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Despite Pandemic, J&K's Innovative Index Improved In Last Two Years

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir has registered a noted improvement in the implementation of innovative projects in the last two years. It was revealed by a latest report by NITI Aayog—Government of India's apex public policy think-tank—and the Institute for competitiveness.

As per the report, J&K has achieved 12.83 score in the India Innovation Index (III). Out of the nine UTs, J&K ranks 6 in the "UT and City states" category of III, the report adds. While Chandigarh is the best performer with a score of 27.88,



J&K's overall indicators have substantially improved. Karnataka has retained the top spot in the 'Major States'

category, followed by Telangana and Haryana.

Pertinently, this is the third edition of the report which presents

SEVERAL FACTORS AFFECT THE SCORES EACH YEAR. A missing value for one state affects the index score of other states/UTs. It's affected by missing values, reference year, normalization factor and consistent data collection."

an evaluation of the innovation readiness of states and UTs and highlights potential challenges that deter the government, businesses and individuals from fully realizing their potential.

The number of indicators has also increased from 36 in III-2020, to 66 in III-2021.

"Innovation is critical in

promoting the country's resilience and self-reliance," said Neeraj Sinha, NITI Aayog senior adviser. "The index points to the decentralization of innovation across all Indian states."

As per III-2019 report, J&K's overall score was 11.07, which saw a considerable increase in 2020 and 2021.

In 2019, J&K's score in the Enabler category was 16.45 and in 2020, the score increased to 26.83.

As per Niti Aayog, J&K's score in Enabler category was 17.35 in 2021.

The data also suggests that in 2019, in the performance category, J&K's score was 5.68 and in 2020, the score increased to 10.41. In 2021, the score was recorded at 8.30.

The latest report further added that J&K's 'Distance to Frontier' (DTF) score has improved by 8.84 in 2021.

"J&K alongwith Pondicherry and Lakshadweep could not push the bar upwards since their performance **More on P6**

Army Chief Visits Forward Areas Along LoC

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Saturday visited the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the operational preparedness, an official said.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) reached Jammu on a two-day visit on Friday and was briefed about the prevailing security situation, the official said.

"General Manoj Pande, #COAS visited the forward areas of Poonch & Rajouri Sectors and reviewed the operational preparedness along Line of Control. #COAS also interacted with all ranks & exhorted them to keep working with the same zeal & enthusiasm," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army tweeted.

The official said Gen Pande visited the headquarters of the White Knight Corps at Nagrota here on Friday and also visited the Akhnour **More on P6**

ADGP Vijay Kumar To Continue To Serve As IG

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Home Department on Saturday said that IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar upon his promotion as ADGP will continue to serve in the present position.

In an order the government stated that the post has been declared equivalent in rank and status to that of ADGP.

"In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Shri Vijay Kumar, IPS (RR:1997), IGP Kashmir, upon his promotion to the grade of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), shall continue in the present position, with the **More on P6**

BJP Scores Again, Dhankhar Elected V-P

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: NDA candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice President of India on Saturday as he defeated joint Opposition candidate Margaret Alva.

Dhankhar, a former governor of West Bengal, secured 528 votes while 80-year-old Alva got 182.

The numbers were stacked in favour of Dhankhar as the ruling BJP enjoys an absolute majority in Lok Sabha and has 91 members in Rajya Sabha. The BJP heads the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Even before the results were announced, celebrations had started outside the residence of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi where Dhankhar was present.

including nominated ones, are entitled to vote in the vice presidential poll.

While the electoral college comprises 788 members, due to eight vacancies in Rajya Sabha, the actual strength is 780. The Trinamool Congress had abstained from voting claiming it was not consulted while naming Alva as the opposition pick. However, two of its MPs -- Sisir Kumar Adhikari and Dibyendu Adhikari -- broke ranks and cast their ballots. The party has 36 MPs, including 23 in Lok Sabha.

The voter turnout this time was lower than 98.2 per cent recorded in the 2017 election when M Venkaiah Naidu was elected as the vice president.

The rise of Dhankhar, 71, to become the next vice president has surprised many.



Joyous scenes were also reported from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, the hometown of Dhankhar.

Soon after the announcement of the result, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Dhankhar and congratulated him.

Dhankhar, 71, will succeed M Venkaiah Naidu whose tenure ends on August 10.

As many as 725 MPs cast their ballots in the poll, which is 92.94 per cent of total votes, an official said, adding 15 votes were declared invalid.

Members of Parliament,

Dhankhar, who had been associated with the Janata Dal and the Congress, joined the BJP only in 2008 after a hiatus of nearly a decade when he concentrated on his legal career.

He has championed issues related to Other Backward Classes, including the grant of OBC status to the Jat community in Rajasthan.

The BJP described Dhankhar as "kisan putra" while announcing his candidature for the vice presidential election, a move seen in the **More on P6**



Thousands of mourners Saturday took out a procession on the seventh day of Muharram from Botraj Colony to Imambara Hassanabad after two years of break due to Covid-19 pandemic. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Govt Maintains Ban On 8th Muharram Procession

'Rerouted To Avoid Clashes, Prevent Secessionist Network From Hijacking It'

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday announced to continue the ban imposed on the traditional 8th Muharram procession through city centre in the larger public interest and to foil attempts of numerous groups "to hijack the processions to advance their objectives"

In an order issued here, the District Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said that the decision not to allow the

Muharram procession has been taken in a "larger public interest" and taking into account, among others, intelligence reports.

Earlier on Wednesday, the J&K and Ladakh High Court asked the government to take a call on Muharram procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate here, observing that it's the "domain of the administration, security agencies and other stakeholders to take a call on it."

A Shia trust through its Secretary Aga Syed Mujtaba had filed a Public Interest Litigation, seeking direction **More on P6**

Police Issues Advisory

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday urged people to respect the law and endorse rumors of 8th Muharram procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate that has been banned by the district administration. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that tomorrow's Muharram procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate has not been allowed this year as well. "General public is requested to respect rule of law and don't appreciate/endorse any rumour of Procession rally," he said. **More on P6**

Traffic Curbs Imposed In Srinagar

The traffic police on Saturday announced restrictions in this capital city to discourage the movement of people towards the City Centre in wake of administration's decision to disallow the 8th Muharram procession. **More on P6**

Communal Harmony On Display Muslims Transport Idols To Hill Top Temple In Bhaderwah

Press Trust Of India

Bhaderwah: Setting an example of communal harmony, Muslim residents of Kursari Panchayat in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda joined hands with Hindus in moving giant idols to an ancient temple here.

Six idols, each weighing between 500 kg and 700 kg and made of granite, were bought from Rajasthan to be installed at the recently renovated Shiv temple in Kursari, located at a hill top, three kilometres away from the Bhaderwah-Doda highway.

The Shiv Mandir committee was caught in a fix due to non-availability of a road, making the transport of the idols an uphill task.

Sensing the difficulty, Kursari Panchayat sarpanch Sajid Mir not only allotted Rs 4.6 lakh from capital expenditure budget for the urgent construction of a road but also asked 150 villagers from his community to help.

"This is our culture and these are our values which we have inherited. This is why we never fell prey to the nefarious designs of those who try to **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

796 Test Positive As Covid Peaks In J&K

The daily Coronavirus cases continue to surge in Jammu and Kashmir, as nearly 800 more people tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday, even as no fresh fatality was reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley registered 660 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Saturday while 136 others were reported from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 469041. In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar detected the highest **More on P6**

Pak Returns Body Of Drowned Teen

Pakistani authorities on Saturday handed over the body of an Indian boy who drowned in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and was swept across the border by strong currents, officials said. Zaffar Ahmad, 17, of Kalai village was taking a bath in the river on July 31 when he drowned. He could not be traced by rescuers, they said. The Army, which had also joined the police and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in the search operation, established contact with their Pakistani counterparts as it was believed that **More on P6**

Alok Kumar Takes Charge As Dir F&ES

ADGP, Alok Kumar on Saturday assumed the charge of Director, Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), J&K at F&ES Headquarters Gandhi Nagar here. On this occasion a warm welcome was accorded to the office besides Guard of honour was given to him. After assuming charge, Alok Kumar had a detailed round of office campus during which he took stock of facilities and other measures available there. The ADGP also interacted with the staff and other officers/officials of F&ES on the occasion. Deputy Director, FES, Command, **More on P6**

Old Shell Explodes In Budgam

An explosion took place in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. No injury or loss of life was reported in the incident. A police official said, a loud sound was heard in the morning by inhabitants of the Kralpora area of the central Kashmir district, where some families from the minority community also live. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) and a bomb disposal squad team visited the incident site, he said. "It seems some unexploded old shell in building material or **More on P6**

18 Injured As Mini-Bus Falls Into Gorge

At least 18 people, mostly students, were injured when a mini-bus skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Saturday morning, officials said. The mini-bus was on its way to Udhampur from Barmeen, they said, adding that the driver lost control over it and the vehicle fell into a gorge near Ghordi village. The officials said a rescue operation was launched immediately and 18 injured people, including 11 students, were rushed to the Udhampur district hospital for treatment. **More on P6**

Electricity Shock Kills Man

A sexagenarian man died of electric shock on Saturday in Dooru area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. 61-year-old Wazir Ahmad Beigh of Kachlgund Verinag got electrocuted when he was fishing with the help of electric current in Dahgam Nallah, an official said. He said that Wazir, who was a retired employee of JK(S) RTC, died on the spot. The official said that the body has been handed over to the family for last rites—(KNO)





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Smartphones Can Improve Memory Skills: Study

ANI

According to a new study led by UCL researchers, using smartphones, smart watches and other digital devices can improve the memory skills of a person. The research, published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, showed that digital devices help people to store and remember very important information. This, in turn, frees up their memory to recall additional less important things. Neuroscientists have previously expressed concerns that the overuse of technology could result in the breakdown of cognitive abilities and cause "digital dementia". However, the findings show that using a digital device as external memory not only helps people to remember the information saved into the device, but it also helps them to remember unsaved information too. To demonstrate this, researchers developed a memory task to be played on a touchscreen digital tablet or computer. The test was undertaken by 158 volunteers aged between 18 and 71.

Participants were shown up to 12 numbered circles on the screen, and had to remember to drag some of these to the left and some to the right. The number of circles that they remembered to drag to the correct side determined their pay at the end of the experiment. One side was designated 'high value', meaning that remembering to drag a circle to this side was worth 10 times as much money as remembering to drag a circle to the other 'low value' side. Participants performed this task 16 times. They had to use their own memory to remember on half of the trials and they were allowed to set reminders on the digital device for the other half. The results found that participants tended to use the digital devices to store the details of the high-value circles. And, when they did so, their memory for those circles was improved by 18%. Their memory for low-value circles was also improved by 27%, even in people who had never set any reminders for low-value circles. However, results also showed a potential cost to using reminders. When they were taken away, the participants remembered



the low-value circles better than the high-value ones, showing that they had entrusted the high-value circles to their devices and then forgotten about them. Senior author, Dr Sam Gilbert (UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience) said: "We

wanted to explore how storing information in a digital device could influence memory abilities. "We found that when people were allowed to use an external memory, the device helped them to remember the in-

formation they had saved into it. This was hardly surprising, but we also found that the device improved people's memory for unsaved information as well. "This was because using the device shifted the way that people used their memory to store high-importance versus low-importance information. When people had to remember by themselves, they used their memory capacity to remember the most important information. But when they could use the device, they saved high-importance information into the device and used their own memory for less important information instead. "The results show that external memory tools work. Far from causing 'digital dementia', using an external memory device can even improve our memory for information that we never saved. But we need to be careful that we back up the most important information. Otherwise, if a memory tool fails, we could be left with nothing but lower-importance information in our own memory." The research was supported by an ESRC grant and a grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Legrand Empowering Scholarship Program 2022-23

Description: Legrand invites applications from meritorious girl students who have applied to pursue B.Tech/BE/B.Arch., other courses (BBA/B.Com/BSc- Math and Sciences) across India. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students to pursue a career in Engineering, Architecture, Finance and Sciences. Eligibility: The scholarship is open to girl students across India. Applicants must be applying to courses in B.Tech/BE/B.Arch., other graduation courses (BBA/B.Com/BSc- Math and Sciences) in India. Applicants must have cleared their Class 12 in 2021- 2022 and scored 70% and above in their Class 10 and 12. Differently-abled girl students and transgender students shall be considered. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must be less than INR 5,00,000. Prizes & Rewards: Girl students are awarded 60% course fees up to INR 60,000 per year till the completion of course based on academic performance. Students in the special category will be awarded 80% fees up to INR 1,00,000 per year till the completion of the course based on academic performance. *Special Category: Differently-abled students/transgender students/students with single parents/students who lost their parents due to COVID. Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LFL5

Scholarship Name 2: Sensodyne IDA Shining Star Scholarship Programme

Description: HALEON India (erstwhile GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare) invites applications for the 'Sensodyne IDA Shining Star Scholarship Programme' to support meritorious and underprivileged BDS students across India. Eligibility: Open for students pursuing their first-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme only from government and government-funded colleges. Applicants must have scored a minimum of 60% in their Higher Secondary Education. Successful applicants have to maintain a 60% score in each semester/year to continue availing the benefits for their 4 years course. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 8,00,000. Prizes & Rewards: INR 1,05,000 per year, for 4 years Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SSPPS1

Scholarship Name 3: NSP Scholarships for Top Class Education for Students with Disabilities 2022-23

Description: NSP Scholarships for Top Class Education for Students with Disabilities 2022-23 is an initiative of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India to promote quality education among disabled students who are pursuing studies at the graduate/post-graduate/diploma level. Eligibility: Open for candidates pursuing studies at the graduate/postgraduate/diploma level in notified institutions of excellence. The candidates must have more than 40% disability and a valid certificate for the same and an annual family income of less than INR 6 lakh. Prizes & Rewards: Maintenance Allowance, Book Grant, and Disability Allowance Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2022 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/STC6

آہ! مرحوم علی محمد صوفی کی شریک حیات کا انتقال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلچرامرحوم علی محمد صوفی ساکن نیرک آباد شالیمار سری نگر موموڑ 5 راگست 2022ء بروز جمعہ المبارک کو اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ انشاء اللہ و اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَاِنَّا رَاجِعُوْنَ مرحوم صوفی سیرت بلند، زحش اخلاق اور صوم و صلوة کی پابند تھیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ اس سلسلے میں مرحومہ کی فاتحہ خوانی موموڑ 8 راگست 2022ء بروز سوموار کو ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع ڈبرہ ڈی نیرک آباد شالیمار سری نگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ سوگواران محمد شفیع، بیال احمد صوفی

Office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIT NO:- 06/SE/PMGSY/Bla/e-TENDERING-OF 2022-23 Dated: 03-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla invite e-tenders on Percentage Basis for the following work with 2 years DLP from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.

S. No.	Name of Work with Package No.	Tender Cost Incl. GST (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. in Lacs)	Time for Completion (Days)	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of Tenders Online (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
1	Renewal Coat / Macadamization of Road from Nambla A to Nambla B Package No. JK03-58, PMGY Division Uri	171.09	0.10	3.42	45 Days	1 st	17-08-2022 At 10:30 AM	"A" Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments

- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in from 04-08-2022 (05:00PM) to 16-08-2022 upto 05:00PM.
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in from 06-08-2022 (11:00 AM) to 16-08-2022 upto 05:00 PM. The bid uploaded on the Website upto due date and time will be opened online on 17-08-2022 at 10:30 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified, the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- Cost of Bid Form is Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) per package (non-refundable) only in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 05-08-2022 at 11:00 AM in the Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla at PWD (R&B) Complex Baramulla to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding Documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for Participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of document and bid security in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Demand Draft on account of cost of bidding document shall be pledged to Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar. The bid validity shall remain valid for a period of not less than 90 days after the deadline date of bid submission specified in ITB. The bid security should be in the form of BG/FDR from a scheduled commercial bank and be pledged to the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla payable at Baramulla and shall be valid for minimum 45 days beyond the validity of the bid.
- The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of cost of bidding document, bid security, Bank Credit facility and original copy of affidavits (e-stamp) must be delivered in the office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla at PWD (R&B) Complex Baramulla Kashmir on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
- The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3-Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as Non-responsive.
- The bidders are informed that failure to complete the work within the stipulated time shall result into blacklisting of the bidder for two years.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on same Web Site at the Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla, Engineering Baramulla Kashmir.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
- Note: The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.

No: SE/PMGSY/Bla/e-Tendering/740-52
Dated: 03-08-2022

DIPK-7526/22

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Superintending Engineer
PMGSY Circle Baramulla

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Shia Mourners shout pro-Islam slogans as Muharram Procession proceeds towards Hassanabad locality of Old City. KO Photo Abid Bhat

'Har Ghar Tiranga' Yatra Flagged From Polo-View

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a move to raise awareness and promote "Har Ghar Tiranga" Campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday morning flagged-off a mammoth 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Yatra from Sher-i-Kashmir Park, Polo View.

The Yatra passed through Zero Bridge, Rajbagh, Radio Colony, Jawahar Nagar, Wazir Bagh, and other areas in the vicinity and culminated at Youth Hostel Srinagar.

The Yatra was organized by District Youth Services and Sports Srinagar in collaboration with District Administration Srinagar which was participated by over 400 officials of YS&S Department working in Srinagar District.

The participants carried National Flags, Banners and placards, depicting the need and importance of celebrating 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. The participants also chanted slogans in order to inform general people about the campaign.



The participants carried National Flags, Banners and placards, depicting the need and importance of celebrating 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYS&SO) Srinagar, Balbir Singh along with other officers and officials of YS&S Department lead the Yatra from start to finish.

It is pertinent to mention here that DYSSO Srinagar has been at the forefront in conducting activities under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and other national campaigns.

DC Reviews Status Of Works Under National Clean Air Programme

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the Chairman of District Implementation Committee today reviewed the implementation and status of City Action Plan taken under National Clean Air Programme in a meeting held at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of Rs 5 Crore Action Plan (Part Ist) being implemented under NCAP for execution of various interventions including procurement of 4 Road sweeping or Vacuum Cleaning machines for regular cleaning of City roads; Procurement of 3 Jetting Machines for water spraying of City roads; Installation of 9 Fountains at major intersections/ circles and Installation of Air Quality Monitoring System in the City to ensure strict implementation of mitigation measures for Prevention, Control and Abatement of Air Pollution and to improve the Air Quality in the non-attainment City of Srinagar District.

The DC was apprised that 3 water spraying Jetting Machines and 4 Road sweeping/ Vacuum Cleaning machines have been procured under

NCAP. In addition, authorization for procuring additional 10 Road Sweeping machines and 10 water sprinkle machines from Solid Waste component under Swachh Bharat programme has also been granted.

Further, it was given out that tendering process has been completed for installation of the Air Quality Monitoring System in the City, while construction of fountains under NCAP at 9 important locations particularly at heavy traffic volume intersections is being carried out.

The DC emphasized on the need for proactive actions by concerned implementing agencies. He asked all the line Departments to submit detailed action taken reports regarding measures undertaken regarding Air Pollution Control were also discussed.

The DC also stressed on increasing green cover in the city through plantations at appropriate places and other locations to improve the air quality.

With regard to carrying of construction material by uncovered trucks and dumping of the same on roadsides, the DC asked the concerned authorities to conduct specific drives to curb such practices in the city to improve the air quality index in the City.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
08 Muharram
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :12
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:28
Magrib	7:30
ISHA	9: 01

This Day In History

- 626 - Battle at Constantinople: Slavic/Persians/Avarenavloot defeated
- 936 - Otto I the Great becomes King of Germany
- 1914 - Russia invades East Prussia
- 1925 - League of Nation advises against Turk/Iraqi division of Mosoelgebied
- 1927 - Peace Bridge between US and Canada dedicated
- 1933 - The Iraqi Government slaughters over 3,000 Assyrians in the village of Sumail. The day becomes known as Assyrian Martyrs Day.
- 1944 - US 3rd Army reaches suburbs of Brest, Brittany
- 1944 - IBM dedicates the first program-controlled calculator, the Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator (known best as the Harvard Mark I)
- 1956 - British government sends 3 aircraft carriers to Egypt
- 1956 - Dynamite transport explodes in Colombia; about 1200 die
- 1956 - 51-year-old Satchel Paige (Miami Marlins) wins a game before the largest crowd in minor league history, 57,000 at Miami's Orange Bowl; International League: Marlins 6-2 v Columbus Jets
- 1959 - Explorer 6 transmits 1st TV photo of Earth from space
- 1961 - Cosmonaut Gherman Titov circles Earth for a full day in Vostok 2
- 1961 - Soviet premier Khrushchev predicts USSR economy will surpass US
- 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1964 - Turkey begins air attack on Greek Cypriots

From KO Archives

Cong Unlikely To Extend Mufti's Tenure

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI - As the date draws nearer for Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to hand over the baton to a leader from alliance partner Congress, the party today sought to put an end to all speculation by indicating that the PDP leader would not be asked to continue.

Virtually putting at rest speculation that Congress might not be willing to take over the reins of the government after three years in November as per an agreement between the two coalition partners, a senior leader said the party would suffer if it did it.

"It will not go down well in the party," the leader close to J&K affairs said when asked whether the Congress would let Sayeed continue for remaining three years of six year term as has been suggested by some reports.

When the two parties forged post-poll alliance to form government in November 2002, they had agreed that one party would lead the coalition for three years and the other for rest of the term. Congress, with 20 MLAs in the 87-member Assembly, had then allowed junior partner PDP, with 17 MLAs, to lead the alliance in the first phase. The Deputy Chief Minister was from Congress for the first three years and from PDP for the remaining tenure.

Although some sections in the Congress are believed to be inclined to allow Sayeed to continue, the state unit of the Congress strongly disfavours any reunification move.

The state unit feels it was the much-awaited opportunity for the Congress to have its own Chief Minister and it should not be allowed to fizzle away.

On the question of whether the Congress had an appropriate leader to become Chief Minister, the party leader said there would be no problem on this count. The Congress leader, however dismissed possibility of Mohammad Shafi Qureshi or Saifuddin Soz be given the charge as had been reported in some sections of media.

The disadvantage with Soz's candidature is that he has joined the Congress only three years back after being expelled from National Conference. Qureshi also has been out of the party for a long time.

(Kashmir Observer, August 7, 2005)

Office Of The Chief Medical Officer Budgam

Subject: - Seniority List of FMPHWs District Cadre Budgam.

(Corrigendum)

"Please read date 03/08/2022 instead of 8/8/2022 in the 1s tentative seniority list of FMPHWs District Cadre Budgam issued by this office vide NO. 11046-60"

No.CMOB/Estt/ 11185-99
Dated: -04-08-2022

DIPK-7488/22

Dr Tajamul Hussain Khan
Chief Medical Officer, Budgam

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Pandit
S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Pandit
R/o: Shorgari Mohalla Nawa Bazar Sgr
Class of Contract: DEE Class Civil
Registration No: SE (R&B) SB-D-70 of 2015-2016

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: Development of Graveyard near Masjid Syed Toiba at Charamgari Mohalla Nawabazar W-47.

Whereas the above mentioned work has been allotted to you vide this Division Allotment No. SMC/ EELRWD/300 Dated: 12-10-2021.

Whereas you were required to start the work within 05 days after the issuance of allotment but you did not turn up for the same.

Whereas A.E.E Sub Division 3rd has reported that despite repeated reminders you failed to start the work Whereas despite lapse of 295 days, the work is still pending and same has been viewed seriously by the higher authorities.

Now you are given final opportunity to start the work within 3 days positively, failing which the work will be completed through other source under rules and action will be initiated against you under rules.

DIPK-NB-3005/22

No.SMC/EELRWD/1345-49
Dated: 03-08-2022

Sd/-
(Er. Sajad Ahmad Kawoosa)
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.



Regd. No. A-2586

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OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



“Thousands of teachers in private/PPP schools in India earn less than minimum wage, with no contracts, no benefits, irregular salaries, working in exploitative conditions yet trying to do right by students and communities; all in the name of efficiency + reduced public spending”
@sarkar_aaj

“Just vaccinate me for everything. Put me on one of those industrial conveyer belts and load me up”
@sesmith

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Stinking City

The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, is dressing-up for what the government has begun trumpeting as a tourist boom. The city’s civil lines areas and the Boulevard along the world-famous Dal lake in particular are getting a face-lift essentially to bring it in tune with its reputation as a beautiful place. Elsewhere too, way side market places both on Srinagar-Jammu highway and the newly activated Srinagar-Kaman Post sector of Muzaffarabad road, are getting a new coat of paint to lend them a better look. The tourist places like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Achhabal, Kokernag and the Mughal gardens wear a particularly festive look in anticipation of a heavy influx of visitors, domestic as well as foreign.

During recent months, the chief minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, and his tourist officials went places across the globe, even when some nasty avalanches had caused widespread loss of life and property back home, to invite the pleasure-seekers to the state. During his meetings with visiting dignitaries and diplomats here or elsewhere, he has been urging the western countries to withdraw the adverse travel advisories to their nationals to visit Kashmir.

Regardless of the hellish conditions obtaining at present as a result of the on-going turmoil, Kashmir is popularly known as the paradise on the earth. And, Srinagar as the city of lakes and gardens.

Understandably, the better part of the valley’s and city’s social and economic lot is inter-twined essentially with their beauty. Hundreds of thousands of people draw their sustenance directly or indirectly from the tourist trade and allied sectors. They comprise hotel and restaurant owners, tour and travel operators, taxi and shikara owners, ponywallas and labourers besides a host of traders and manufacturers including those in the handicraft and related sectors.

The number of families dependent upon tourism could be anybody’s guess. In fact, the state’s economy owes a great deal to this sector. Mercifully, the past couple of years witnessed some kind of a boom with even the available infrastructure falling short of the requirement and forcing the authorities to ask the inhabitants of various specified areas to throw their spare accommodation open to the visitors.

However, the atmospherics for ensuing season would seem to be not as inviting as one would perhaps wish them to be. The places that were considered to be almost entirely free for any kind of pollution, are

nauseatingly stinking. The city and most towns lack adequate sanitation with their civic bodies ill-equipped to match the requirement. In most cases they don’t have enough manpower and equipment for disposal of ever increasing quantities of garbage.

Absence of a matching drainage and sewerage system only aggravates the problem. Most drains and water courses are almost entirely choked with filth and polythene with the authorities preferring to look the other way. The number of public conveniences is abysmally less and even in civil lines areas people are founding easing themselves in the open on the road side. A solitary community latrine along Partap Park is a mute witness to the incapability of the civic administration to address the problem. Most roads, lanes and bylanes in the city and elsewhere speak

volumes about the official neglect. Barring a few arteries in the civil lines like the Maulana Azad Road and Residency Road, both having stood the test of time ever since these were renovated not by any popular

government but by a governor, most other roads in the city and in towns present a sight as if these have been strafed. Passage of a vehicle raises columns of dust to force the pedestrians run for cover. Watering of the roads is restricted to areas around the civil secretariat only.

Following the recently conducted elections, the city and most towns have full-fledged and upgraded civic bodies to take care of amenities for the citizenry.

The city has a municipal corporation with a mayor and deputy mayor in place. Likewise, major towns of Baramulla, Sopore, Anantnag have municipal councils and others municipal committees. Most such bodies are yet to become fully functional due to the dicey security scenario combined with the alleged apathy and indifference of the coalition government. One would expect the state government to take the matter more earnestly. Unless it staged the civic polls to achieve a limited political objective of claiming the revival of grassroots institutions as a mark of normalcy restoration, it should provide them the required wherewithal for becoming fully functional. Denying them the promised administrative and legal powers and starving them of the needed material and financial resources would suggest the government is not sincere.

All said and done, tourist arrivals alone need not necessarily make one look at the situation. The natives are no less human to deserve a better environment to live in. Nobody would like to breathe in ugly and messy environs of a place, whatever its reputation. On the other hand, improvement in civic life is not the responsibility of the government alone. Nowhere in the world is civic sense perceived as something exclusive to the administration. It has to be a combined effort of the authorities as well as the citizenry to make the environs clean. Before the valued guests start arriving, it is time for both the government and the people to rise to the occasion and launch a vigorous drive for the purpose.

The article is an editorial from KO’s archives and was originally published on May 16, 2005

Frozen Recruitment and Derailment of Ambitions

Shahnawaz Ahmad

The December of 2018 was not all about snowflakes, icicles and the bone chilling chilla-i-kalan. It brought with itself, what later came as a rude shock to the competent youth of Jammu and Kashmir who had invested their time, money and energy to secure their ambitions of contributing to the nation’s talented workforce in the education sector. This was the time when Satya Pal Malik; the last governor of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir who is popularly known for his “Fax machine hoodwink” that hit the thriller packed 2018 political discourse of J&K, passed an order that quietly axed to death the dreams and ambitions of youth aiming to contribute in education sector as teachers and lecturers.

Background

In December of 2018, the then State Administrative Council, popularly known as SAC and headed by Satya Pal Malik, passed an order that approved the earlier action plan (which was recommended by a committee) , in what it termed to streamline the issues of already regularised teachers in state education department. The order number 1263 GAD of 2018; Dated 13-08-2018 was approved to address the “grievances and immense difficulties” and “a host of other issues” faced by teachers which; according to the order, were directly or indirectly “impacting upon quality education” in government run schools.

The said order besides giving a “host of concessions and exceptions” paved way for hassle and competition free transition of already regularized Rehbar-e-Taleem (RReTs) teachers, besides creating a prized & separate level 5 cadre for their absorption; with 10+2 being the bare minimum criteria for such transition.

Besides the “arbitrary” concessions and exceptions, the order “froze” direct recruitment of teachers and lecturers through recruiting agencies with effect from December 2018 leading to dejection and dissatisfaction among deserving and competent teacher aspirants.

Ordered Injustice

Just a keen but unbiased read will tell how arbitrary and unjust the SAC order of 2018 is; all in its structure, existence and approval. The first argument is that by selectively closing doors for carrying out direct recruitment exercises of teachers and lecturers, the order has deprived the eligible aspirants who have necessary qualifications from their fundamental right to equality guaranteed under Article 16 (1) to participate in matters related to public employment. The SAC’s decision to twist and turn the rules of recruitment was to suit the agenda of the executive and hide its failure to frame a comprehensive absorption policy for regularized RReTs and teachers appointed under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, while at the same time keeping the doors for direct recruitment open. It had to be done according to a 50:50 ratio. By virtue of these concessions and relaxations, the then governor administration extended an olive branch to regularized RReT’s and SSA teachers but at the cost of disempowerment of thousands of youth who possess requisite qualifications and a considerable number amongst them having cleared national level eligibility exams like UGC/CSIR NET.

It should never be misconstrued that the aspirants pressing for revocation of the said order are per se against the regularization and cadre allocation to RReTs and SSA teachers but to freeze the entire direct recruitment process and hold hostage the degrees and hard work put in by thousands of deserving candidates, is something that will not be acceptable to tenets of transparency and justice in any sane society. It has given a widespread impression that merit and wilful intention to participate in completion are kept at back burner. Every year a considerable number of students pass teaching specific degrees viz, bachelors and masters degrees in Education (B.Ed and M.Ed) from recognized universities and their affiliated colleges but these degrees

have now been rendered useless. The freezing of teacher recruitment has defeated the very purpose of these “professional” degrees.

On the contrary, how bizarre does it sound when the SAC order of 2018 says that it will “encourage” the 7706 RReT and SSA teachers who DO NOT possess the “requisite qualifications” to acquire the same within time frame so as to “up-scale” them as regular teachers? To put it simply, either those 7706 undergraduate teachers have to take one time study leave or pursue their degrees through distance mode or in a phased manner just to meet the eligibility criteria; forget about advanced specialization. In any of the cases, the already strained education sector reeling under staff shortage will have to bear the burnt of this exercise. Moreover, to talk of “stipulated time frame”, it will be at least a decade before we see the undergraduates numbering 7706 passing out as simple graduates.

It won’t be unjust to call out the then authorities at the helm of affairs for making highly qualified and educated youth scapegoats because of their failure and gross inability to chalk out a strategy to streamline the regularization process of ReTs in consonance with the principles of natural justice. Teachers engaged as ReTs have always been at loggerheads with successive

The controversial SAC order of 2018 enjoys popular mandate from the teaching community, particularly from those who have been given the extended olive branch but popular morality and views of the majority do not dictate the constitutional rights. The injustice committed to hardworking, deserving and competent youth through execution of this unjust executive order is something that needs to be corrected without further delay

governments in the erstwhile state mostly over issues of regularization. Those issues are quite debatable but were never left at the disposal of best brains to decide their right and wrong sides. When SAC found nothing, it came up with the unjust order devoid of logic and justice.

Perception versus Reality – The Debate Continues

Three years have passed since the SAC order of 2018 came into force. “This initiative has been taken in the larger interest of teaching community and purely as a welfare measure”, read the order. If “teacher welfare” was supposed to be the only resultant purpose for implementation of the said order, then it will be correct to say that the order has served its purpose. But, in a welfare state like the one we are living in, the ultimate purpose of reformative measures taken in education sector should be student centered rather than being reduced to mere profit and loss mathematics vis a vis the employees and their employers.

Strictly speaking through a student centered perspective, the very purpose of the order where it claims to ensure (and streamline) quality education in government run schools has not been fulfilled. This claim can be validated from the fact that there is a dwindling trend of student population in government run schools that even prompted the authorities to call for immediate action against those responsible for it. The “devastating decline” in student enrollment has not only brought disrepute to the education department but has also defeated the basic purpose for which teacher centric welfare measures were taken. In 2019-2020 academic session only, the number of students in government elementary schools drastically fell by 1.75 lakh; a number that is enough to bust the myth of those who claim otherwise. The retention rate was just 84% at primary level, 64% at elementary level and 50% at secondary level.

Even government ordered merging of almost 700 schools reeling under disproportionate student enrollment and almost recording zero or meagre enrollment. It remains quite debatable if merging of schools will actually translate to something productive. The preliminary observations suggest otherwise. Moreover, for dismal performance who should be held accountable – the ball continues to swing between authorities and teachers.

But, with much to perceive, for a common

man, It is no rocket science when one tries to ascertain the reason behind these drastically low enrollment rates in elementary government schools most of which are in rural pockets where the very objective of creation of ReT cadre was to ensure universal access to students. Sadly, Satya Pal Malik did not bother to devise a roadmap on who is to be blamed?

The fate of private B.Ed colleges and why no one bats an eye?

If one thinks that it is only government run schools which are reeling under disproportionate enrollment ratios, then he/she is absolutely mistaken and has very fragmented idea on what SAC order of 2018 has done to private B. Ed colleges of Jammu and Kashmir. Once blooming with “more than sufficient” enrollment ratios, the B. Ed colleges of JKUT are now high and dry since there are very less takers for this course. Analysts believe that apart from extended course duration , the unjust SAC order of 2018 is to be blamed for bringing to grinding halt the otherwise busy classroom in B.Ed colleges.

The genuine hesitancy of graduates to opt for B.Ed is a result of the fact that in a condition where teacher recruitment stands frozen, the professional teacher training courses have lost relevance. Except for teaching, where does after-

all a teacher training course hold its utility.

The diminishing enrollment figures are disappointing to the extent that compared to earlier 500 students, the average enrollment in private B.Ed colleges now stands at 40 students only. The immediate fallout of disproportionate enrollment has led to job cuts in private run B.Ed colleges as a considerable chunk of staff has been laid off due to acute financial crunch.

In backdrop of this uncertainty almost 20 private B.Ed colleges have closed their operations sine die. The fate of their employees and employers; nobody knows?

Conclusion

The controversial SAC order of 2018 enjoys popular mandate from the teaching community, particularly from those who have been given the extended olive branch but popular morality and views of the majority do not dictate the constitutional rights. The injustice committed to hardworking, deserving and competent youth through execution of this unjust executive order is something that needs to be corrected without further delay. Like it was done, it can be undone too and there should be no hesitancy. To secure the future of those who believe in the tenets of welfare state viz, justice and equality; the lieutenant governors administration needs to reconsider and review the controversial SAC order much to the benefit and hopes of those who aspire to be future caretakers of education sector. By not giving the promising youth a chance to serve in their best capabilities, the then governors administration has self deflated its claim of being youth centric.

A welcome step would be to restore the earlier status quo of filling 50% vacancies through direct recruitment. This will ensure retaining the brain trust of the erstwhile state that had future of its fence sitters marred by nothing except violence & politics of failure.

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

The author is a student of politics and education. He writes on issues of politics, education, peace, conflict and science. Feedback shahnawazbhat239@gmail.com

China Diary: Keep Safe Distance

Neha Sahay

China has to be exceptional in every way. The country where the coronavirus originated, bringing the world to a standstill, is now stigmatising those affected by the virus. No other country is doing that today, a prime reason for that being the vast numbers affected everywhere. You can’t stigmatise lakhs of citizens across the country. But in China you can — because the number of those who’ve contracted Covid in the country of its origin remains small. Thanks to China’s zero-tolerance policy, entire cities go into lockdown to prevent one person from spreading the virus. Whole buildings are forced into quarantine if even one resident has been exposed to an infected person. One infected employee could mean the closure of an entire work unit. This stringent policy has resulted in very few Chinese actually catching the virus. The numbers are so small, they can easily be identified. One

wonders whether this kind of over-reaction to the virus has turned those affected by it into feared and despised carriers of disease. Could it be that they are also resented because of the terrible inconvenience they cause?

The stigmatisation isn’t just at the level of pointing fingers and avoiding people, which could be a localised, uninformed, hysterical reaction. It’s far more chilling: those who’ve had Covid are being denied jobs and there’s no subterfuge about it. Job notices mention that only those who’ve never had Covid or, more shockingly, never volunteered at a makeshift Covid hospital can apply. Thanks to the Health Code installed on everyone’s phone, it’s easy for employers to find out whether you’ve had Covid.

It’s ironic that this is happening in Shanghai, the most modern of China’s cities. The two-month-long lockdown that ended in June, seems to have scarred the city more than it did any other. Jobless because they contracted Covid, many young workers have also become home-

less. Some of them have had to move into Shanghai’s public spaces.

One young man, after being turned down by many firms, ended up working as a daily wage loader, all the while terrified that his phone would be checked and his Covid positive past revealed. Unable to carry on paying his rent, he moved with all his belongings in two bags to one of Shanghai’s biggest railway stations. To his surprise, there were already others like him there. One such woman had made the ladies’ toilet her home. She survived on cheap snacks and had discovered a free WiFi zone in the nearby airport which she could access without having to enter the airport. Another young man had helped build a temporary Covid hospital. Once his work was done, the employer refused to pay him the 2,000 yuan fare to go back home. Meanwhile, he tested positive, putting paid to all hopes of getting a job. Nor could he go home: his hometown made it mandatory for travellers from Shanghai to quarantine at their own cost.

Soon, these homeless migrants, many of them university graduates, began to be turned out of railway stations and mall hallways onto the streets. This was in spite of the fact that a heatwave was sweeping Shanghai, with temperatures going beyond 40 degrees Celsius.

These stories were uncovered not by the media but by a blogger. The resultant uproar led to an official directive against “Covid discrimination” and an amendment in the Health Code. Now, only the record of the previous two weeks is available on it, down from the earlier two months. Citizens had willingly installed this app to prevent the spread of Covid. But it ended up becoming a tool to deny them their rights in every way.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Telegraph India

PENMAN'S NICHE

S. Sarwar Malik

YOUR HAND FOR A KISS!

(Picked from the archive. Published originally in Kashmir Observer on 27.3.2007, this rendition of Kashmiri poem, titled 'Athas Keriya Meouth, addressed to/ dedicated to Poet-Laureate of Kashmir, Prof Rahman Rahi- GYAAN PEETH Award Winner) Behold!

Tonight
The raiment of night
Thrown asunder
The bedecked silvery Moon
In ecstasy
Comes to dance.
The Cypresses
Began washing
Their face
In all haste
With collected dew;
For daybreak call
Uphill runs
The moezzin+ Sun;
Shhhhhh!
Fairies are lined up
For a chorus
At Aharbal*;
And there come
The Poppy & the Daffodil
Swayed by desire
For an embrace;
Birds, in thousands,
Among flower-bushes,
Lyres, wait;
And a lilting love-song
Plays
On Laila's ++ lips
Today.
Blush of the Chinar+++
On autumn's face
O' pigeon's
Thumping heart
Open your eyes-
The Cuckoo says
Reveal the forest bloom
You were hatching
Till now.
Twigs may embellish
With blooming buds
Groom up your
Visions & thoughts;
Tangled bushes
May light up
In this sandy
Wasteland.
On hearing this
The ambience I viewed
---Anew---
And lost my calm
And found my heart
Say
Go and make your
Felicitation
Now.
A dream tiptoed in.
With
Hair let loose
On the breast of my Veyth++++
Willow branches
Alluringly play
With strolling water
Of my desire
-That gurgles now
With new found recharge
Of Raembi # torrent.
I raised my voice
And said:
Aba ##
Behold
A "bare mushroom head"***
Set to wash
"A Poem You Might Call It"****
Asking to allow him
To kiss your hand
-And be cured of
Stammer.

Notes :
(-herein above)
*Aharbal: Famous Water Fall, in Kashmir.
(-Quotes herein below are from the Kashmiri poems of the Laureate)
** "worne roess Baal e heudrah" akha...Refer page 42- Wozaan Pai chho Zolmaatte; Collection Siyah Rood e Jarren Manz .)
*** 'wochho---"Zan to akh Nazm", pannene oesh waani chhalaan"; page no's 217-225 of the Laureate's same collection.
(Other notes)
Moezzin = one who calls aloud, Muslims for congregational prayer.
++ Laila = Beloved of Mujnoon; who figures in the legendary romantic tale; literally lail = night.
+++ Chinar= Famous tree, known for its expanse, size, palm like leaves (-that change colour from yellowish green, green, fiery-red and brown in different seasons), shade and quality wood out of which high class furniture items & decoration pieces are made in Kashmir.
++++ Veyth= Ancient name of river Jehlum of Kashmir.
Raembi = Name of a fast swelling/ running stream of Kashmir.
Aba= Father in vernacular.

Hurr and Karbala

The following excerpt from Dr Shariati's book examines issues of fate, choice, and predestination as portrayed by Horr's decision to switch sides during the fateful battle

KO Web Desk

Horr (also spelled as Hurr, full name: Al-Hurr ibn Yazid al Tamimi) was a commander of the army of Yazid during the battle. First involved in fighting Hussein, Horr defected from Yazid's army, joined Hussein, and was killed by Yazid's forces.

The following excerpt from Dr Shariati's book examines issues of fate, choice, and predestination as portrayed by Horr's decision to switch sides during the fateful battle.

Horr was the name of one of the high-ranking commanders of the army of Omar-e-Sad who faced the grandson of the Prophet of Islam Hussain-ebn-Ali (AS), with orders from Yazeed-ebn-Muawiah to either get Hussain's (AS) allegiance for his corrupt Khalifat, or kill Hussain and all his friends. It was Horr and his army who first faced Imam Hussein, and then kept them under siege, preventing them from getting water.

On the day of Ashoura, Horr made a huge decision. Right before the battle started, he left his position and the army he was commanding, and joined Imam Hussein, and was the first to be killed in the way of Allah, by the army he used to be a commander of just a few hours earlier. The name 'Horr' means free, freeborn, noble, freeman.

The fate, sometimes, plays a game. The factory of creation, constantly producing uncountable things, stones, trees, rivers, animals, insects, human beings, sometimes shows a scene of humor, creates an innovation or an exception: it writes a poem, paints a work of art, does something unique. In one word, it can be said that these items have a 'character'. From among the houses, Kabeh, from all the walls, the China Wall, from the planets orbiting the sun, earth, and from all the martyrs: Horr.

The artistic hands of destination have composed this scene with utmost precision, and as if to emphasize the importance of the story, have selected all the characters of the play from the 'absolutes', to make the story most effective.

The story is about a 'choice', the most important manifestation of the meaning of human being. But what kind of choice? We are all faced with several choices in our everyday life: career, friend, wife, house, major.. But in this story, the choice is much more difficult: the good and the evil. And even so, not from a philosophical, scientific, or theological perspective. Instead, the choice here is between the truthful and the deceiving religion, between the just and unjust politics, with life being the price to pay.

To further emphasize the sensitivity of the situation, the author has not put the hero of this story in the middle, equally between the right and the evil. Instead, the hero is the head of the army of the evil. On the other hand, the director of this play has to find symbols for his story to make them most effective. Should he have Promete on one side and some demons on the other side? But this makes the story too mythical Spartacos and Crasios? no this makes the story nationalistic and gives it a class dependent nature. How about Ebrahim and Namrood? Moses and Ferozh? Jesus and Judas? no again, for most of the people these are metaphysical and heavenly characters different from common ordinary people. Having them as heroes reduces the effect of the story, and causes people to admire them, but never think about following their examples in their everyday life. However, the main purpose of this story is to teach, to show



the ability of the man to change, to show how it is possible for a common and even sinful man to reject all his social, family, and class ties and show a god-like change.

The history of Islam is full of contradicting features. The two lines starting from Habil and Ghabil, existing throughout the history side by side though in different faces, have also continued in Islam. Now, both these streams are dressed in Islam, but in opposite directions. Ironically, our hero is faced to choose between the most extreme ends in each of these parties:

Yazid, and Hossein.
Indeed, had this story been created by an author, he should have been recognized for his genuine and art

What is the name of this hero? For a historic figure, what is important is the role he plays, and not his name, since his name is something chosen for him by his family, according to his parent's taste.. On the other hand, if the story is created by an ingenious writer, he would choose a name which is relevant to the role of his hero. In this story however, our hero has been named by his mother, 'Horr', as if he has been able to foresee the sensitive role his son is going to play. And thus, when the Imam of freedom attends his bloody body, just before his death, tells him: "O Horr! God bless you! You are free both in this world and in the world to come, just like what your mother called you!"

Although Horr has played a unique role in the history, the essence of his role is not just confined to himself. The meaning of his action, in fact, includes all human-beings, and indeed defines 'humanity'. It is what distinguishes the human-beings from other creatures, underlining the responsibility of man with respect to God, people, and himself. And Horr has not played this with words and concepts, but with love and blood. If one grasps the depth of this saying from Imam Sadegh(AS) that "All days are Ashoura, and all places are Karbala, and all months are Moharam" one readily feels the extension: "and all human-beings are Horr!"

Our history, starting from Habil and Ghabil, is the manifestation of the eternal conflict between the two poles of God and Satan, though in each period of time these two poles have disguised differently. Therefore, in each period of time, every human-being finds himself just in the same position as Horr did: alone, in the middle, hesitating, between the same two armies. On the one side, the commander of the army of evil shouts on his soldiers: "O Army of God! attack!" and on the other side, an Imam, with a voice echoing throughout the history asks -and not commands- "Is there

anybody who wishes to assist me?" and you, the man, should choose.

It is by this choice that you become human. Before this choice you are nothing, you are just an existence without essence, you are standing in the middle. Thus, the man who has found 'existence' through birth, finds 'essence' through choice. It is by this choice, that the creation of man completes, and this is exactly when the man feels this heavy burden on his shoulders and finds himself alone, as God and the nature have left him on his own on this dangerous decision.

Now we can evaluate our hero, we can feel what a long journey he has gone through in what a short time, to change him from a Yazidian Horr, to a Husseinian Horr. If he stays with the army of Yazid, his world is guaranteed, and if he joins the small army of Hussain(AS), his death is eminent. It is the morning of the day of Ashoura, and although the battle has not yet started in the fields, Horr realizes that the opportunity would not last. Time goes by fast, and the moments count. The storm has already started within him.

From the beginning, Horr was hoping that the events would not lead to war, but now war seems to be unavoidable. Human-beings have limited capability in tolerating shame and scorn, except for those who are genius in this respect and can tolerate disgrace unlimitedly. Horr never had thought that being an 'employee' of the government of Yazid would mean collaborating in Yazid's criminal acts. For him his job was just a source of income without having anything to do with politics or his religion.

Horr now realizes that adding his position with his religion is impossible. Thus, hopelessly and as a last resort he talks with the commander of the Army (Omar-ebn-Sa'd) who like himself is reluctant to get in a war and has accepted the mission to become the governor of the province of Ray and Gorgan. What would then be better than coming up with some sort of a solution without getting involved in the blood of the grandson of the Prophet and his family.

Horr and Omar-ebn-Sa'd both have come all the way from the palace of Yazid to Karbala together and they share the same status and social class. Horr asks Omar:

"Can't you find a peaceful solution for this situation?"

"You know that if it had been up to me I would have done as what you propose, but your master Obeid-Allah-Ziyad did not accept a peaceful resolution!"

"So are you going to fight with this man (Hussein)?"

"Yes, by God, I will fight a battle the least consequence of which will be separated heads and broken arms!"

Now, it is evident that no longer can he play games with his religion. Now, the two separate their paths.

For Horr, Yazid's army of tens of thousand is now nothing more than a bunch of faces, without meaning. A crowd of men without selves, a group of people without hearts, those who shout but don't know why, fight but don't know for whom. Now the Jesus of love and conscience cures a blind and resurrects a dead, creating a martyr from a murderer. In a journey it is not enough to ask for the destination, but one should also ask from the origin. Thus, the length of Horr's journey becomes evident when one realizes from where he started, and to where he ended, all in half-a day's time. In his emigration from Satan to Allah, Horr did not study philosophy or theology, nor did he attend any lectures or schools. He just changed his direction, and it is in fact this 'direction' which gives meaning to everything: art, science, literature, religion, prayers, hajj, Mohammad, Ali. Having started his journey, and riding his horse, he slowly leaves his Army toward Hussain. Muhajer-ebn-Ous, who sees him agitated and worried asks:

"Whats wrong with you Horr? I am puzzled by your case, by God if I were asked about the bravest man in our army I wouldn't hesitate to mention your name, and now you are so disturbed and worried?"

"I find myself between the Hell and the Heaven, and I have to select between them, and by God I will not choose but Heaven, even if I were cut to pieces or burnt to ashes!"

The creation of Horr was completed and the fire of doubt has led him to the verity of certitude. He slowly approaches the camp of Hussain, and as he gets closer he hangs his boots from his neck, and keeps his armor down (as a sign of remorse)

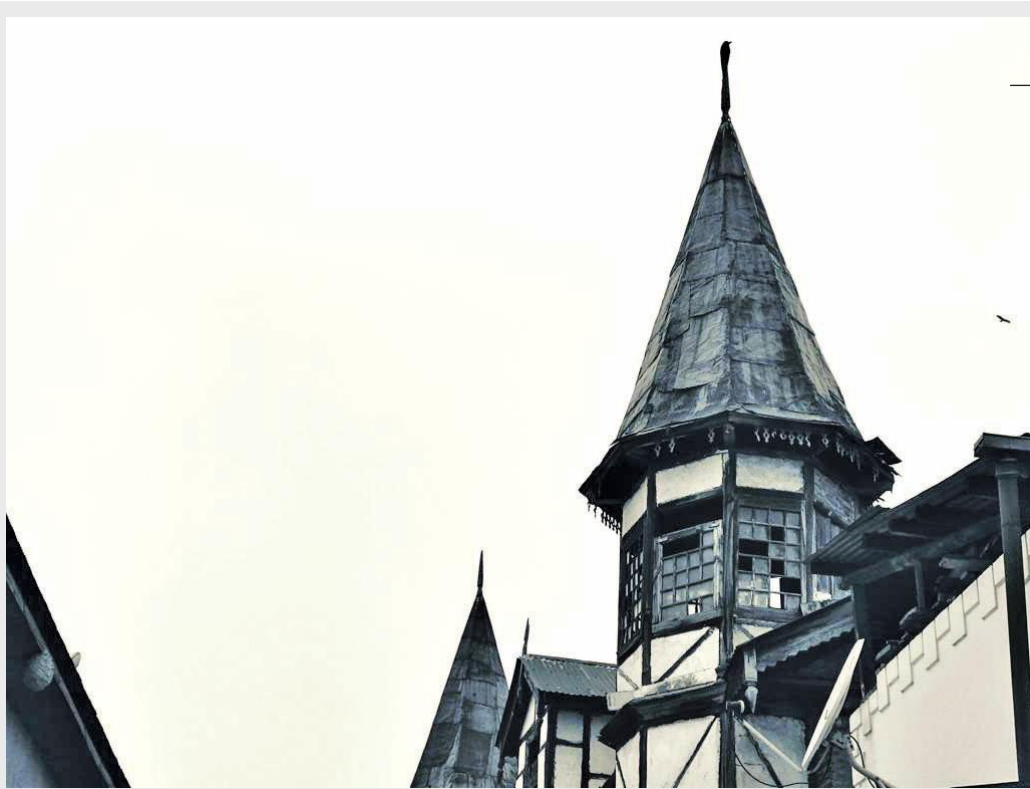
"I am the one who closed your path O Hussein (AS)" He didnt accept Hussein's invitation to rest for a while..

"Is there a repentance for me?" He can't wait any longer, he returns to the front and attacks the army of Omar with the most severe and bitter words, letting his ex-army and ex-commander know that he is no longer a slave, he is free, he is 'Horr'.

Omar-ebn-Sa'd, his ex-commander, responds by throwing an arrow and yelling

"Be witness and let Amir-ol-momenin know that I was the one to throw the first arrow at the army of Hussain!"

And this was how the battle of Karbala started



KODAK MOMENTS

An old structure rises to
the vision's delight in
Downtown Srinagar.

Picture Credits: Tooba Towfiq

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Explosive Situation In Gaza Following Friday's Bloodbath

Agenceis

GAZA CITY: Israeli jets have pounded the besieged Gaza Strip for a second day following a wave of air strikes on the coastal enclave that killed at least 15 people, including a five-year-old girl and a commander of a Palestinian armed group.

The fighting, which began on Friday with Israel's targeted killing of a senior commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, continued throughout the night, drawing the sides closer to an all-out war.

Israel struck Gaza and Palestinians fired rockets at Israeli cities on Saturday after an Israeli operation against Islamic Jihad ended more than a year of relative calm along the border.

Israel on Friday killed one of the group's senior commanders in a surprise daytime airstrike on a high-rise building in Gaza City that drew rocket salvos in response.

Also on Saturday, Gaza's sole power plant shut down after running out of fuel, an electricity company spokesman said, five days after Israel closed its goods crossing with the Palestinian enclave. Additional bombings targeted five houses, witnesses said, sending huge clouds of smoke and debris into the air as explosions rocked Gaza City. Palestinian militants fired at least 160 rockets across the border, setting off air-raid sirens and sending people running to bomb shelters as far as the central Israeli city of Modiin, between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Islamic Jihad said it had targeted Israel's main international gateway, Ben Gurion Airport. But the rocket fell short near Modiin, around 20 km

away, and the Civil Aviation Authority said the airport was operating as usual with flight routes adjusted.

Most of the missiles were intercepted and there were no reports of serious casualties, according to the Israeli ambulance service.

Friday's strikes killed more than a dozen Palestinians including 5-year-old Alaa, who lived in the Shejaiya neighborhood in eastern Gaza. Her grandfather Riyadh Qaddoum said: "What was the fault of this child? She was a kindergarten pupil who only needed a paper, a pencil and a school uniform." She was killed while playing in the street.

Israel launched the military operation, called Breaking Dawn, against Islamic Jihad on Friday afternoon with the assassination of Taysir Al-Jabari, a senior commander, in an apartment in Palestine Tower.

Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad, began firing missiles from the Gaza Strip toward Israeli cities and towns at 9 p.m. on Friday.

"The enemy bears full responsibility ... We will not be lenient in responding to this aggression, which represents a declaration of war against our people," Islamic Jihad said in a statement.

"We call on all the resistance forces and their military wings to stand in one front and one trench to respond to this aggression and confront this terrorism."

Hamas, which governs Gaza, has not officially announced its participation in firing rockets at Israel, but it has condemned the Israeli strikes.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said in a statement that this round of

Tayseer Al-Jabari: The man killed by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza

Agenceis

Israeli occupation on Friday afternoon assassinated Tayseer Al-Jabari, one of the most prominent leaders of Saraya al-Quds (the military arm of the Islamic Jihad movement) by bombing a residential tower in Gaza.

The bombing included several sites belonging to the Al-Quds Brigades.

Tayseer Mahmoud Al-Jabari was born on January 18, 1972. He comes from the Al-Jabari family, the same family as the martyr Ahmed Al-Jabari, the second man in the Al-Qassam Brigades, who was assassinated by the occupation forces in 2012.

The martyr's family lives in the Shujaiya neighbourhood (eastern Gaza Strip), adjacent to the Israeli security fence, which has been



targeted and destroyed in all wars and waves of Israeli escalation.

50-year-old Tayseer Al-Jabari is a historical leader and a founder of the Al-Quds Brigades. He was the commander of the northern

region in the Gaza Strip, in addition to his membership in the Supreme Military Council of the military arm since the martyrdom of the former commander Baha Abu Al-Atta, who was assassinated in 2019.

He was arrested in the prisons of the occupation for several years. He was also arrested by the Palestinian Authority security services several times after the Oslo Accords were signed with the occupation in 1993.

Al-Jabari was one of the leaders of the Al-Quds Brigades during the Al-Aqsa Intifada, and he led the file of the central operations of the companies in the Gaza Strip at that time, and he had unmistakable fingerprints on their development, and also assumed the leadership of the northern region of the Al-Quds Brigades during the battle of "Sword of Jerusalem".

fighting "is part of our great ongoing battle with the occupation, which will not stop unless the goals of our people are achieved with liberation and return."

Around 2.3 million Palestinians are packed into the narrow coastal Gaza Strip, with Israel and Egypt tightly restricting movement of people and

goods in and out of the enclave and imposing a naval blockade, citing security concerns.

Israel stopped the planned transport of fuel into Gaza shortly before it struck on Friday, crippling the territory's lone power plant, reducing electricity to around eight hours per day, and drawing warnings from health

officials that hospitals would be severely impacted within days.

Dozens of Gazans queued up in front of bakeries and grocery stores, fearing that the escalation could continue for a long time. "We couldn't sleep all last night. The shelling was heavy and the explosions were very loud, and we don't know how long this escalation

will last and how many days we'll suffer. I hope it ends soon," said Rami Khudair, queuing in a bakery.

Israel closed the Erez crossing for individuals and the Kerem Shalom commercial crossing last week, following the arrest of Islamic Jihad leader Bassam Al-Saadi in the Palestinian city of Jenin in the northern West Bank.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health warned that its health services would be suspended within 72 hours due to the acute shortage of medicines and medical supplies, in addition to the lack of fuel to operate electricity generators in Palestinian hospitals.

"The coming hours are critical and difficult," the ministry said in a statement. Egyptian, UN and Qatari efforts to end the fighting are underway. Further escalation would largely depend on whether Hamas opts to join the fighting.

On Friday night, the Israeli military said it had apprehended 19 Islamic Jihad militants in raids in the Israeli-occupied West Bank while targeting the group's rocket-manufacturing sites and launchers in Gaza. Gaza streets were largely deserted on Saturday afternoon.

At the site where Al-Jabari was killed, rubble, glass and furniture were strewn along the street. A neighbor, Mariam Abu Ghanima, 56, said the Israeli military did not issue a warning before the attack, as it had done in previous rounds of violence. A spokesperson for the military said it had made efforts to avoid civilian casualties in the surprise attack, which had used precision means to target a specific floor of the building, Reuters reported.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Despite Pandemic

increased marginally over the previous year and was largely restricted to the human capital pillar," the report observed.

"Although these UTs have their own start-up and innovation polices like Aspiring Pondicherry-Innovation & Start-up Policy 2019, J&K Start-up Policy 2018, these UTs need to pedal faster to match the growth of other UTs and not let their climatic or geographical factors hamper their growth."

J&K's efficiency ratio, the report notes, was recorded to be 0.478 and GSDP per capita (2019-20) was Rs 85219.

Further, in 2021, J&K's Human Capital was 22.70, Investment 5.7, Knowledge Workers 5.82, Business Environment 24.21, Safety and Legal Environment 28.28, Knowledge Diffusion 4.66 and Knowledge Output 11.94.

"The index also draws some international parallels, which will add to India's learning and how we can be on a par with our counterparts," Dr. Amit Kapoor, Chairman Institute for Competitiveness said.

Pertinently, in school education category, J&K's total Percentage of school functional computer facility is 23.68, NAS scores 31.60, Expenditure on school education as a % of GSDP 6.92, NER in school education 74.20, Accolades in STEM Activities/ 1000 Students 10.36, Pupil-Teacher ratio: Primary & Secondary 12, Percentage of schools having ATL labs 0.16 and Secondary school level completion rate 90.

However, to conclude, the report asserted that the scores and rankings are not directly comparable from one year to another.

"Several factors affect the scores each year. A missing value for one state affects the index score of other states/UTs. It's affected by missing values, reference year, normalization factor and consistent data collection," reads the report.

In this backdrop, distance to frontier becomes a useful tool to assess improvement in states over the next iterations of the report, it added.

Army Chief

sector in the outskirts of Jammu.

"General Manoj Pande #COAS visited @Whiteknight_IA and was briefed about the prevailing security situation. He visited the forward areas and complimented the commanders & troops for their professional standards, operational preparedness & ability to thwart any threat," the ADGPI had said in an earlier tweet.

ADGP Vijay Kumar

post declared equivalent in the rank and status to that of ADGP, till held by the officer," reads the order.

BJP Scores Again

political circles aimed at reaching out to the politically significant Jat community which had participated in huge numbers in the year-long farmers' protests on the borders of the national capital against agriculture reform measures unveiled in June 2020.

Dhankhar will take oath on August 11, a day after incumbent M Venkaiah Naidu (73) demits office.

From pasting party posters to evolving as an epitome of political and ideological loyalty who became one of the BJP's most visible leaders and later India's vice president, Naidu came a long way.

He entered into student politics through the ABVP and played an active role in the movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan.

Born in a humble agricultural family in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, Naidu has served as a BJP president, a union minister and a long-time Rajya Sabha member.

Known for his oratory skills, Naidu often uses interesting one-liners and rhyming phrases to put across his views effectively.

Not many know that Naidu translated former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's speeches for his audience down south.

As Rajya Sabha chairman, Naidu had to deal with difficult situations on various occasions, including protests in the House by opposition members on issues such as the now-repealed three central farm laws.

For Alva, the vice presidential election has been another comeback. Barring a brief lull in 2008 triggered by her standoff with Congress president Sonia Gandhi over the issue of family entitlement in ticket distribution, the suave and soft-spoken Alva's career has largely been a dream run.

She has had a political career spanning over four decades during which she occupied several positions, including a five-time Congress MP, a union minister and governor.

She congratulated Dhankhar on his victory. In the past there had been four instances when candidates were elected unopposed to the post of the vice president who is also the chairperson of Rajya Sabha.

In the 1992 vice presidential poll, K R Narayanan bagged 700 of the 701 valid votes while his rival Kaja Joginder Singh alias "Dharti Pakad" managed just one vote in his favour.

Govt Maintains

upon the State authorities to allow the Shia Community to take out the religious processions especially on the August 8th from Guru Bazar to Dalgate. The Trust had also sought directions to provide necessary security for the procession.

While responding to the writ petition, the District Magistrate Srinagar noted that in compliance to the Court communication, inputs were received from various law enforcement agencies, including the Super Superintendent of Police, (SSP) Srinagar regarding the Muharram procession on two particular routes.

The response from the DM reads that the intelligence inputs suggest that there have been clashes among the two communities which have resulted in breach of peace and threat to maintenance of law and order and also resulted in damage to public property and injuries to civilians and security forces as well.

"That it is witnessed from past instances/cases and upon analysis of reports/data with regard to incidents which have occurred during the Muharram, it is evident that not only there has been breach in peace & law and order," read the inputs shared by SSP Srinagar with the District Magistrate.

According to the DM, the inputs suggested that the "anti-national elements" are making every effort to exploit the situation for their "vested interest", resulting in law and order situations.

"Number of cases registered on this behalf reveal that during the past there have been incidents of violence during Muharram," the order copy reads.

"According to the police, the same is corroborated by reference to latest FIR No's 114/2021, 62/2021, 63/2021 87/2021, 39/2019, 87/2018 as such," it adds.

The reports to DM from the intelligence agencies also suggested that there are "numerous groups" have attempted to hijack the processions to "advance their objectives"

".. And the indication came from within the Shia Community at different times thereby disallowing the processions for the last 32 years on certain routes," the order reads.

It further adds that the Muharram procession on the routes mentioned in writ petition in Srinagar has not been curbed but rerouted to avoid inter community clashes and also to prevent the "secessionist network

from hijacking it."

"In the Srinagar city Muharram procession from Lal Bazar to Zadibal has not been curbed since 1990 and is facilitated by the District Administration by way of providing alternative routes backed by elaborate administrative and security support system," the inputs from the intelligence agencies provided to DM reads.

The DM thus notes that in view of the circumstances, in conjunction with the reports of intelligence agencies thereof, more particularly the security concerns of the District Srinagar with respect to the Muharram, the processions therein cannot be allowed on the Gurbazar toward Buchwara and Abi-Guzar towards Zadibal routes respectively, keeping in mind the public interest, law & order and security.

"Law & order and Security concern of the Union Territory is the top most priority of the Govt. of the Jammu and Kashmir keeping into view the larger public interest and safety of its citizens," the District Magistrate said.

Ashura that marks the martyrdom anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's family in the deserts of Karbala nearly 1400 years ago is commemorated for ten days of Muharram month annually by Shia Muslims throughout the world.

In Kashmir Valley, the Shia Muslims used to take out two major processions on 8th and 10th Muharram culminating at Dalgate and the historic Zadibal Imambargah respectively. However, after the onset of militancy, these two major processions were banned by the government.

8th Muharram procession was led by Ittehadul Muslimen patron Maulana Abbas Ansari while Ashura procession was led alternately by Shia Association and Anjuman Sharie Shiayan.

Traffic Curbs

"The 8th Muharram-ul-Harram (7th August-2022) procession has been disallowed by the orders of District Magistrate Srinagar. Multiple cut off's would be established across Srinagar City to discourage the movement of people towards City Centre," Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic City Srinagar, said in a statement.

The SSP traffic said that there will be no movement of traffic on Maulana Azad Road and Residency road.

"However, Medical emergencies will be allowed via Residency Road- Hari Singh High Street towards Jehangir Chowk," he said,

adding that all vehicles coming from South Kashmir will be diverted at Pantha Chowk / Peaks crossing via Bypass.

Similarly, Shah said that the vehicles coming from North Kashmir will be diverted at Parimpora towards Bypass.

The SSP traffic also advised motorists to avoid movement on the road stretch from Karan Nagar - Jehangir Chowk - M.A Road - Dalgate - Badyari stretch.

"General Public is requested to kindly avoid unnecessary movement in Srinagar City tomorrow to avoid any inconvenience," Shah said, adding "inconvenience if any is regretted,"

The advisory by traffic police came after the district administration announced to continue ban on the 8th Muharram procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate citing larger public interest and threat of the procession being hijacked by secessionist groups.

Police Issues

The police advisory came at a time when the district administration announced a continuous ban on the traditional 8th and 10th Muharram processions through the heart of this capital city.

Muslims Transport

divide us on the basis of religion. Today, we have again shown that we are united," Mir told PTI. Over four days, volunteers from both communities used machines and ropes to carry the idols to the temple, where they will be installed at a religious function on August 9.

"It is really encouraging to see the attention we are getting...The army's local unit of the army, road construction companies and civil administration also came forward and extended their full support," Mir said.

The Shiv Mandir Committee is all praise for their Muslim neighbours for their gesture and enthusiasm in completing the work.

"It is heartwarming to see the love and affection of our neighbours who gave us strength. We toiled hard over the last four days to manage the transportation of idols, which at one point seemed an impossible task," chairman of the temple committee Ravinder Pardeep said.

"I am really glad to see that our youngsters are beautifully carrying forward the ethos of communal harmony and mutual brotherhood, which shows we have successfully transferred the values to them," Haji Abdul Gani Mastana (75), a local, said.

The army's Rashtriya Rifles unit based in

Bhaderwah dispatched men and machinery to help the villagers as a goodwill gesture.

796 Test Positive

219 new cases of virus followed by Baramulla with 194, Budgam 81, Kupwara 66, Anantnag 41, Kulgam 29, Bandipora 16, Pulwama 7, Ganderbal 4 and Shopian 3.

In the winter capital, Jammu reported a maximum of 52 new cases of infection, Doda 23, Ramban 16, Udhampur 12, Rajouri and Reasi 11 each, Kishtwar 10, Kathua and Samba 5 each and Poonch 2.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4776 -2430 in the Valley and 2346 in Jammu, as no fresh fatality was reported on Saturday.

"Moreover, 668 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 205 from Jammu division and 463 from Kashmir division," they added.

Pak Returns

the body might have been swept across the Line of Control (LoC), the officials said.

The Pakistan army confirmed the recovery of a body on August 4. The Indian Army sent a message through a hotline for the return of the mortal remains, they said.

After confirming the identity of the deceased, they said, the modalities were chalked out and the body was handed over to the Indian Army in the presence of civil and police officials at Chakan-Da-Bagh crossing point on Saturday.

Ahmad's body was handed over to his family after the completion of formalities, the officials said. (PTI)

Alok Kumar Takes

R.K. Raina; Medical Officer, Accounts Officer and all ranks of FES were also present on the occasion. (ONS)

Old Shell Explodes

scrap there might have exploded which caused the loud sound," the official said.

An investigation into the matter is underway, he added. (PTI)

18 Injured As

The condition of many of the injured people is serious and one of them, Ashok Kumar (50) of Barmeen, was referred to the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu for specialised treatment, they said. (PTI)



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C I R C U L A R


88th Guru Dakshta Faculty Induction Programme
UGC - Human Resource Development Centre, University of Kashmir is going to conduct one month 88th Guru Dakshta Faculty Induction Programme w.e.f. August 23rd, 2022 in online mode via Google Meet Platform.
Newly appointed faculty members working on substantive basis in all streams from Universities, Colleges, N.I.Ts, and other Higher Education Institutions are eligible for the said course. The faculty members who are interested to attend the course are desired to register online at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGqpgfTG016TOgM2IHCTLuCFCIq24vhKJsn388vLGGb5Axuw/viewform?usp=sf_link
The desirous participants are impressed to pay their registration fee of Rs. 1000/- to:
ACCOUNT NAME: Director, Academic Staff College, University of Kashmir, Srinagar
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0007010100000807
IFSC CODE: JAKAONASEEM
BANK NAME AND BRANCH: J&K BANK, HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR
The participants are also requested to submit duly filled in enclosed application form (downloaded from: <http://hrdc.uok.edu.in/Main/List.aspx?Type=Download>) along with the proof of depositing fee at the office of HRDC, University of Kashmir by or before **August 20th, 2022** either in person or a soft copy by email to asc@kashmiruniversity.ac.in. Further the selected participants are required to submit the relieving order from their respective institutions before commencement of the course.
Due to limited intake capacity admissions will be given on first-come-first-serve basis.

No: HRDC/KU/2022/1744
Dated: 05/08/2022


Sd/- Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi
Director

DIPK-NB-3057-22

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT



**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION,
SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.**



CORRIGENDUM- II

The E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/44of07/2022 DT: - 05-07-2022 issued vide this office No: -PHE/MRD /TS/1314-18DT: - 05-07-2022 and published vide No: 2022_PHE_177703_2is hereby cancelled due to technical error in the Up-loaded BOQ and shall be tendered afresh in due course of time.

No:PHE/MRD/1714-18 Sd/-
Dated: 04-08-2022 Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar.

DIPK-7515-22

Amarnath Yatra

No Fresh Batch Of Pilgrims Leaves From Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: No fresh batch of pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas on Saturday, officials said amid a decline in the foothall of the devotees.

On August 2, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had appealed to the Amarnath pilgrims to visit the cave shrine before August 5 in view of a forecast of inclement weather and more rains.

The 43-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine commenced on June 30 on the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km shorter Baltal route in Ganderbal. It is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of "Shravan Purnima" coinciding with "Raksha Bandhan".

"No fresh batch of Amarnath pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the valley on Saturday," a police official said.

Sources said the number of devotees intending to undertake the yatra witnessed a substantial decline over the last week due to the premature melting of the naturally formed ice-shivling at the cave shrine.

"Over three lakh devotees from across the country have had Baba's darshan. Because of the rising temperatures, Baba does not have that form and the nature is also not supporting it.

"There has been heavy rainfall in many areas. I would like to request the devotees across the country, who are yet to have darshan, to come before August 5 as more rains are predicted after that," the LG had said.

Fifteen Amarnath pilgrims were killed and 55 injured in flash floods due to heavy rains near the cave shrine on July 8.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 360 pilgrims, including 145 women and 19 children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a fleet of 12 vehicles for the Buddha Amarnath shrine in Poonch district on Saturday, the officials said.

Central Bureau Of Communication Organises Outreach Programme At Leh

Observer News Service

LEH: Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India, Field Office, Leh today organized a Mini Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on the themes of Har Ghar Tiranga and Sabka Prayas - Celebrating 200 Crore COVID-19 vaccine doses.

The outreach programme was inaugurated by Sh. Ghulam Mehdi, Executive Councilor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh at the auditorium of Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh

The programme was aimed at mass awareness about the objectives and vision behind the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and to celebrate India's matchless achievement of administering 200 crore plus vaccine doses.

In his address the Chief Guest, Ghulam Mehdi appreciated the initiative of CBC, Leh in organizing the programme. Mehdi said, We're fortunate to be part of celebrations of 75th year of independence and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is an opportunity to pay tributes to the heroes of our freedom struggle". He said that the hoisting of tiranga shouldn't be merely symbolic but an embodiment of our commitment to continue the good work to make India a world leader in the next 25 years.

In his welcome address, Ghulam Abbas, Joint Director, CBC, J&K and Ladakh Region informed about the mandate of the CBC and various activities undertaken by the bureau for the mass awareness about various public welfare

schemes of the government. He added that Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is an opportunity to celebrate achievements and identify the unaccomplished dreams.

The programme was attended by Ms. P.D Nitya, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Leh, Shabir Hussain, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Deskit Dolma , District Immunization Officer, Leh and Principal Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh. Others present were Sh. Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, Leh, Sh. Sikander, Field Publicity Assistant, Srinagar and Ms. Tajamul Ara, Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Leh

SSP,Leh, Ms. P.D Nitya said that the present generation is blessed with a country that has started from a scratch to become world's largest democracy while many other nations which started their journey alongside India have struggled to uphold the democratic principles. Ms. Nitya said that youth will have to take the country forward through their contributions and in doing so they have to ensure that they don't only focus on their rights but take care of their duties towards society and country.

Speaking about the achievement of 200 crore plus vaccination milestone, District Immunization Officer, Leh, Dr. Deskit Dolma said that India has stood out from the rest of the world in fight against the COVID-19 by launching world's largest free vaccination process. She appealed to the youths to take vaccine shots and also encourage elderly family members to take precautionary doses being offered free of cost under Vaccine Mahotsav.

Light To Moderate Rain Likely In J&K: MeT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weatherman on Saturday predicted scattered light to moderate rains and thunderstorms in Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official also predicted similar weather for the subsequent two days.

Regarding minimum temperature, he said, there was a slight drop in mercury at most places in Kashmir and Jammu division.

Srinagar, he said, recorded a low of 19.7°C against 20.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.7°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital.

Qazigund recorded a low of 18.2°C against 18.3°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.4°C above normal there, he said,



as per news agency GNS.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 14.8°C same as on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort. Kokernag recorded a low of 18.1°C against 17.1°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 11.2°C against 12.0°C on the previous night. However it was 1.1°C below normal for the north Kashmir place.

Kupwara town saw a low of 16.7°C against 16.5°C on previous night and it was 0.7°C below normal for the place during this time of the season, the official said.

After rains with 21.0mm in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Jammu recorded a low of 24.8°C against 23.3°C on the previous night. It was normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 18.6°C, Batote 18.3°C, Katra 22.2°C, Bhardarwa and Kathua 23.4°C.

Two JKGF Operatives In Ramban Blast Case

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: With the arrest of two operatives of the terrorist group Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF), police on Saturday claimed to have solved a blast case outside a police post in Ramban district within 72 hours.

Two police personnel suffered minor injuries when unidentified militants hurled an explosive device on the police post at village Ind in Gool area on August 2 first such incident in over a decade in the area which had been declared "terrorism-free".

Two operatives of JKGF - Shah Din Padyar and Mohd Farooq of Gool - were arrested in connection with the blast outside the police post, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma told reporters.

JKGF is a Pakistan-sponsored organisation which came to light last year and is making repeated attempts to revive militancy in the Jammu region.

More arrests are expected after the identification of the person who was financing these two persons, Sharma said.

After hurling the explosive device toward the police post, the suspected militants fled the scene taking advantage of the darkness.

A case under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Explosives Act was registered in Police Station Gool and the investigation was taken up. Soon after the incident, security forces including police, Army and CRPF launched a massive joint operation in Ind and adjoining areas of Gool to apprehend the person responsible for the attack, the officer said.

During the investigation, she said Investigation Officer visited the spot along with the Forensic Science Laboratory team and collected several pieces of evidence from the scene of crime including the traces of explosive

sives and footprints of terrorists.

Also, a handwritten piece of paper was found near the post which claimed the attack and it came to fore that JKGF had claimed the responsibility for the attack, the SSP said.

Sharma said the investigation revealed that JKGF earlier used to have a presence only in Rajouri-Poonch districts and accordingly, Rajouri Police was contacted and the first clue came from there when it was informed that arrested Lashkar-e-Taiba militant Talib Husain, a resident of Draj-Budhal (Rajouri), had revealed that he had visited Gool in 2021 to give some money to a local person.

Acting on this lead given by Rajouri Police, an intense cordon and search operation was launched in Gool market area and after thorough search and linking of input, Padyar was picked up for questioning, the officer said.

She said the suspect was put to sustained questioning during which he confessed to the hatching of criminal conspiracy to the effect of reviving the militancy in Ramban by lobbying an explosive device on the Police Post Ind. After further questioning, Sharma said he disclosed the identity of his accomplice in the conspiracy as Farooq.

They used to act as handlers of the JKGF wherein

Grievance Redressal Camp For KPs Held At Mumbai

Observer News Service

MUMBAI: With an aim to provide convenience of delivery of services and on-spot redressal of grievances to Kashmiri migrants, department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) department, J&K in collaboration with JK STUDY CENTRE MUMBAI and KP organisation held an interactive session and grievance redressal camp for Kashmiri migrants here.

During the interactive session at Kashyap Bhawan, Marole, Andheri (East) here, Secretary, DMRRR, Nazim Zai Khan said that this interaction has been organised with an aim to have firsthand account of all the issues of migrants, listen to their suggestions and inputs for their welfare.

During the session, various issues pertaining to the welfare of Kashmiri migrants were discussed in detail and the Secretary assured the participants of timely resolution of all of their issues and concerns.

The Secretary, DMRRR on the occasion appreciated the role of JK STUDY CENTRE and KP organisation for ensuring collaboration between Migrants at Mumbai and J&K UT Administration.

He assured the Migrants that LG Administration under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary is committed towards delivery of services and mitigating all of their inconveniences.

Meanwhile, a grievance redressal camp was also held by a team of officers headed by Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K, K.K.Sidha accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Relief, D.S.Bhau.

During the camp, the team issued more than 200 Domicile Certificates, 103 Ayushman Bharat PMJAY Golden Cards and other 22 services related to ration cards besides grievances related to their Property, Land, Health and Education were also redressed on the occasion.

During the camp, Relief Commissioner said that the Department is working on using Information and Communication Technology to the convenience of Migrants as well as for online delivery of services.

The KP Organisation and JK STUDY CENTRE on the occasion expressed gratitude to LG, Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Dr. A.K Mehta and Secretary, DMRRR for this outreach programme which cemented their faith in the system which is connecting them to their roots.

Four Injured In Fire At Govt School In Rajouri

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four people suffered burn injuries following leakage from a LPG cylinder in a government middle school at Draman Samote in Rajouri district on Saturday.

News agency GNS quoting official sources reported that there was leakage in the cooking gas cylinder which sparked off fire, leading to injuries to a teacher, Mariem Begum daughter of Abdul Latief, Shanaz Akhter Shokat Ali (cook), Shokat Ali son of Abdul Hamid of Draman and Saleema Akhter wife of Mohamad Iqbal of Draman. The fire was later brought under control, they said.

Meanwhile, all the injured were referred to Community Health Centre Kandi from where they were shifted to GMC Rajouri for advanced treatment. Station House Officer Budhal Mustaj Ahmed confirmed to GNS that four people suffered injuries in the incident.



THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in>, Email: helpdesk@jkbopee@gmail.com



Subject:- Admission Notification for M.Sc. Nursing Courses, 2022.
References:- i) SRO 505 of 2019 dated 20-08-2019.
ii) SRO 640 of 2019 dated 24-10-2019.

**NOTIFICATION NO.053-BOPEE OF 2022
DATED: 05-08-2022**

Applications are invited from the candidates belonging to UT's of J&K/Ladakh who are eligible and desirous for admission to M.Sc Nursing Courses 2022 through offline mode. The selection of the candidates shall be Governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, SRO 505 of 2019 dated 20-08-2019 read with SRO 640 of 2019 dated 24-10-2019 and the Rules and Regulations there under, JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020, S.O 249 dated 23-07-2021 and subject to further amendments, if any, made by the Competent Authority/Govt., issued from time to time.

Eligibility:- Any candidate applying for M.Sc.Nursing courses shall be eligible, if he/she:

- a) is a Domicile of UT of J&K /Ladakh,
- b) has passed, B.Sc. Nursing/B.Sc. Hons. Nursing/Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing with minimum of 55% aggregate marks,
- c) should be a Registered Nurse and Registered midwife or equivalent with any State/UT Nursing Registration Council,
- d) has minimum one year of work experience after Basic B.Sc. Nursing,
- e) has minimum one year of work experience prior to or after Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing . Tentative Intake

S.no	Name of the M.Sc Nursing course/ Institution	Madre Meherban Institute of Nursing Srinagar	Bibi Halima College Srinagar	BEE ENN College Jammu	Rajive Gandhi College of Nursing Jammu	Stephens College of Nursing	Total
1	M.Sc. Medical Surgery	5	2	5	5	10	27
2	M.Sc. Obs. & Gynecological	5	2	5	5	10	27
3	M.Sc. Paediatrics (Child Health) Nursing	5	2	5	5	10	27
4	M.Sc. Community Health nursing	5	2	5	5	10	27
5	M.Sc. Psychiatry (Mental Health) Nursing	5	2	5	5	10	27
Total		25	10	25	25	50	135

Note:- Seats in the above institutions shall be filled as & when Board receives approval from concerned Universities/Competent Authority, pending if any.

Submission of Application Forms:
The interested candidates have to submit Application form Physically at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar (on working days only) alongwith the following self-attested certificates w.e.f. 09-08-2022 to 26-08-2022 (04.00 P.M):-

- (i) domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (domicile Certificate, if not issued , at the time of submission of Registration cum Application Form, the candidate can submit an undertaking certifying that he /she shall submit /produce the same at the time of counselling/admission). For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate.
- (ii) Desired qualifying marks card of B.Sc. Nursing /B.Sc. Hons. Nursing/Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Courses, whichever is applicable.
- (iii) Date of Birth (10th class Marks card/Diploma issued by the Board)
- (iv) Experience/work Certificate.
- (v) Registration Certificate.
- (vi) Valid Reserved category certificate, if any &
- (vii) Fee of Rs 1500/= to be paid through POS machine available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar through debit/credit card.

The Application Form shall be available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar and also annexed as Annexure "A" to this Notification which can be downloaded from official website www.jkbopee.gov.in.

However, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s) vide any order as may be issued by the Government subsequently.

Note:-
The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned University/competent Authority. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned authority/University notify the same, which shall govern the eligibility criteria.

Instructions:

- a) No under process certificate will be accepted/entertained;
- b) Original Documents as mentioned above required to be submitted in the concerned Institution at the time of Admission.

Mode of selection/Admission:
The Board shall fill up these seats on the basis of %age of final year marks scored by the candidates in the qualifying examination as filled in by the candidates in the Application form and on the basis of preferences filled during the time of counselling. In case two or more candidates having same Marks in B.Sc. Nursing/ B.Sc.Hons. Nursing / Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing, then their tie shall be resolved by considering their D.O B (older in age shall be given 1st preference) & in case of further tie, 1st alphabet of the name of candidate shall be taken into the account for selection.

Note:-

- I) Mere filling of application form shall not confer any right on the candidate(s) for admission.
- II) The Board has right to select /reject any application form at any stage, if found false/fabricated, without issuing any notice to the candidate.

E & O E

No: BOPEE/Exam- 13/ 2022
Dated: 05 -08-2022
DIPK-NB-3054-22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
ELECTRIC DIVISION- 1ST, SRINAGAR.**
Email: xen.ed1st@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 28/EDI.dt:04-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1st, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	Installation of HT/LT Poles at Syedpora, Darbagh.	2.93

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	04.08.2022; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	29.08.2022; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	04.08.2022; 16:00 Hrs to 29.08.2022; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	30.08.2022 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website http://jktenders.gov.in
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Treasury Receipt Only]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,900/= (Rupees Five Thousand Nine Hundred Only)

DIPK-NB-3048-22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

JKFA COA Announce 'Legends Match' On August 8



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The newly formed Committee of Administrators (COA) for Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Saturday announced a "Legends" exhibition match, which is set to take place on Monday, August 8 at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The match will be played under the floodlights, with kick off slated for 7:30 PM.

"A football match of legendary footballers of yesteryears will be played on 8th of August 2022 at 7:30 PM under floodlights at Synthetic Truf TRC Srinagar," COA Head, Bashir Ahmad Shah, said in a statement.

"This will be an event which

will attract lots of spectators and will see their favourites in action. All the members of football fraternity which includes players, coaches and lovers of football are invited to witness this historical match at the said venue date and time," the statement concluded.

Pertinent to mention that earlier this week, the COA was formed to look after the affairs of JKFA, which has been embroiled in controversy as well as an official investigation for embezzlement of funds.

The ten-member COA consists of members of former JKFA and National & International Footballers Forum (NIFF), along with two sports promoters.

Inter-College TT: Islamia College Lifts Trophy



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Islamia College of Science and Commerce on Friday lifted the Inter-College Table Tennis Tournament (Men) trophy at the University of Kashmir.

The final match was played between Islamia College and Gandhi Memorial College in which Islamia College defeated Gandhi Memorial by 2 games to nil.

In the first single, Tavqeer of Islamia College defeated Muzamil of Gandhi Memorial College by (11-5), (13-11) and (11-13), while in the second single, Muteeb of Islamia College defeated Imran Ali of Gandhi Memorial College by (11-8), (11-7) and (11-3).

Registrar University of Kashmir Dr. Nisar A Mir was the chief guest at the valedictory session,

while Prof Showkat Ahmad Shah, Dean Education, and Behavioural Science, was a guest of honour. Prof Gowhar Vakil, Dean School of Engineering was also present on the occasion.

Dr. Musavir Ahmad, who recently took over the charge of Coordinator DPES congratulated both the teams and assured full support.

Later, Dr. Nisar distributed prizes among the finalists and highlighted the sports infrastructure development taking place at the University of Kashmir for the benefit of the student community.

The tournament was organised by KU's Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPES) under the supervision of Amjad Qadir, Muneer Alam, and Surjeet Kaur.

Jammu To Host Maiden PGTI Tournament



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu is all set to host the first ever Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) Tournament at Jammu Tawi Golf Course from September 7 to September 10, 2022.

During the recent inauguration of Jammu Tawi Golf Academy at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, LG Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairperson of Jammu Tawi Golf course, announced the hosting of a PGTI Level tournament in Jammu.

The event has been made possible due to keen interest shown by Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, J&K under the guidance of Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and as per the directions of Lieutenant Governor.

The Commissioner Secretary, Tourism has reviewed the arrangements to be made for smooth conducting of such a big level event.

Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf

Course, Manav Gupta informed that the Tournament will be held at Jammu Tawi Golf Course from 7th to 10th September 2022 and titled as J&K (Jammu) Open 2022.

Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) is a governing body for professional Golf in India. PGTI is the platform for Indian Golfers to enhance their careers and finally go on to compete at the highest level in the European and US Tours.

PGTI is inducted as a member of the prestigious "International Federation of PGA Tours" and is acknowledged Worldwide as the official sanctioning body of professional Golf in India. PGTI has also been included in the Official World Golf Ranking "OWGR" System.

Jammu Tawi Golf Course, a full-fledged International Standard 18 holes Golf Course, has been chosen as the suitable venue by PGTI for this prestigious tournament to be held in the month of September.



TEAM INDIA REACHED 191/5 after 20 overs in the fourth T20I against West Indies on Saturday. The match is being played in Florida, US. Rishabh Pant top scored with 44 (31) while skipper Rohit Sharma made 33 (16). With this knock, Sharma overtook Pakistan legend Shahid Afridi in hitting most sixes in international cricket. West Indies legend Chris Gayle (553 sixes) leads the list with Sharma (477 sixes) in the second spot. Afridi had smacked 476 sixes in his international career. India leads the series 2-1. West Indies were 18/1 after 2 overs when reports last came in.

FIFA Threatens AIFF With Ban, Loss Of Women's U-17 WC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: World football governing body FIFA has threatened to suspend the AIFF and strip of its right to host the women's U-17 World Cup in October due to a third party "influence", a development which comes just days after the Supreme Court's directive to hold elections of the national federation.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the executive committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to expeditiously hold elections as per the schedule proposed by the Committee of Administrators (CoA), which is currently running the affairs of the national federation.

It took note of the fact that India is due to host the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup from October 11.

The elections were to be held on August 28 and the poll process was to start on August 13, as the top court approved the time-line prepared by the CoA. "...we kindly ask the AIFF to provide us without further delay with an official transcript of the Supreme Court's decision of 3 August 2022 by 17:00 hours Indian Standard Time on 9 August 2022," FIFA said in a letter



sent to acting AIFF General Secretary Sunando Dhar.

"Upon receipt of the said documentation and following its in-depth analysis, should there exist serious deviations to the aforesaid roadmap, we would submit the matter to our relevant decision-making body for further considerations and possible decisions based on FIFA Statutes, including the suspension of the AIFF and the withdrawal of the hosting rights for the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India."

FIFA made it known that it is against any third party intervention to the running of its member units.



"In this context, we would like to recall the AIFF's statutory obligations applicable to all of FIFA and the AFC member associations, including the obligation to manage its affairs independently and ensure that its own affairs are not influenced by any third parties (cf. art. 14.1.(i) and art. 19.1 of FIFA Statutes in conjunction with art. 15.4 of the AFC statutes)."

In the letter sent on Friday, signed by FIFA and AFC General Secretary Fatma Samour and Datuk Windsor John respectively, the world body said the Supreme Court's order "allegedly" resulted in deviations to the roadmap agreed upon earlier.

Liverpool Stumbles, Tottenham Impresses In EPL Openers



Agencies

LONDON: Liverpool had to come from behind twice to salvage a 2-2 draw at promoted Fulham on Saturday, largely thanks to new signing Darwin Nunez, after a performance that Jurgen Klopp conceded was well short of the team's standards.

Tottenham also conceded an early goal but came roaring back to earn a 4-1 victory at home against Southampton after a dominant display that hinted that Spurs are well gelled after a full off-season

under Conte, who took over as manager last November.

Newcastle, Leeds and Bournemouth also won in their league openers, while Everton hosted Chelsea in the late game.

At Craven Cottage, Fulham threatened to pull off a major upset as Aleksandar Mitrovic put the hosts ahead twice against Liverpool. But Nunez came off the bench to score one goal and set up the other for Mohamed Salah.

Liverpool nearly grabbed all three points when Jordan Henderson hit the crossbar in injury

time with a long-distance shot, but even Klopp agreed that a win would have been undeserved.

Newcastle beat newcomer Nottingham Forest 2-0 after Fabian Schar finally broke the deadlock with a shot into the top corner from just outside the area in the 58th, and Callum Wilson added the second.

There was a distinct American flavor to Leeds' 2-1 win over Wolverhampton at home.

Promoted Bournemouth beat Aston Villa 2-0 thanks to goals from Jefferson Lerma and Kieffer Moore.(AP)

CWG Cricket: India Women Edge England To Enter Final



Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: All-rounder Sneha Rana showed nerves of steel by choking runs in the death overs as the India women's cricket team pipped hosts England by four runs to enter the final of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Saturday.

Needing 165 to win, England were cruising at 132/3 after 16 overs, needing 33 runs off 24 balls for victory. But off-spinner Rana (4-0-28-2) made things difficult for the hosts with some tight bowling at the end, conceding only three runs in the 18th and nine in the final over.

England finished at 160/6 and even a last-ball maximum from Sophie Ecclestone couldn't save the day for the hosts with Harmanpreet Kaur's brigade earning a sweet revenge of the 2017 ODI

World Cup final defeat at Lord's.

If Smriti Mandhana's 32-ball-61 was a treat for the eyes, Rana, Deepti Sharma (4-0-18-1) and Pooja Vastrakar (3-0-20-0) didn't err in line or length under pressure.

The match seemed to have decisively tilted in favour of England when Harmanpreet introduced Shafali Verma, whose gave away 15 runs in the 16th over.

But Deepti and Rana collectively gave away only six runs in the 17th and 18th over respectively.

Pooja leaked 13 runs in the 19th over but the Mandhana-Taniya Bhatia combination pulled off a brilliant run out of the dangerous Nat Sciver to change the course.

It was then left to Rana to bowl at least five good balls that assured a medal for India in the inaugural edition of women's cricket.

Zimbabwe Beat Bangladesh In ODI For First Time Since 2013



Agencies

HARARE: Zimbabwe beat Bangladesh in a one-day international for the first time in more than nine years with one of its greatest comebacks.

Bangladesh was made to bat first and posted an imposing 303-2 at Harare Sports Club. Zimbabwe replied with 307-5 and 10 balls to spare, pulling off its equal third highest chase.

Zimbabwe lost its openers in the first two overs and was 62-3, but Innocent Kaia and Sikandar Raza both scored centuries — achieved in the same over — to lead their team to win the first of three ODIs.

Even after losing 19 straight ODIs to Bangladesh, victory was

no surprise. Zimbabwe won the preceding T20 series 2-1, its first against a full ICC member.

Kaia, playing his fourth ODI, accidentally ran out Wessly Madhevere while trying for a second single, and dropped Zimbabwe to 62-3 in the 14th over.

But he and Raza, in his 115th ODI, set about repairing the damage and counterattacking.

Kaia was dropped on 68 and 74 in the same over, and reached his maiden hundred off 115 balls. Two balls later, Raza got to his fourth hundred from 81 balls, the third fastest for Zimbabwe.

It was only the second time two Zimbabwe batsmen scored centuries in the same ODI. The last time was in 2004. (AP)

Juventus Vs Atlético Madrid Cancelled Amid Unrest In Israel



Agencies

TEL AVIV: A friendly between Juventus and Atlético Madrid scheduled to be played in Tel Aviv has been cancelled after an outbreak of fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinians, the two clubs said Saturday.

The game was due to be held at the Bloomfield Stadium on Sunday but the Italian and Spanish teams, along with

game promoter Comtec Group, decided to call it off "in light of the current security situation," the clubs said in almost identical statements.

Fighting between the Israeli military and Palestinian militants raged on Saturday, with Israeli jets pounding Gaza while rockets flew the other way, a day after an Israeli strike killed a senior commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. (AP)