and a position in the NEST merit list.

Prizes & Rewards: Variable awards
Last Date to Apply: 18-05-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NTE1

سانحہ ارتحال

خیبر افسوس ورنج کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ جلالی خاندان کے ایک معروف چشم و چراغ سید افضل جلالی بروز جمعہ مطابق ۳ شوال المکرم مورخہ 6 مئی 2022ء کو اس جہاں فانی سے کوچ کر گئے۔ مرحوم موثر اور ملنسار شخصیت کے مالک تھے۔ چہارم (رسم نقل) کے سلسلے میں اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی بمقام بابا مقبرہ جدی بل مورخہ 9 مئی 2022ء بروز سوموار بوقت 6 بجے صبح انجام دی جائے گی۔ اس کے بعد دن بھر تعزیت پڑی کا سلسلہ ان کے آبائی گھر واقع سید افضل شری بھٹ میں رہے گا۔
عزیزہ لوہا حقین
بذریعہ: سید وسیم جلالی و حکیم عیسیٰ عباس، سید مرسل جلالی

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No. JK01AB8662. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office to the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fairdeal Motors PVT LTD Kunjwani Bye Pass Jammu
Prop : Farooq Ahmad Najar

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The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 366560
Class: 10th
Year & Session : Annual Pvt 2009
Registration No: 05NKM302758
Name: Firdous Ahmad Malik
Father's Name: Shams ud Din Malik
Mother's Name : Raja Begum
Date of Birth:- 03-09-1990
Residenc:- Ijara (Boniyar) District Baramulla

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate/s" bearing No; KIMAD09-1205991 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/22
Dated 07-05-2022

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Sheemu Manzoor
D/o Manzoor Ahmad Khan
R/o Matwah Kawayhama

Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2424223 Session /Year Annual . 2019

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 teated as cancelled.
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Parveena Akhter
D/o Late Mohad Sultan Ganayee
R/o Agrikalan Magam

Details of Marks Certificate lost
Higher Secondary School Examination (class 11th)
Roll No 2158852 Session /Year Annual . 2017

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 teated as cancelled.
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

ازنیات مجھے یوں بااجلاس بشیر احمد صاحب نائب تحصیلدار دیلگام میں
مضمون درخواست مخائب:- شیب صادق پرور نعمت صادق پختہ صاحب کمار ساکانان مجھ یوں
بغرض حصول OSC/OBC سرٹیفیکٹ۔
اشیاء برادرہ گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوانان الصد میں ساکانان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول OSC/OBC سرٹیفیکٹ
دفعہ پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکادوانی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں
ہے کہ ساکانان کا کنڈینز مل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔
نمبر شمار نام والدیت پیشہ عمر آمدنی
1 غلام رسول کارولد جمعہ 60 سال 5000/=
2 فاضل ذبیحہ غلام رسول کار گھریلو کام 61 سال
3 محمد صادق داد غلام رسول کار مزدوری 37 سال
4 زبیدہ زبیدہ محمد صادق ز تعلیم 35 سال
5 رفعت صادق پختہ محمد صادق ز تعلیم 17 سال
6 شیب صادق پختہ محمد صادق ز تعلیم 15 سال
7 عمر صادق پختہ محمد صادق ز تعلیم 13 سال
اسکے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنڈینز میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ ساکانان کے کنڈینز میں ایک ریٹائرڈ ملازم موجود ہے۔
ساکانان کے کنڈینز کو حذ میں رہتی تعداد کی 10 مرآتانی اول موجود ہے۔ کنڈینز کی آمدنی ماہوار اوسط
زری و غیر زری تقریباً 5000 روپے ہر ماہ ہے۔ جو کہ سالانہ 60000 روپے بنتی ہے۔
لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دروازہ
اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
rma نائب تحصیلدار۔

ازنیات دیلگام بااجلاس بشیر احمد صاحب نائب تحصیلدار دیلگام میں
مضمون درخواست مخائب:- شیب خالد میں و شبنم امین و شبنم امین پرانہ میں شبنم امین شبنم امین
دیلگام
بغرض حصول EWS سرٹیفیکٹ۔
اشیاء برادرہ گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوانان الصد میں ساکانان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول EWS سرٹیفیکٹ
دفعہ پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکادوانی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں
ہے کہ ساکانان کا کنڈینز مل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔
نمبر شمار نام والدیت پیشہ عمر آمدنی
1 شیب خالد امین دلہ محمد امین شبنم مزدوری 26 سال
2 شبنم امین دلہ محمد امین شبنم سرکاری ملازم 22 سال
3 زبیدہ امین دلہ محمد امین شبنم ز تعلیم 19 سال
4 شبنم امین دلہ محمد امین شبنم ز تعلیم 16 سال
5 محمود بانو دلہ محمد امین شبنم گھریلو کام 52 سال
اسکے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنڈینز میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ اور کنڈینز کی سالانہ آمدنی 241,200 روپے ہے۔
اب سرٹیفیکٹ مکرورہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر
بذات میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
rma نائب تحصیلدار۔

ازنیات دیلگام بااجلاس بشیر احمد صاحب نائب تحصیلدار دیلگام میں
مضمون درخواست مخائب:- چاہید احمد پالہ ولد عبدالسلام پالہ ساکانان پختہ تحصیل
بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ۔
اشیاء برادرہ گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوانان الصد میں ساکانان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ
دفعہ پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکادوانی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں
ہے کہ ساکانان کا کنڈینز مل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔
نمبر شمار نام والدیت پیشہ عمر آمدنی
1 عبدالسلام پالہ پنشنر 70 سال
2 ظریف ذبیحہ عبدالسلام گھریلو کام 65 سال
3 چاہید احمد پالہ ولد عبدالسلام پالہ contractual 34 سال
4 رئیس احمد پالہ 30 Representative سال
5 تبسم جان ذبیحہ رئیس احمد گھریلو کام 28 سال
اسکے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنڈینز میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ اور کنڈینز کی سالانہ آمدنی 562,08 روپے ہے۔
مکرورہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دروازہ
معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
rma نائب تحصیلدار۔

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.
Shri : Bashir Ahmad Kumar S/o: Mo-hammad Shaban Kumar
R/o: Gudasathoo Budgam as Trans-feror) & Shri. Ghulam Mohi ud Din Baba S/o Lt. Ali Mohammad Baba R/o Waza Bagh Charari Sharief Budgam.as Transferee) for transfer of Tavera Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.1469/CC/ Budgam/2015 vehicle No. JK04C-8823.
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. 688
Dated 23/04/2022
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE KASHMIR SRINAGAR

e-NIT No: 03 of 2022-23 Dated: 06.05.2022.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory, J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K 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. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major A/c Head
01.	Repair/Renovation of defunct Public Convenience at Qamarla park Ganderbal.	1.21	200/-	15- days	DEE (Civil)	M&R (N-Plan)

Position of AAA : Accorded
Position of funds : Available

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 dates given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	07/05/2022 from 10:00 AM to 14/05/2022 up to 04:00 PM.
2.	Bid submission Start Date.	07/05/2022 from 10:30 AM
3.	Bid submission End date	14/05/2022 up to 04:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	16/05/2022 at 02:00 PM

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-Challan/copy of receipt from Treasury favouring of Executive Engineer, Floriculture Department Kashmir (Tender inviting authority) indicating name of work by crediting the requisite charges to the MH: 0406-02-112-Public Gardens (Floriculture Department Kashmir) in favour of Executive Engineer (Tender inviting authority)
- All Bidders have to submit/Upload Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest Money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure "A" below)
- The Ist. Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of technical 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 Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Department of Floriculture Kashmir Srinagar (Tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Any bid received beyond 15% above the advertisement cost of the work will be rejected.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of following necessary documents:-

- Tender document fee in the shape of Treasury Challan,
 - Registration,
 - Renewal of Registration (Current financial year)
 - Copy of GST Registration,
 - Copy of GST Clearance of Current financial year,
 - PAN Card.
 - Bid Security Declaration.
- However, hard copy from the successful (first lowest) bidder shall be obtained on call. In case of clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list/quantity schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract. However, at the time of his total cost will be enhanced by the highest quoted rate for the item for the purpose of comparative statement only and his quoted cost shall not be entertained even if Ist lowest.

Sd/-
(Er.Jugal Kishore)
Executive Engineer
Department of Floriculture,
KASHMIR

DIPK-1613/22

No: EE/FDK/291-96

Dated: 06.05.2022

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Fined For Residential Area Parking, Hawal Locals Ask: 'Do We've Alternative?'

Syed Mohammad Burhan

In an unprecedented move, traffic Police have fined vehicles parked on the roadside in the Hawal locality of downtown Srinagar.

Locals say they were

do we have an alternative" Moshin questioned.

Hawal residents say this has never happened before and are puzzled by the question if roadside parking will lead to fines every time they park their vehicles on



taken by surprise as parking on the roadside is a norm and the locality is mostly residential.

"Traffic police have fined us for parking our vehicles on the roadside, this is a residential area" said Syed Mohsin whose vehicle was fined.

"We can understand that parking on the roadside is against norms but

the roadside. Speaking to Kashmir Observer SSP Traffic Srinagar Muzafar Ahmad Shah said that there was nothing unusual about the move.

"We receive complaints from different areas of the city about wrong parking and anyone found violating norms is fined" SSP Srinagar said.

Relief Distributed Among Farmers Affected By Hailstorm

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Bhat (JKAS) on Saturday visited various areas of district Srinagar viz. Dara Harwan and Faqir Gojri which have witnessed heavy hail storms causing damage to fruit crops.

He was accompanied by the concerned field functionaries of the Department. Pertinent to mention that yesterday evening hail storms occurred in various parts of the valley, however its severity was not much in other districts.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director General expressed his sympathies with the affected fruit growers. Referring to the extent of the damage he said that about 60-70 percent damage has occurred to the fruit crops in the area. He further said that special teams have been framed in the affected districts to assess the losses along with revenue officials.

The Damage will be recommended for declaring it a 'Area Specific Natural Calamity'. He further added that the matter will be taken up with higher ups for moratorium on the repayment of KCC loan for a period of one year

Responding to various demands put forth by the farmers DG Horticulture said the Departmental will help the affected farmers in every possible way. He assured the farmers that the damage will be recommended for declaring it a 'Area Specific Natural Calamity'. He further added that the matter will be taken up with higher ups for moratorium on the repayment of KCC loan for a period of one year. He also assured that special focus will be paid in these areas and every possible help will be provided by the Department.



Farmers harvest strawberries in a field on the outskirts of Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

Prices Of Essentials Skyrocket In City, Consumers Suffer

Agencies

Srinagar: The skyrocketing prices of daily use commodities including fuels, fruits, milk, meat and vegetables have irked consumers who have expressed anguish over failure of administration to control price-hike in the city.

According to a market survey conducted on Saturday, a dozen bananas and one kilogram melon are being sold at Rs 100 to120 and Rs120 to 150 in city markets whereas one kilogram of grapes is being sold at Rs 220, which are beyond the purchasing power of the lower class.

City dwellers say they find it difficult to make ends meet and it

would put more burdens on their monthly household budget.

Sameer Ahmad, a resident of the old city, said that earlier the spike in prices of oil and pulses and now the rise in the cost of gas made his kitchen budget go awry.

"The government should curb the rise in prices of everyday items," he said.

While the price of mustard oil was Rs 110 to 120 per kg last year, the price is now Rs 185 to 195 per kg. Refined oil is now being sold for Rs 150 to 165.

"It is unfortunate that the administration has failed to curb prices and act against the hoarders and black marketers. The government

should put in place strict measures to check prices of essentials".

Another city resident Ghulam Nabi said, "Fuel is an essential commodity and a hike in their prices affects the monthly budget of any income group. Without a doubt, single-earning hand families with limited income will be the most affected. The government seems to have failed to deliver its promise of easing people's problems.

The consumers and people have requested the district administration to make a close check on the price of daily commodities and take strict action against people violating norms. (CNS)

Sajad Lone Visits Residence NC Leader Nasir Aslam

Agencies

Srinagar: J&K Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone on Friday visited the residence of senior NC leader Nasir Aslam Wani to of-

fer condolences on the demise of his mother.

Lone expressed his sympathies with the members of the Wani family. He prayed for peace to the departed soul in the highest echelons

of the Jannat and much-needed strength to the grief stricken family to bear the inconsolable loss. Lone was accompanied by Political Secretary to Party President Yasir Reshi. (KNS)

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SUMBAL

Cancellation of Tender

Subject:- Construction of Slaughter House at Bun Mohalla Hajin.

Ref:- NIT No: - 11 of R&B Sumbal/2022-23 Dated:- 04-05-2022 (E-tendering) issued under endorsement

No:-R&B/Sbl/22/398-405, Dated:-04-05-2022.

Due to technical error during uploading of the above captioned Nit for the work the same is hereby cancelled and shall be floated for fresh tenders.

No. R&B/Sbl/22/480-87.
Dated:- 07-05-2022.

DIPK-1609/22

Sd./
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Sumbal

(Government of Jammu & Kashmir)

Office of the Assistant Director Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan.

TENDER NOTICE

In compliance to Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir's Order No.DSHK/DDF&F/2022-23/883-87 dated:22/04/2022 for harvesting of Rabi crop at Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan sealed tenders are invited from the interested persons/firms for Binding, drying, Stacking, Collecting and loading etc of harvested Rabi crop at Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan during the year 2022-2023 on terms and conditions given below:

Terms & Conditions .

- The tenders must reach this office by or before 14/05/2022 up to 1:00PM and shall be opened on the same date at 2 PM in presence of the committee constituted. In case the last date happens to be holiday etc, the next working day shall be treated as the day of opening.
- The rates shall be quoted @ Per quintal for Binding, drying, Stacking, collecting and loading of harvested crop at this farm.
- The rates shall be inclusive of all i.e. Binding, drying, stacking, collecting and loading etc.
- The tenderer shall be personally responsible for any kind of damage to the fodder crop until the produce is supplied to other station.
- The tender shall include a CDR amount of Rs.2000/= (Rupees Two Thousand only) pledged to Assistant Director Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan Pattan.
- This office reserves the right to cancel any quotation without assigning any reason.
- Any condition if deemed necessary shall be communicated on spot.

DIPK-1653/22

Sd/-
(Dr.Sheikh Ishrat Mahmood)
Assistant Director
Angora Rabbit Farm
Wussan

DIAL-EMMA

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
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- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
06 Shawwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 02
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:18
Magrib	7:22
ISHA	8: 54

This Day In History

- 1360 - Treaty of Brétigny signed by English & French, ending the first phase of the Hundred Years' War
- 1541 - Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto discovers the Mississippi River
- 1741 - France & Bavaria sign Covenant of Nymphenburg
- 1846 - 1st major battle of Mexican War fought at Palo Alto, Texas
- 1871 - British-US treaty ends Alabama dispute
- 1895 - China cedes Taiwan to Japan under Treaty of Shimonoseki
- 1901 - A British appointed commission estimates today that some 1,250,000 Indians have died after a severe drought, lasting since 1899
- 1902 - Mount Pelée on the French overseas island of Martinique erupts, wiping out the city of Saint-Pierre, killing 30,000 and leaving only two survivors
- 1905 - Union of Unions organizes In Russia under the chairmanship of Paul Miliukov and joins liberal groups demanding parliamentary government and universal suffrage
- 1919 - 1st transatlantic flight take-off by a navy seaplane
- 1919 - Edward George Honey first proposes the idea of a moment of silence to commemorate The Armistice of World War I, leads to the creation of Remembrance Day
- 1925 - French colonial army beats Rifkabylen in Morocco
- 1933 - Mohandas Gandhi begins a 21-day fast in protest against British oppression in India
- 1945 - Canadian troops move into Amsterdam
- 1945 - Chinese counter attack at Tsjangte, supports by 14th air fleet
- 1945 - German General Wilhelm Keitel formally surrenders to the Allies represented by the United States, the UK, France and the Soviet Union in Berlin
- 1947 - Polish resistance fighter Witold Pilecki, who had volunteered to be imprisoned in Auschwitz to gain information about the Holocaust, is arrested by Polish communist police
- 1949 - West German constitution approved
- 1958 - US VP Richard Nixon is shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by protesters in Peru
- 1960 - USSR & Cuba resume diplomatic relations
- 1963 - JFK offers Israel assistance against aggression
- 1967 - Muhammad Ali is indicted for refusing induction in US Army

From KO Archives

Minister Gheroad In Pulwama Town

Villagers Cry For Bijli, Sadak, Pani

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR- Hundreds of people protesting against the lack of basic facilities in the Litar area of Pulwama staged a sit-in before the deputy commissioner's office on Monday and held the local MLA and minister of state for works hostage for several hours.

A large number of people from a number of villages adjacent of the Litar area converged on the Pulwama township on Monday morning, and held angry protests before the deputy commissioner's office.

The demonstrators said that the local hospital was seriously short of staff, the ration depots were empty, and there was no sign of electricity for the past one month while the roads were in an extremely bad shape. The slogan-shouting crowd spotted the local MLA and minister of state for R and B, Khalil Muhammad Bandh, in the premises, and instantly gheraoed him, denouncing him in their chants.They accused him of touring the area after being elected to the legislature, and showing no interest in the progress and development of the villages where, according to them, thousands of people were deprived of basic amenities.

When the minister got a chance to speak amid the barrage of accusations, he cited militancy as the reason for not having visited his home turf.

The reply infuriated his accusers who reminded him that every inch of Kashmir was affected by militancy, and asked whether that meant that developmental work was taking place nowhere.

Facing uncomfortable questions from his electorate for long embarrassing moments, the minister was finally rescued by the security personnel present on the scene and his personal guards who somehow managed to extricate him from the crush of the people.

(Kashmir Observer, 08 May, 2007)

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Twitter Talks



Major power: good national power, hence
independence foreign policy
Geo strategic power: good hard power & will to
influence events afar
Geo political pivot: has attributes which help geo
strategic powers
India & Pak fall in last category, so should work as
one for impact!

@PravinSawhney
A banker friend, a strong supporter of the present
regime, said last night, we will be worse than Sri
Lanka in five years. Not one economic indicator is
doing well or is likely to improve, he said. "I'm not an
alarmist, I'm just scared."

@bombaywallah

Sunday Special

A ‘Little Kashmir’
in Haryana

Mrinal Pathak

The cultures of the two northern regions are entirely different from each other but the influx of Kashmiris into Haryana for various purposes such as higher studies and trade has led to the cultural amalgamation over the years.

Haryana has a good number of leading educational institutions. These institutions provide a plethora of courses and attract thousands of young Kashmiris to come and study in Haryana.

Muskan Goyal, a medical student of Maharishi Markandeshwar Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, believes that the presence of a large number of Kashmiri students has given birth to “a little Kashmir” inside the campus.

Barring some incidents of hate crimes against Kashmiris in the Ambala after Pulwama attack, Goyal say local students live in harmony with Kashmiri students.

In Gurgaon area of Haryana, a large number of Kashmiris work in the swanky corporate offices. The place is home not just to Kashmiris coming from J&K but also to many Kashmiri migrants. Other than the corporate sector, a large number of Kashmiri professors teach in different institutions spread across Haryana.

The growth in the number of Kashmiris in the workforce in different sectors is picking up the pace in Haryana. Rajesh Kundu, a working professional from Gurgaon, says, “There are quite a few Kashmiris in my office and we all have very cordial relations with each other.”

In winters, Kashmiri shawl sellers come to Haryana to sell the authentic shawls and dresses of Kashmir.

The minutely woven designs on kurtis persuade thousands of Haryanavi women to spend their money on the purchase of elegant Kashmiri dresses wholeheartedly.

Usha Rani, a resident of Faridabad, shares a loveable chit-chat with Kashmiri traders every winter. “I find them [Kashmiris] very sweet,” she said, “they are quite humble and offer generous discounts.”

Rani does not discuss politics with the Kashmiri sellers coming to her home. Politics, Rani says, is the root cause of every problem.

Every winter, Government of Haryana organises Geeta Art and Cultural Mahotsav to commemorate the ‘Bhagwad Geeta Ceremony’.

Many handicraft artists from across the country set up their stalls to present their art. Many Kashmiri artisans also present their artworks at the craft festival.

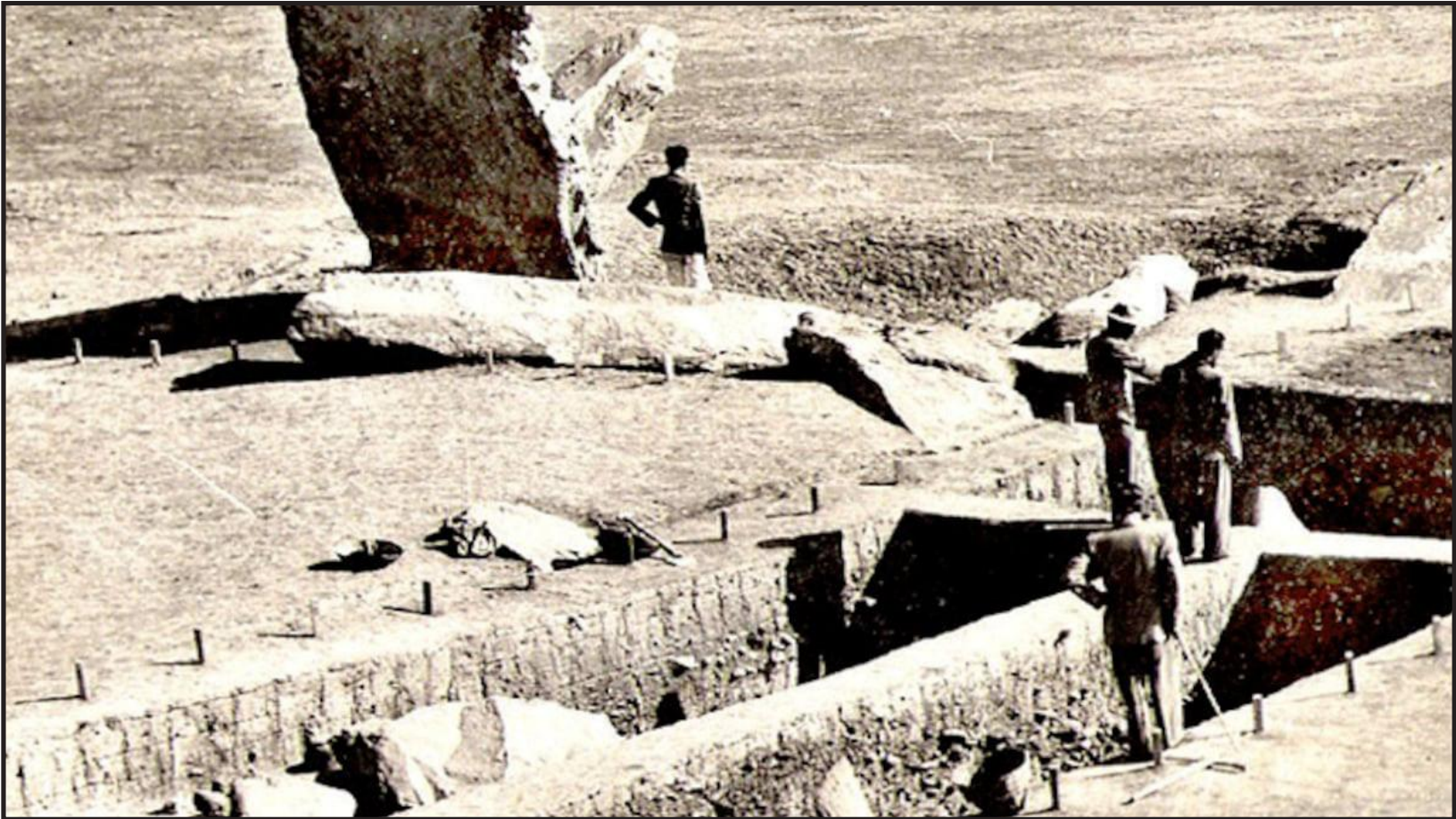
From the authentic Kahwa and dry fruits to traditional Kashmiri dresses, the artists come up with a variety of options available for sale at the festival every year.

Meenakshi Sahgel, a teacher by profession, strolls at the festival every year looking forward to buying some exclusive stuff. “I always find stalls occupied with these benevolent Kashmiris quite intriguing,” she said. “The sugar-coated voice of Kashmiris, the aroma of Kahwa and, quaint kurtas and shawls are a delightful treat for many people. I spend a little extra time chit-chatting with them and find it whimsically refreshing.”

In a small town called Pehowa in Haryana, there is a temple named Raghunath Temple that was built by J&K king in the late medieval era as it is made of lakhori bricks. Currently, the temple is being maintained by the purohits of the royal family. Many Kashmiri Pandits visit the temple every year. Apart from Gurgaon, a significant population of Kashmiri Pandits lives in Faridabad as well.

The presence of the Kashmiri population in the city helps the people to understand the culture of Kashmir in a way that is cut above to other regions of Haryana.

Shriya Handoo, whose family migrated to Faridabad in 1990, strongly believes in preserving her Kashmiri culture. She says in a dismayed tone, “Many Kashmiris live in different parts of Haryana but they are forgetting their native culture. We and other people from our locality get to know about our culture only when there is a Kashmiri festival coming our way like Herath, Gadh Pooja, etc.”



Is Kashmir’s ‘Neolithic
Revolution’ Fading?

Over 59 significant prehistoric sites in Jammu and Kashmir are controlled by the Srinagar circle of Archeological Survey of India which closed its Kashmir office in 1990s and never came back.

Rakshanda Afrin

“Even after
so many
years, the huge
problem is that
the site report is
still not
published by the
ASI. We know
very little about
Burzahom and
its material
findings
compared to
what could have
been known if
the report was
published

Located some 15km from the city centre of Srinagar, Burzahom—translating to birch trees in the local language—is the very first site where evidence of prehistoric human settlements in the valley had been traced.

But sadly, this “Neolithic Revolution” site is on the fringe of deterioration and decay today. Many archaeologists and historians in the valley have expressed dissatisfaction with the authorities handling of the site over the years.

The lack of accountability and the official negligence raises some pertinent questions about the future and preservation of such an internationally recognised Neolithic site which goes on to represent the history, identity and cultural significance of the people of J&K.

“Burzahom is a very important prehistoric, archaeological site that has been converted to a sports field now,” Saleem Beg, convener of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), said to his dismay.

He expressed his concern with the larger issue of the Archeological survey of India’s (ASI) presence in Kashmir.

Beg mentioned there are over 59 significant prehistoric sites in Jammu and Kashmir which are controlled by the Srinagar circle of ASI. “But in the 1990s, ASI had closed their office in the valley and shifted to Jammu and never came back. Obviously if the circle isn’t back, officers do not sit here. So, how do one accept the sites to be protected,” wonders Beg.

Ajmal Shah, archaeologist and assistant professor at the University of Kashmir, explains the significance of Burzahom: “It is one of the best recognised sites of the Neolithic period not only in South Asia, but across the world because of its unique nature of having a certain vast amount of artifacts on its excavations.”

The material culture retrieved through archaeological excavations at Burzahom point towards the fact that Kashmir has been a meeting place for Central and South Asian cultures, Shah adds.

Much of what is known about the site today to archaeologists and historians is because of the seven seasons of excavations that happened during the 1960-70s by the ASI. The site was first discovered by de Terra and Paterson conducted by the Yale-Cambridge Expedition around 1935 because of the presence of megalithic structures around it.

“Even after so many years, the huge problem is that the site report is still not published by the ASI. We know very little about Burzahom and its material find-

“Burzahom is a
very important
prehistoric,
archaeological
site that has
been converted
to a sports
field now.”

ings compared to what could have been known if the report was published,” mentions Shah.

Talking about its present situation, Shah said for a couple of years a huge cricket tournament is taking place on the actual site.

“Youngsters are going and playing a major local league on the archaeological mound which is gathering a huge crowd of spectators. Playing and levelling the ground with huge rollers is a major concern for the archaeological structures beneath and will create major problems for people who might further extract the site in future as only 20 percent of the site has been extracted at present.”

- “
- The material culture retrieved through archaeological excavations at Burzahom point towards the fact that Kashmir has been a meeting place for Central and South Asian cultures.
 - ASI is responsible for the present situation of Burzahom as they are not fencing the area even after money has been allotted for it.

Shah said that ASI is responsible for the present situation of Burzahom as they are not fencing the area even after money has been allotted for it.

“Even after it is a protected archaeological land situated in a plateau, two-three years back the Tourism Department constructed a road till the top of the mound. It’s an easy a minute or two walk from the main road to the actual site and the expansion of a new road to the actual site was not at all needed. It’s creating a lot of problems as the cricketers and spectators are now bringing their vehicles at the top upto the site,” reveals Shah.

Construction is usually not allowed at sites of such archaeological value but it is a matter of serious doubts how the ASI permitted the state authorities to blacktop the area which is illegal in the law books.

Talking about the attitude of locals towards the site, Shah said, “During my regular visits to the site I met a lot of locals who are willing to provide support to the government for its preservation. Many people are not aware about its significance and in these many years no one from the authorities has come forward to sensitise or make the locals understand what they are doing is not permissible. So, they are not bothering much.”

Beg feels it is the carelessness of the local authorities and administration which has pushed the site to the periphery of ruination: “There are two things. Firstly, there are no open playgrounds around for the youngsters and then it is not a fenced site. Secondly, there is nothing on the surface such as a sign, site museum, or restoration centre which can say it is a place of importance, and it is left like an open ground.”

He further added, “What they usually do for prehistoric sites after the excavations is to cover it with a proper structure after documentation which is the stan-

dard archaeological practice but here it is left unfenced and unprotected so locals find it as a huge open space to play tournaments. A proper preserved site with a museum would have helped to sensitize the locals that they should not intervene.”

In past, Shah even started an online campaign on change.org called Save Burzahom-Save Cultural Heritage of Jammu & Kashmir which garnered a lot of support and even a civil society had filed a Public Interest Litigation in the High Court of J&K but after 5 August 2019, such moves have come to a grinding halt in the erstwhile state.

A Melancholic Medley of Musing and Music

Kashmir's creative expression is coming of age with the growing tribe of new-age artists using their wit to strike chords with masses.

Jyotsna Bharti

The world has described art in millions of ways but what remained the same ever since the romanticism era is, the creative expression comes from immense passion and pain.

The intensity and magnitude of human toil cannot be measured in any parameter which further leads to giving birth to Art as the world knows it from John Keats to Vincent Castiglia to Imtiaz Ali.

It is close to impossible to articulate pain in any form but still artists make use of their struggle and suffering to create a soul-stirring piece of art which most of them aren't satisfied with because yet again the intensity of their trial couldn't match with the pleasure of art created by them.

So what exactly is the connection between art and agony? Is it possible that pain could, in fact, fuel creativity? Maybe so. There is much speculation in scientific fields that "feeling sad makes us more creative", which may very well be true most times.

However, it could also be true that pain drives us to express ourselves in most variant forms, the forms which suit their soul. Art finds its way out of chronic agony and discomfort. Having an enormous amount of obstacles, heart-wrenching grief and whatnot, artists from Kashmir have used these to embark and embrace the artists within.

Film Making

The landscapes of Kashmir allured almost everyone to capture its beauty in any way one can. One such upcoming filmmaker from Kashmir is trying his best to do so. Among them is Ruman Hamdani, an aspiring filmmaker who has found his home in creating films.

Ruman is quite a thing on Insta-



gram. He has created videos as a tribute to the iconic show 'Game of Thrones', 'Srinagar: through a tourist's eyes'. He isn't trained in filmography; instead, he has learnt everything by his own and is eager to capture stories of Kashmir.

Today, his tribe is growing, so does the creative canvas he fuels with his passion.

Music

The folk flavour of Kashmir has no match yet. Remember, the song 'Dilbaro' from the movie Raazi and the storm it had created? The hint of home and the essence of belongingness is what makes the Kashmiri music more delightful and soothing. For example, the band 'Alif' has proved the world the worth of Kash-

miri music and poetry.

The uniqueness of the band is the rooted value which is engraved in them and seen in every performance of theirs. Mohammad Muneem Nazir takes off his shawl, one with Kashida embroidery on it, and wraps his microphone stand with it. This is something he does before every performance.

The band members also wear a

pheran or cover their gear with similar shawls. It reminds Muneem of "the feeling of home, of Kashmir, and the feeling of being rooted".

Photography

Talking about Kashmir's artists and the name of Aamir Wani comes naturally. Through his blog on Instagram, he has shown the world what

it is to be like in Kashmir. He adds life to his films and photos with writing poetries in Urdu, Hindi and English describing the beauty in haywire in the valley. He is widely known as his Instagram name, 'kashmirthrough-mylens'.

one of its kind:-

*I wait for you
like the gardens do,
for spring to come.
Will you come soon?
Without you,
this winter seems longer
and Kashmir- colder.
Radio Kashmir doesn't play Raj Begum anymore,
there is no Shams Faqir either.
In your absence Jhelum washed away everything;
Houses, shops and even memories.
Winter has lasted years this time,
Some say it is never going to end,
but when you return, mine will.
On the stairs at yarbäl, no one sits now;
It is deserted, I can hear it's silent cries,
but on the TV they say it is peaceful.
I miss you, I miss those days of peace
and how we all were in love.
Those days of love,
when snow used to fall
and melt
in lovers hands,
in our hands.*

Radio Jockey

RJs in Kashmir have taken the responsibility to entertain the people of the valley amid distress. The courage and the dedication of their art form kept moving and helping people at the valley to move on too with their lives. Most of these new-age radio jockeys are using the native sense to come with the amusing performances. The wit has added a new charm to what was once a good old radio.

Brotherhood in Times of Bile

Beyond the bitterness being broadcasted from the shrilling studios, Muslims and Pandits of the valley celebrate their cultural bond away from their homeland.

Mrinal Pathak

Walking in the corridor of All Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, my mother got swayed away with the negativity of the usual hospital smell.

Talking to my ailing cousin admitted in the hospital for heart treatment, she overheard a husky voice. The voice was of Dr. Bhan, talking to a couple from Bandipora, a district in the northern part of Kashmir.

Dr. Bhan, a shy fellow, was gentle enough to mesmerise every patient with his graceful behaviour, but the couple received special attention and treatment from him, just for a solitary reason- they were Kashmiris.

Different religious identities did not act as a barrier between them. That time, my mother realised that the Kashmiri identity makes a powerful bond. "They are Kashmiris first, and then Hindus or Muslims," my mother remarked.

The words my mother said still echo in my ears. In three years I spent for graduation in Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), I met many Kashmiris, both Pandits and Muslims. The bond my mother described was very much there between the two communities.

JMI has special provisions that reserve seats for both Kashmiris. The provisions lead to an amalgamation of the two cultures again, which made JMI, Kashmir away from Kashmir.

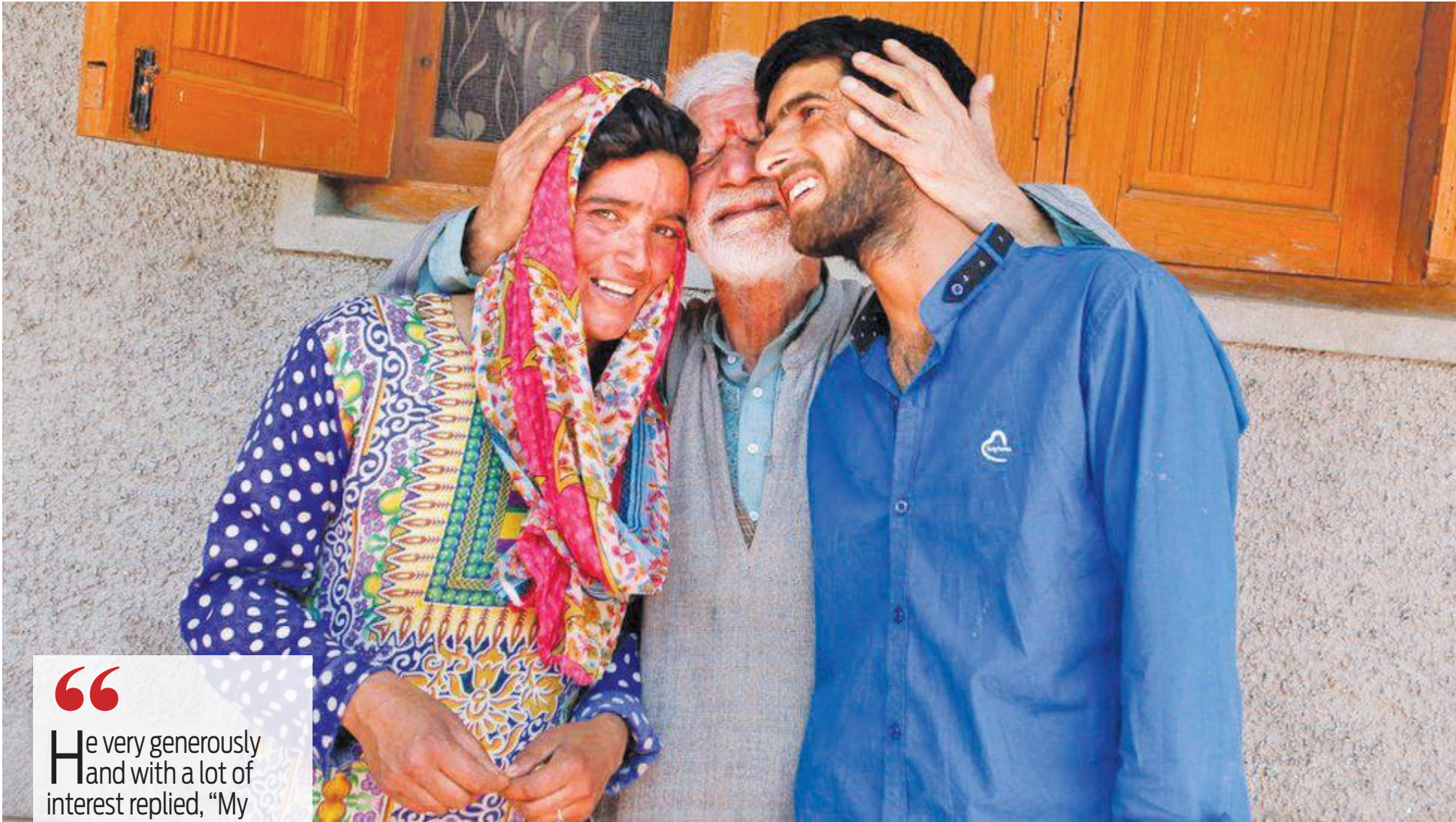
The conversations between the students from the two communities always confluence to make a single echo that resonated in parts of the capital campus.

The very echo is a stunning example of the fact that the dialogue between the two communities can resolve the older misunderstandings, which the political class of this country is unable to understand. The Kashmiriyat I saw in JMI stands as a high flame torch of the love between the two communities.

"My relationship with my Kashmiri Muslim friends is pretty good," Vishal Raina Razdan, a student of Commerce at JMI, says. "I believe, love should prevail over hatred, since past is gone."

While the majority of Kashmiri Pandits left the valley almost three decades ago, many go back to their native places every year during vacations.

Qalbi Haider, who hails from Kashmir, says, "My parents tell me that majority of their friends were Kashmiri Pandits." There were unbreakable friendships that were not car-



“

He very generously Hand with a lot of interest replied, "My father's headmaster was a Kashmiri Pandit, he never left Kashmir even in difficult times. This should be good enough for you to understand the depth of the bond of friendship between the two communities."

ried away even with tempest of times.

Friends of Haider's parents regularly visit them. "There is still so much love as if they never left. We always give them special treatment whenever they come," continues Haider.

One of Haider's cousins is studying nursing in a premier college of Noida. Studying under Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme, he once faced difficulty in getting his fee reimbursed. The Director of the institute turned out to be a Kashmiri Pandit. This was the reason enough for the director to help Haider's cousin.

There are numerous incidents that defy the so-called gap between the two communities.

Once while travelling in Delhi metro, I met a Kashmiri apple trader from Pulwama. I asked him if there were any Kashmiri Pandits left in Pulwama. He very generously and with a lot of interest replied, "My father's headmaster was a Kashmiri Pandit, he never left Kashmir even in difficult times. This should be good enough for you to understand the depth of the bond of friendship between the two communities."

While the majority of Kashmiris believe that the love between the two communities still exists, Shriya Handoo, a journalist student has a slightly different point of view on the subject. She believes that groupism and

lobbying hamper the individual relationships.

"When a Kashmiri Muslim meets a Kashmiri Pandit, they are very courteous to each other, but in groups, they become Hindus and Muslims."

But then the brotherhood is being celebrated beyond the bile being broadcasted from the shrilling studios.

Shriya lately invited her Kashmiri Muslim friend for Herath (Shivratri) celebrations at her home. Her friend received affection from both her parents and grandparents who still hold cherished memories of Kashmir in their hearts.

Hate Speech: Delhi Police makes U-turn in SC, says FIR registered after analysing videos

Agenceis

New Delhi: In a U-turn, the Delhi Police has informed the Supreme Court that after analysing videos and links on social media on hate speech at a Dharam Sansad here, it has registered an FIR for promoting enmity between groups.

The Delhi Police had earlier told the top court that "no specific words against any community were uttered" at the event organised here by the Hindu Yuva Vahini on December 19 last year.

The fresh affidavit of the Delhi Police said, It is submitted that all the links given in the complaint and other material available in public domain were analysed. One video containing audio and video recording of the above said programme was found uploaded on YouTube channel. After further minute verification of the materials, FIR has been registered on May 4 at police station Okhla Industrial Area, South East (Delhi) District for the offences of section 153A, 295A, 298 and 34 of Indian Penal Code."

It further said that investigation will be carried out in accordance with the law.

On April 22, the top court

had expressed its displeasure over a Delhi Police affidavit which had said that "no hate speech was made" during the event and directed it to file a "better affidavit".

"The affidavit has been filed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police. We hope he has understood the nuances. Has he merely reproduced the inquiry report or applied mind? Is it your stand as well or the reproduction of the inquiry report of the sub-inspector-level officer?" a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar had said.

The top court had asked can such a stand be taken on an affidavit before the court and wanted to know who verified the affidavit and if the Delhi Police was accepting it as a correct finding.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj, appearing for the Delhi Police, had said that they would have a "re-look" of the matter and file a fresh affidavit.

The top court was hearing a petition filed by journalist Qurban Ali and former Patna High Court judge and senior advocate Anjana Prakash, who has also sought a direction for an "independent, credible and impartial investigation" by

an SIT into incidents of hate speeches against the Muslim community.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, had drawn the attention of the bench during the hearing towards extracts of the speech and the enquiry report of the sub-inspector of the Okhla Industrial Area police station.

The top court had then asked the law officer if any senior officer had verified the affidavit.

It had asked the ASG if the Delhi Police was accepting it as a correct finding.

"This is the reproduction of the inquiry report prepared by a sub-inspector level officer or is it your stand? If it is so, then we have to ask the Commissioner of Police to look into it if this is your stand also?" the top court had said.

Nataraj had said they will have a re-look of the matter and file a fresh affidavit.

In a counter-affidavit filed in the apex court, the Delhi Police had said the petitioners had not approached them for taking any action in connection with the alleged incident and have directly moved the top court and such a practice must be deprecated.

In its affidavit, the Delhi

Police had said that on the same subject matter, some complaints were lodged alleging that hate speech was made at an event organised here by the Hindu Yuva Vahini on December 19 last year and all those complaints were consolidated and an inquiry was initiated.

It had said after a deep enquiry was conducted and the contents of the video were evaluated, the police did not find any substance in the video as per the allegation levelled by the complainants.

It had said the police, after carrying out a preliminary inquiry on the complaints and after examining the video link and attached video in respect of the alleged hate speech delivered at Delhi, found that no such words as mentioned by the complainant in his complaint have been used.

It had said "no hate" was expressed in the event in Delhi against any group, community, ethnicity, religion, or faith, and that the speech was about empowering one's religion to prepare itself to face the evils which could endanger its existence, which is not even remotely connected to a call for genocide of any particular religion.

The apex court had earlier asked the Uttarakhand government to file a status report after it said that four FIRs have been registered in connection with the alleged hate speeches made in December last year during an event in Haridwar.

It had on January 12 issued notice on the plea which sought direction to ensure investigation and action against those who allegedly made hate speeches during the two events held in Haridwar and the national capital.

The plea, which specifically referred to the "hate speeches" delivered between the "17th and 19th of December 2021 at Haridwar and Delhi", has also sought compliance with the apex court's guidelines to deal with such speeches.

One event was organised in Haridwar by Yati Narsinghanand and the other in Delhi by the Hindu Yuva Vahini allegedly "calling for the genocide of members" of a community, it has said.

The Uttarakhand Police filed an FIR on December 23 last against some persons, including Sant Dharamdas Maharaj, Sadhvi Annapoorna alias Pooja Shakun Pandey, Yati Narsinghanand, and Sagar Sindhu Maharaj.

Intel officer changes appearance to evade arrest for two months after 'raping' minor

AGENCEIS

New Delhi: A 60-year-old man accused of raping his friend's minor daughter was arrested after a two-month pursuit by the Delhi Police as he used his experience of working in an intelligence agency to camouflage his identity and hide as a vagabond or a patient.

Police identified the accused as Kailash Kumar Lal Das, an Assistant Central Intelligence Officer (ACIO-Grade II) -- a rank equivalent to a sub-inspector.

A resident of RK Puram, Das told police during questioning that he has been friends with the survivor's father for the last six to seven years and used to frequently visit their house.

He promised his friend that he would help his daughter get a suitable job.

Trusting his words, the minor's father left her with Das near Moti Bagh Metro Station on March 7.

Later, the accused lured her into a hotel in central Delhi's Karol Bagh, where he allegedly intimidated the girl and raped her, a senior police officer said.

The survivor narrated her ordeal to her parents after which they lodged a complaint at the Karol Bagh police station.

Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered against him under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Das somehow came to know about the FIR being registered against him, following which he fled away, police said.

The accused, who had recently retired as an ACIO and got a two-year service extension, changed his appearance according to circumstance. He lived like a vagabond in Chhatarpur temple during Navratri and as a patient in the Saldarjung Hospital to hide himself from police, according to the senior police officer.

The accused applied for anticipatory bail in the court but the application was rejected, police said.

On Wednesday, police received information about the accused and nabbed him from a park in Vasant Vihar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (central) Shweta Singh said.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to his involvement in the case, the DCP said.

Das did not rent any hotel or guesthouse for stay and used to keep his clothes in a bag, police said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Policeman Shot

the callers in distress and also has a special desk for assistance of women in distress.

A close relative told journalists at the shoot-out spot that Dar was not engaged in anti-militancy operations and he has never held a gun in his hand.

"He would leave for duty at 7 in the morning and return in the evening. He is simply a driver in the police department. He has never harassed or caused inconvenience to anyone," he said.

Police sources told Kashmir Observer that Dar was followed by two bike-borne militants as soon as he left his home for duties from his residence.

"As soon as he reached Aiwa Bridge, one of the bike-borne militants took out his pistol and fired several rounds at Dar from point blank range," they said.

They said that Dar, who was in civvies, collapsed on the ground in a pool of blood.

"Even his helmet was blood soaked," they said, adding that police have collected some footage around the area to identify and track down the militants responsible for the attack.

The attack on the policeman in Srinagar comes a day after three Hizb militants; including the outfit's longest surviving militant Ashiq Molvi, was killed in an overnight encounter with government forces near the popular tourist resort of Pahalgal in South Kashmir on Friday.

Cooking Gas Gets

including the poor women who got free connection under the much-talked Ujjwala scheme, is the same as non-subsidised or market price LPG.

Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 999.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Mumbai while it is priced at Rs 1,015.50 a bottle in Chennai and Rs 1,026 in Kolkata.

Rates differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Prices are higher in states with higher taxes.

Earlier this month, the price of commercial LPG cylinders - the one used by establishments like hotels and restaurants - was increased. On May 1, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was increased by Rs 102.50 to Rs 2,355.50.

International oil prices have been on the rise this year. They jumped to a 13-year high of USD 140 per barrel in March before shedding some of the gains. Brent was trading at USD 109.77 per barrel on Saturday.

To compound things, the Indian rupee tumbled to a near Rs 77 to a dollar. India relies on overseas purchases to meet about 85 percent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices.

Road To J&K's with financial support, market linkage, special knowledge and skills that can be used to change the face of rural J&K," the LG said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG highlighted the mega projects related to rural development, which have been completed in the previous financial year. These projects are in agriculture, animal sheep husbandry, horticulture, skill development, cooperatives, road, Power development, and Jal Shakti sector.

While highlighting the achievements, he said, Sinha asked the officers to continuously focus on strengthening the economic relationship between farm & market to benefit the farmers and rural population.

"He further said that making the benefits of innovation, technologies available to the rural population and agrarian society should be the highest priority," he added.

As per the spokesperson, the LG observed that the steps taken by the government will integrate our rural areas into modern economic units and increased business opportunities in agro and rural industry can transform the rural economy.

"There is a scope for rural reforms at various

levels. Products of rural areas must be commercialized for sustaining growth. Adequate attention should be paid to public-private partnership to increase the income of rural population and both farm and non-farm economy should be incentivized to create well-equipped and self-sufficient villages. Concerned officers and institutions must ensure access to affordable credit and huge investment being made in rural areas must translate into enhanced productivity," Sinha said.

'Govt Committed

Raj Bhavan here on Saturday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the members of the delegation apprised LG about various concerning issues of the Sikh community, particularly the promotion of Punjabi language in the UT, filling up of vacancies of Punjabi language teachers in colleges and schools, besides highlighting demand of the community for representation in the Legislative Assembly.

"The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the visiting delegation and assured that all their genuine issues will be looked into meticulously. He further observed that the UT government is committed to continuously working for safeguarding the interests of all sections of the society to ensure equitable development of the people of all regions," he said.

Later, the spokesperson said, a delegation led by Umesh Pochappan, Ex Governing Body Member, National Fisheries Development Board also met the LG and discussed various matters related to the Fisheries sector of Jammu Kashmir.

He said that Zahoor Ahmad Dar, Chairman of Bharthiya JKL Machuwara Samuday Cooperative Ltd and Arif Ahmad Dar were also present in the meeting.

He said that the delegation discussed the future plan and projects of the cooperative which was recently approved by the Central government for the development of the fisheries sector in Jammu Kashmir and for the upliftment of fishermen.

"The Lt Governor congratulated the members of the delegation for the upcoming inauguration of Bharthiya JKL Machuwara Samuday Cooperative Ltd. He also assured all support for the development of this unique cooperative set up," the spokesperson added.

BJP Will Form

elections) and you will see the BJP forming the next government with its own chief minister, J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina told reporters on the sidelines of a function at the party headquarters here.

Congress leader Raju Sharma, along with scores of his supporters, joined the BJP in the presence of Raina, former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta and BJP general secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul.

BJP is growing very fast with daily joining of prominent leaders from opposition camps and we are moving towards our mission of 50 plus seats in the next assembly elections, Raina said, claiming that the wave is in favour of his party due to the pro-people policies of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government and the hard work of the party workers.

Earlier addressing the function, Raina drew a parallel between the soldiers guarding the borders and the BJP workers and said the BJP is a party of nationalists and everyone who loves the country and its flag will join the party.

Congress lost ground across the country because it has no policy it was speaking for Pakistan, terrorists and separatists and have hurt the nationalists who agitated for Ek Vidhan ek Pradhan aur Ek Nishan' across the country, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Raina said the next assembly election will be important and we are happy that people from across Jammu and Kashmir - irrespective of their colour, creed and religion - are gathering

under the banner of BJP.

Referring to the recommendations of the delimitation commission to the government about reservation of seats for Kashmiri migrants and Pakistan-controlled J-K refugees, he said everyone will get justice under the BJP which has already revoked the special status under Article 370 (in August 2019) to end decades old discrimination with sections of the society.

The Delimitation Commission had said it would recommend to the government for providing at least two seats including a female from the community of Kashmiri migrants in the Legislative Assembly at par with the power of nominated members of the Puducherry Assembly under which a member has a right to vote.

The commission, which was entrusted with the work of delimiting the assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of the 2011 Census, has also recommended to the government to consider giving the displaced persons from Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir some representation in the assembly through nomination.

Meanwhile, Chairman Sikh United Front Sudarshan Singh Wazir on Saturday demanded that 50 percent of the 24 seats in the Assembly, reserved for the areas under "illegal occupation" of Pakistan, be given to the PCK refugees on their area-wise population.

The two seats for Kashmiri migrants should focus on pandits, Sikhs and other displaced communities from the valley, Wazir told reporters here.

We welcome the proposed recommendation of the delimitation commission for PCK refugees and Kashmiri migrants, we want the government to ensure equitable distribution of the seats without any favour to anyone, he said.

SIA Searches

maintaining their communication with their handlers across the border and other modules inside J-K.

Giving examples of the misuse, the officials said, a POS vendor in Chawalgal in Kulgam under the name M/S Airtel Micro World created a SIM card against a non-existent fictitious person namely Gowhar Ahmad Hajam and gave the card to a person in Qaimoh in Kulgam who turned out to be an OGW of militant outfit Ansar-Gazwat-ul-Hind.

In another case, a POS vendor at Mir Mohalla Monghall of Anantnag created a SIM card for a subscriber who handed it over to an OGW of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) outfit, the officials said.

The houses of all the three -- the vendor, the subscriber and the OGW -- were searched to look for additional evidence, the officials said.

In a third instance, four PoS vendors -- one belonging to Konibal in Pampore, another to Walina, Ichgam in Budgam, the third one to Barzullah in Srinagar and forth one to Lasjan -- created SIMs in the name of real persons by stealing and misusing their identity documents, the officials said.

Subsequently, they said, these POS vendors fraudulently gave the SIM cards to unauthorised persons without the knowledge of the original persons.

Authorities have decided to take stringent measures against POS SIM card sellers who are found to be stealing identity documents of unsuspecting subscribers and creating SIM cards without the knowledge of original subscribers, the officials said.

Similarly, PoS SIM card sellers who are found creating SIM cards on the basis of forged documents in the name of persons who do not exist in real life will also be proceeded against by invoking the most stringent provisions of law. Action would also be taken against POS SIM card sellers and subscribers who obtain SIM cards in excess of six cards which is the maximum number of SIM cards a person is

allowed, they said.

The officials strongly advised the telephone service providers to maintain proper database to prevent dishonest POS SIM card sellers and subscribers to cheat the system by not disclosing their already issued SIM cards obtained from other service providers at the time of applying for additional new cards.

The administration is also considering to make it an offence if a person willingly gives his or her SIM card to a person other than a family member for occasional and emergency use, they said.

The officials asked the POS SIM card sellers and individual subscribers to voluntarily come to the police station and surrender their excess SIM cards (more than six), to escape criminal liability.

POS SIM card sellers who have issued SIM cards in different names using the photo of one person are also likely to be searched, and if found guilty are likely to be arrested besides being black listed from all government benefits and contracts, the officials said.

Survivability Of

carry payload, to carry ammunition and drop it at place of choice, to operate in a swam environment. We need secure communication, we need medical equipment."

The top army officer said that troops on ground need good habitat, good heating equipments. "The survivability of a soldier is important to us, so I can go on endless to explain what our demands are. So good part today is that most of these equipments are on display," he said.

He further added that the task for our commanders is to get these equipments to soldiers while "we do that we are cautious that self reliance in defence is the future and a lot of steps are being taken in this direction."

He said directions from the top are very clear that future wars are to be fought with indigenous equipments.

Raju said that Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) in future for almost all weapons and equipment will be given to the Indian industry. "Future wars need to be fought with indigenous equipment," he said.

Addressing the participants, Lt Gen Raju said, "Hereafter, the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) will only be given to indigenous defence manufacturers. "We will come more than half a distance to meet your aspirations. We will give you all the facilities that are required, whether it is equipment, testing facilities, and, most importantly, our time."

Raju said the industry members that the Army will "not ask you the moon" and the Preliminary Service Quality Requirements (PSQRs), the requirements that an equipment or weapon needs to meet, "that we are going to give are going to be reasonable so that you are able to produce". He said if the industry can meet 80 per cent of "our aspirations, then we will go ahead and issue orders".

He later told journalists that the Army is working on making the PSQRs simpler.

Army's strict PSQRs have been a cause of lament by many industry members.

Speaking about the kind of technology the Army is looking for, Raju said, "We need drones of all kinds which are able to do persistent surveillance, carry payload, carry ammunition to the place of choice, secure communication, medical equipment, troops on ground need good habitat and so on." -- (KNO)

Opposition Parties

connectivity, population, physical feature and public convenience.

The commission has totally ignored the ground realities and neglected the convenience and aspirations of the people of different areas, the APUM said in a statement here.

It claimed that the exercise of the commission was an eye wash as the report was prepared at the behest of the ruling BJP.

The APUM has called for an emergency meeting on Monday to discuss the situation emerging after the highly objectionable report, the statement said and appealed to all like-minded parties and organisations to come together to raise their voice against the report.

A large number of representations were submitted by the general public and opposition parties within a short period of time after the publication of the draft report but hardly any genuine objections or representations were considered. Only an eye wash of public hearing was conducted without considering the most genuine objections, the statement said.

It said the commission had neglected the fundamental principles and norms and had done great injustice to different areas, segments and communities.

Separately, six Gujjar and Bakerwal organisations -- Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust Jammu, Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation Jammu, Akhil Bhartiya Gurjar Mahasabha Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir Gujjar Bakerwal Joint Forum, Reasi, Gujjar Bakarwal Ittehad Council, Rajouri and Sarimastaan Tribal Gurjar Welfare Foundation Poonch -- welcomed the delimitation commission's final notification reserving nine seats for STs and thanked the prime minister.

The reservation of nine assembly seats including six in Jammu and three in Kashmir division for STs is a step that will prove historic towards empowerment of tribal communities, they said in a joint statement here.

They said though the Gujjars and Bakerwals were declared ST in 1991, the tribes had to wait for 31 years to get their legitimate right of political reservation.

The political reservation granted to ST will empower Gujjars and Bakerwals who are a major tribal group in Jammu and Kashmir. It will infuse a sense of pride among the tribes, the statement said.

Search Ops

men deployed on LoC intercepted the movement," they said.

They said that a massive search operation have been launched in the area where the incident took place--(KNO)

J&K Has Second

first marriage for women aged 25-49 increases from 17.1 years for women with no schooling to 22.8 years for women with 12 or more years of schooling," NFHS noted.

Soldier Shoots

head, they said.

The officials said the sepoy died instantly and later his body was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital by a police party for post-mortem.

The motive behind his taking the extreme step was not known immediately. (PTI)

Misfire Injures

off during naka duty near block office Khag on Saturday afternoon, reports said.

The injured policeman was removed by his colleagues to the SKIMS, Bemina hospital for treatment. His condition is said to be stable, reports said.

BSF Fires At Pak

the Arnia sector of RS Pura sub-division, a BSF spokesperson said.

He said hardly had the drone crossed the IB, alert BSF personnel fired eight rounds at the drone forcing it to return back immediately.

After the incident, the spokesperson said, a search operation was launched in the area.

Haji Aspirants Can

selected pilgrims that they can now deposit the advance amount of Rs.81, 000 per head up to 10th May, 2022.

J&K Reports 11 New Covid-19 Cases, No Death

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 11 new covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours while there was no death due to the pathogen, officials said on Saturday.

They said that seven of the fresh cases were reported from Jammu division and four from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 454099—166368 in Jammu and 287731 in Kashmir, they said.

Giving district wise details, they said, seven were reported from Jammu district, two from Srinagar and one each from Budgam and Shopian.

There was also no death due to the pathogen reported in the

last 24 hours, they said. So far 4751 persons have succumbed to the virus—2328 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir.

Besides, they said, four Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours, one from Jammu and three from the Valley, during the time. So far 449272 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 68—37 in Jammu and 311 in Kashmir.

The officials said there was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 51 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said. They also informed that 19198 doses of covid-19 vaccine were administered during the time in J&K. (GNS)

IUST Starts Transformative Youth Skilling & Employment Initiative



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After a rigorous exercise, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), has recruited about 65 apprentices in its various offices as part of a creative initiative to train and skill the youth of JKUT. Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, the Vice Chancellor, ideated the out-of-the-box scheme shortly after joining the university last year.

IUST Internship Scheme is one-of-a-kind capacity-building initiatives designed to provide suitable learning opportunities for the JK youth, enabling them to take advantage of the lucrative prospects available across the country. The interns were recruited for a six-month term to provide them on-the-job training in major academic/research/administrative departments of the university. The IUST held an Orientation Program for the newly selected interns on Friday.

During the One-Day orientation event, Vice Chancellor Prof. Romshoo encouraged interns to take advantage of this novel and unique opportunity offered by IUST by actively participating in the learning process and tasks allotted to them during the internship. He underscored the importance of 'replicating the scheme at other higher education institutions across the country' so that all graduates have the opportunity to improve their skills and employability.

He emphasised that all the university stakeholders, including IUST interns, must work together in a disciplined and coordinated manner to achieve the broad objectives of the '2021-26 IUST University Strategic Plan' aimed at enhancing overall growth and development of the university in academics, research and outreach.

Prof. Romshoo described the 'IUST-Internship scheme as a significant move toward the implementation of NEP2020 at IUST' that would help the youth of Jammu and Kashmir improve their skills and employability.

The Interns were addressed by various other university authorities to familiarise the Interns with various aspects of university functioning including academics, research, administration, outreach, IT&SS and student affairs. Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik assured the interns that IUST will provide them with a congenial atmosphere to develop their skills and ethos in order to become effective multi-tasking professionals.

Dean for Research, Prof. A. H. Moon encouraged the interns to take advantage of this apprenticeship to develop technology driven skills for managing administrative and academic tasks in a higher educational system as IUST has completely embraced e-Governance.

Dean for Outreach, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bhat stated that on-the-job-training will be the most effective technique for interns at IUST to gain competencies and improve their skills. Registrar, Prof. Naseer Iqbal informed about various administrative segments of the University where the Interns need to get on-the-job training. Finance Officer, Mr. Sameer Wazir, made a presentation about the university's financial Management system. Director IT Support System Dr. Kaiser Gani also provided a quick overview of the IUST IT&SS facilities.

Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi, Deputy Registrar Outreach coordinated the session and Dean of Students Dr. Anisa Jan conducted the proceedings of the program.

BJP Sets Up Panel To Hear And Solve People's Problems

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Saturday announced setting up of a public grievance committee to hear and resolve people's problems.

J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina said the panel comprises senior functionaries of the party including members of Parliament, former ministers and legislators.

They will be available at party headquarters on working days to listen to the people's problems and take them up at appropriate levels with the government for their resolution.

Raina announced the setting up of the committee at a meeting chaired by him at the party headquarters, a BJP spokesperson said, announcing the schedule of the party leaders available for the public interaction on each working day.

AIIKBOF To Held Crucial Meeting In Jammu Today

Observer News SERVICE

SRINAGAR: All India Jammu and Kashmir Bank Officers' Federation (AIKBOF), the Apex Trade Union representing all the officers of J&K Bank at National Level, has scheduled its crucial meeting at Jammu on Sunday.

According to a statement, office bearers of all the constituent units of AIKBOF from across the country are also scheduled to participate in the meeting. "The meeting is being conducted in view of some crucial developments, to decide future course of action and measures to safeguard and protect the rights of workforce of the Bank," it added.

Former J&K Minister, Four Other NPP Members Join AAP

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In what was seen as a boost to the Arvind Kejriwal led party's expansion plan in Jammu and Kashmir, former State Education Minister and National Panthers Party chairman Harshdev Singh joined the AAP here on Saturday.

Along with him, Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party's state president Rajesh Pargotra, State Secretaries Gagan Pratap and Purshottam as well as it's Delhi unit chief Suresh Dogra also joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the presence of the its Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh and senior leaders Imran Husain and Durgesh Pathak.

"This is the beginning of a new chapter in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir," AAP Rajya Sabha MP told a joint press conference here at party headquarters while welcoming Singh and other newly inducted members.

They have joined the AAP as they were impressed by AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal's policies and the "exemplary work" that has

been done in the national capital in education, healthcare and other sectors under the leadership of the Delhi Chief Minister, the senior AAP leader said.

"The work that the Aam Aadmi Party has done is being discussed in the education, healthcare sectors and the role that the Srind Kejriwal's team has played in the providing water and electricity is being discussed and appreciated all over the country," former Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Singh said. "Same revolution needs to happen in Jammu and Kashmir as well. People in Jammu and Kashmir should also get the basic facilities that they are deprived of, corruption should end," he said.

The kind of good governance that was only read about in the books has been given to the people of Delhi and now in Punjab by the AAP under the leadership of Kejriwal, he said.

"Problems of the people of Jammu and Kashmir can be solved only when a good government is formed there, corruption is ended

and democracy is established in its real sense as the AAP has done in Delhi," Singh added.

Joining of Singh, three-term MLA and a political heavyweight from Jammu, and four others from the Panthers Party was seen as a major boost to the Arvind Kejriwal-led party's expansion plan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Last month, former Jammu and Kashmir minister Yash Paul Kundal, ex-legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia, DDC member Taranjit Singh Tony and former Congress leader Surinder Singh Shingari had joined the AAP.

Along with them, more than hundred local leaders including village heads, block development council (BDC) members and district development council (DDC) members had also joined the ranks of the Arvind Kejriwal-led party.

Riding high on its stupendous victory in Punjab, the AAP is working with an increased focus on strengthening its base in Jammu and Kashmir, with eye on the assembly polls in the Union Territory

Blaze Leaves 14 Families Homeless In Baramulla

Agencies

BARAMULLA: At least nine residential houses were damaged in a massive fire in the old Town locality of this North Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Saturday leaving 14 families homeless.

The officials said that the fire appeared at one of the residential house and soon spread to other adjacent houses quickly.

However, they said that the fire spread to nearby structures and before it was brought under control nine residential houses were completely damaged.

"No one was injured in the



incident," they said, adding the cause of the fire was not immediately known. At least 14 families were rendered homeless who were putting up in nine residential houses."

They said police have reg-

istered a case and initiated investigation to ascertain the cause of the fire. The locals meanwhile urged the district administration for immediate compensation and relief to the affected families—(KNO)

Govt Reconstitutes Establishment-cum-Selection Committee

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government on Saturday reconstituted seven-member Establishment-cum-Selection Committee headed by the Chief Secretary.

"In partial modification of the Government Order No 227-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated 2 March 2022, sanction is hereby accorded to the re-constitution of the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee," reads an order issued by the government.

The committee will have Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta as its chairman and other members include Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agricultural Production Department Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department Vivek Bhardwaj, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary GAD Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (Member Secretary), and Administrative Secretary Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Achal Sethi.

"The Administrative Secretary of the department to which the case pertains should be co-opted

Agriculture Production Deptt Restructured

JAMMU: With the aim of doubling farm income of farmers, orchardists and people dependent of animal, sheep husbandry and fisheries for their livelihood, the Government on Saturday ordered comprehensive restructuring of the government departments dealing these sectors.

These activities engage around 70% of population of the UT and creation of a fully-fledged Agriculture Production Department by merging the three existing line departments namely Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Animal, Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries and Horticulture is likely to synergize efforts of government in achieving the target of doubling farm income, set by the Prime Minister.

The restructuring shall ensure that all schemes for welfare of the population engaged in these sectors are available under one umbrella in a single department.

as a Special Invitee."

The terms of reference of the Establishment-cum-Selection

Committee and the procedure to be adopted by it, while making the selection for the posts within its purview, should remain the same as contained in government order No 1488-GAD of 2011 dated December 26, 2011, the order read.

Among others, the terms of the reference of the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee include all policy matters relating to Establishment/ personnel management, matters relating to induction of officers into KAS and promotion to various scales of KAS; selection of the Heads of the Departments not manned by IAS/KAS Officers, and if required in exceptional circumstances, proposals relating to ad hoc/temporary/stop-gap arrangements and any other matter which the Chief Secretary may like the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee to deliberate upon. (GNS)

SPS Hospitals Ludhiana To Launch Super Specialty OPD Services In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ludhiana's premier healthcare institute SPS Hospitals on Saturday announced to launch super specialty out-patient department (OPD) services in this capital city.

The announcement in this regard was made during a press conference organized here on Saturday.

Dr. Kanwaljit Singh, COO stated that saving the lives of citizens is of utmost importance and the SPS hospitals has set up this center to save them.

He mentioned that the OPD Centre will benefit the residents of Srinagar and surrounding cities, not only in affordable treatment solutions but also in curbing expenses for a family who would have otherwise had to travel to a major city to get their loved one cured.

At the launch, Mr. Gurdarshan Singh, OSD said, "We have already established ourselves as a tertiary care hospital by virtue of having state of the art technology and a blend of the finest medical and surgical skills but now our focus is to cater to the people in other cities so that the quality of life becomes better."

According to Dr Rajiv Kundra, Medical superintendent, this kind of super-specialized OPD offering high-end expertise and care was long a demand of patients in Srinagar.

"With its opening, they can now benefit from the same high quality medical advice as available to patients in Ludhiana. All surgeries will be conducted at SPS Hospitals while pre and post-operative care will be provided at the Srinagar OPD along with consultation and medical advice to patients," Kundra said.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Prabhjot Singh, Head of Department of Sales and Marketing at SPS Hospitals Ludhiana stressed that this OPD is going to be a valuable addition to the healthcare infrastructure of Srinagar by providing world-class treatment solutions to patients in the city right at their doorsteps.

"Our comprehensive services will include all consultations and investigations and providing end to end services for the treatment," he said.

SPS Hospitals is a renowned 350-bedded Superspeciality hospital. This is another patient-centric step taken by the healthcare provider to empower patients with accessibility to quality healthcare services.

The OPD facilities will be led by highly skilled doctors from the SPS Hospitals, Ludhiana with expertise in Spine & Neurosurgery- Dr Deepinder Singh, GI & Liver sciences- Dr HRS Gira, Kidney transplant & Urology- Dr Varun mittal and Joint replacement surgery- Dr Harmandeep Singh.

Narcotic Smuggler Arrested In Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A suspected narcotic smuggler was arrested on Saturday with 80 kg of poppy straw in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Mohammad Rafi, a resident of Kapurthala in Punjab, was driving a mini-load carrier without registration number when he was stopped for checking at Ghagwal

on the Jammu-Pathankot highway, a police spokesman said.

During checking of the vehicle meant to transport poultry, a total of 80 kg poppy straw, which was tactfully concealed in the modified body of the vehicle, was seized, he said.

Rafi, who was driving the vehicle, was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he said.

Extension Of Central Laws Post Article 370 Established Equitable Society In J&K: Official

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Extension of central laws after the abrogation of Article 370 has established an equitable society across Jammu and Kashmir while the implementation of several legislations is bringing a new era of progress and development in the Union Territory, an official spokesperson said here on Saturday.

With the extension of 890 central laws applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, repeal of 205 state laws and modification of 129 laws after the abrogation of Article 370, a system of equitable justice has been established in the UT for all sections of people, the Jammu and Kashmir administration official said.

He said the rights of weaker sections like Scheduled Tribes, other traditional forest dwellers, Scheduled Castes and safai karamcharis' are now ensured by the application

of relevant Acts. Rights of children and senior citizens are now being ensured, he added.

In order to create a just and equitable society, reservation rules have been amended to extend benefits of reservation to left out categories like Pahari speaking people and economically weaker sections, he said.

Sections of society like displaced persons of Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Chhamb, West Pakistani refugees are getting due benefits with the extension of central laws, he said.

For the first time, the spouse of a Jammu and Kashmir domicile shall also be deemed as a domicile. Earlier, spouses of Permanent Resident Card holders were considered at par but not domiciles. Children of central government officials posted for over ten years in Jammu and Kashmir will also continue to be considered domiciles, the spokesperson said.



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Umrn Malik Should Be In India Test Side, Says Kevin Pietersen

Indo-Asian News Service

MUMBAI: Former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen wants the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to immediately blood Sunrisers Hyderabad pace sensation Umrn Malik into the Test side, as there is "no point waiting around".

Umrn bowled the fastest delivery of IPL 2022 when he clocked 157 kmph during his team's match against Delhi Capitals at the Brabourne Stadium, here on May 5. The 22-year-old achieved the feat on the fourth ball of the 20th over, which was hammered for four by Rovman Powell. Malik eventually finished his bowling spell with figures of 4-0-52-0.

Earlier, the young cricketer had bagged his maiden IPL five-for in the match against Gujarat Titans at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Malik's spell of 4-0-25-5 — the best of IPL 2022 so far — rattled Gujarat's top and middle-order in the 196-run chase.

Umrn, who has been enthralled cricket fans with his searing pace in the cash-rich league is learning the tricks from former South African great Dale Steyn, who is currently serving as Sunrisers Hyderabad's pace-bowling coach.

"There are so many exciting young Indian pace bowlers in the IPL at the moment. Of the overseas players, only Lockie Ferguson and Alzarri Joseph are matching them for pace. Kartik Tyagi and Mohsin Khan are both rapid, but the one that's most exciting is Umrn Malik. He bowled a 157kph delivery



against Delhi on Thursday (May 5), which is serious pace," wrote Pietersen in Betway Insider.

"It's amazing to see such bold and exciting talent on display, and he has a perfect mentor in the SRH dugout in Dale Steyn. There is no better man to sit with and talk about fast bowling. To me, there is no point waiting around. Malik should be in the reckoning for India's Test team, as well as white-ball sides. Nobody enjoys facing that kind of pace." Pietersen opined that Umrn can be employed in short 3-4 over bursts much like former Australian pace bowler Mitchell Johnson.

"You could use him like Australia used to use Mitchell Johnson, in short three- or four-over spells so that he can just let rip. If I was an India selector, I'd pencil him in for that Test match against England in July. The England batters are currently facing 70mph seamers in county cricket, so they certainly won't want to be facing 90-95mph bowling all of a sudden. He (Umrn) is a breakout star of this competition and India would be silly not to use him straight away," opined Pietersen.

My Focus Is Always On Economy: Rashid Khan



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Rashid Khan is enduring an ordinary IPL this year with the ball in terms of wickets, but the Gujarat Titans spinner is not too bothered about the scalps as long as he can produce economical spells for his team.

Rashid has so far claimed 11 wickets from as many games at an economy rate of 6.84, figures which definitely won't please him much.

But the star Afghan cricketer has taken it in stride.

"While bowling in T20s it's always great to take wickets but for me, it's a bit different because I always focus on economy and that is something which puts pressure on the batters," Rashid said at the post-match virtual press conference after GT's five-run loss to Mumbai Indians on Friday.

"But definitely compared to other IPLs, got less wickets this year. In a couple of games I didn't bowl as good as I should have. But that's T20, there is so

much for you to learn." Rashid had a good game against MI, picking up 2 for 24 besides collecting three catches.

But it was not to be GT's day as needing nine runs in the final over, they couldn't finish off the chase.

"Hardik and (Rahul) Tewatia's run outs were the game changers. That is the beauty of T20 sometimes you can score 9 off 2 balls and sometimes you fail in scoring 9 off 6 balls," Rashid said.

"There is a lot to learn, not to repeat the negative things which we did in the last few games." MI pacer Daniel Sams, who defended nine runs in the last over, said he was just trying to bowl his best balls.

"I was looking to bowl my best balls in the final overs, kind a change the length a little bit, keep the ball away and bowl nice and slow and got a little bit of dip.

"For me it was a good time to reflect on my performances, what I do really well and execute those on the ground," said Sams, who finished with figures of 0/18 from his three overs.

Chelsea Confirm New Ownership

Reuters

LONDON: Chelsea Football Club has confirmed that terms have been agreed with a consortium led by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly and backed by Clearlake Capital over the acquisition of the English Premier League soccer team.

The Stamford Bridge-based outfit announced the 4.25 billion pound (\$5.2 billion) deal for the reigning European champions in a statement issued in the early hours of Saturday, subject to receiving the required approvals.

"Chelsea Football Club can confirm that terms have been agreed for a new ownership group, led by Todd Boehly, Clearlake Capital, Mark Walter and Hansjoerg Wyss, to acquire the club," the statement said.

"The sale is expected to complete in late May subject to all

necessary regulatory approvals. More details will be provided at that time."

Chelsea said the new owners would pay 2.5 billion pounds to purchase shares while committing a further 1.75 billion pounds to invest in the stadium, women's team, the academy and the Chelsea Foundation.

The statement confirmed all proceeds would be placed in a frozen UK bank account and Russian owner Roman Abramovich, who is currently subject to sanctions by the British government, would donate all of the proceeds to charitable causes.

The announcement comes with just over three weeks remaining on the club's current operating licence, which expires on May 31.

Abramovich put the club up for sale in early March following his country's invasion of Ukraine.

Kohli, Williamson In Focus As SRH Take On RCB

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Two of world cricket's batting stalwarts Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson's woe-form will be in focus when Royal Challengers Bangalore and Sunrisers Hyderabad take on each other in a return IPL fixture here on Sunday.

Both Kohli and Williamson have struggled for runs in the ongoing season. While the Indian has scored just 216 runs in 11 games at an average of 21.60, the SRH captain has managed 199 runs from 10 matches at an average of 22.11.

Both the batting stars have failed to live up to the high standards they have set for themselves and the two teams will be hoping their star batters can snap the wretched run and provide more decisive contributions.

Kohli showed glimpses of returning to form in his fifty against Gujarat Titans. But he had a howler in the win against Chennai Super Kings in the previous game. After hitting three boundaries and a six, the former RCB skipper found it hard to hit big shots, relying on singles, which eventually led to



the run out of teammate Glenn Maxwell. While Kohli himself could only manage a 33-ball 30.

Williamson has been a consistent run-scorer, relying on timing and placement of the ball. However, he has failed to convert starts into big scores. The Kiwi's strike rate has been a dismal 96.13, and he, perhaps, needs to be more aggressive in his approach.

After a five match winning streak, the Sunrisers have slumped to three losses on the trot due to a variety of reasons, including injuries to their front-

line bowlers. They sit sixth on the points table.

Pace sensation Umrn Malik was pummelled into submission by the Delhi batters and the youngster might want to work on developing some variations rather than cranking up the pace every time he is hit for runs. Kartik Tyagi and Shreyas Gopal also need to get their acts together.

Incidentally, SRH's last win came against RCB when they bundled out the Faf du Plessis led side for 68 and the Orange Army will hope the team can fashion a similar result.

Delhi Capitals Aim To Solve Opening Conundrum Against CSK

Press Trust of India

NAVI MUMBAI: Delhi Capitals will need to solve their opening conundrum quickly and find an able partner to complement David Warner if they want to return to the top four in the IPL here on Sunday with a win against a lacklustre Chennai Super Kings, who are standing on the brink of elimination.

DC are currently placed fifth in the 10-team standings with 10 points from as many games after their 21-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last match.

Defending champions CSK, on the other hand, are mathematically still there in the tournament although their chances of making it to the play-offs are almost non-existent.

The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side is placed in the penultimate position with just six points from 10 games and need to win all its remaining games and depend on results of other matches to progress to the next stage.

Warner remains DC's top-scorer this season, scoring 356 runs from eight matches with his unbeaten 92 against SRH in the last match being the highest.

Skipper Rishabh Pant and Mitchell Marsh have got starts but have failed to replicate that into big scores and it's time the duo rises to the occasion.

On the bowling front, spinner Kuldeep Yadav (18 wickets) and pacers Khaleel Ahmed (14), Shardul Thakur (10) and Mutaizur Rahman (8) all have picked up wickets but they have been a little on the higher side of the economy rate.

While CSK lost key players Deepak Chahar and Adam Milne to injuries for the entire season, poor form of opener Rituraj Gaikwad and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who relinquished captaincy midway into the tournament, has added to the team's woes.

Ambati Rayudu, Dhoni, Shivam Dube and Moeen Ali have played some good knocks on and off but lack consistency with only Devon Conway turning out to be the shining light with the bat. The Kiwi has collected 144 runs from three matches he has played at an average of 72.

In the bowling front, Maheesh Theeksaana, Mukesh Chaudhary and Dwayne Bravo have



been among wickets but have leaked runs.

And CSK's bowling unit would look for an inspirational performance from any of its bowlers in the remainder of the tournament.

Asian Games Postponement: Federations Tweak Plans For CWG, World Events

Press Trust of India

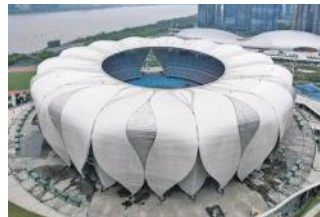
NEW DELHI: The Asian Games postponement has come as a huge disappointment for few athletes but it has also taken away the dilemma of National Sports Federations (NSFs), which were forced to finalise separate teams for Asiad, Brimingham Commonwealth Games and the world events.

The continental multi-sport showpiece, scheduled in Hangzhou for September 10-25, was on Friday postponed due to worsening pandemic situation in China, which is witnessing a surge in omicron variant cases.

NSFs such as Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), Hockey India and Archery Association of India (AAI) are now gearing up to field their best teams at the CWG and the World Championships in their respective sports.

Since the gap between the CWG (July 28-August 8) and Asian Games (before postponement) was little over a month, the sports federations had decided to send separate teams at these two big-ticket events and at the World events lined up this season.

This was because asking the



athletes to compete in back-to-back global events would have been very taxing for them. It was not ideal, physically and mentally, for athletes in tough competitions such as these.

Since the Asian Games also serve as an Olympic qualifying event for sports such as hockey (both men and women) and tennis (men's and women's singles), the federations had planned to send strong teams to Hangzhou and its 'A' teams to CWG.

The wrestling and archery federations had also planned in a way that their second-best athletes were to compete at the world events that are scheduled during the year and the best players would have competed at the CWG and the Asian Games.

However, now that one big event is off the calendar, NSFs have devised new plans.

Avinash Sable Smashes 5000m National Record In US

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Top Indian runner Avinash Sable smashed the 30-year-old men's 5000m national record at the Sound Running Track Meet at San Juan Capistrano, California in USA.

Sable, who also holds the national record in his pet event of 3000m steeplechase and competed in Tokyo Olympics, clocked 13 minutes and 25.65 seconds while finishing 12th in the American Meet.

The 27-year-old Army man from a humble family in the Beed dis-

trict of Maharashtra broke Bhaadur Prasad's long-standing record of 13:29.70s set in Birmingham in 1992. Norway's Tokyo Olympics 1500m gold winner Jakob Ingebrigtsen won the race with a timing of 13:02.03s.

The Sound Running Track Meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level event. Sable is known for breaking his own 3000m steeplechase national record multiple times. He did it for the seventh time during the Indian Grand Prix 2 in Thiruvananthapuram in March with a time of 8:16.21s.



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