

Transparency, Merit-Based Selection Is Our Priority: LG

Says JKSSB To Hold Deferred Exams Soon, 47 Employees Sacked For Anti-National Activities

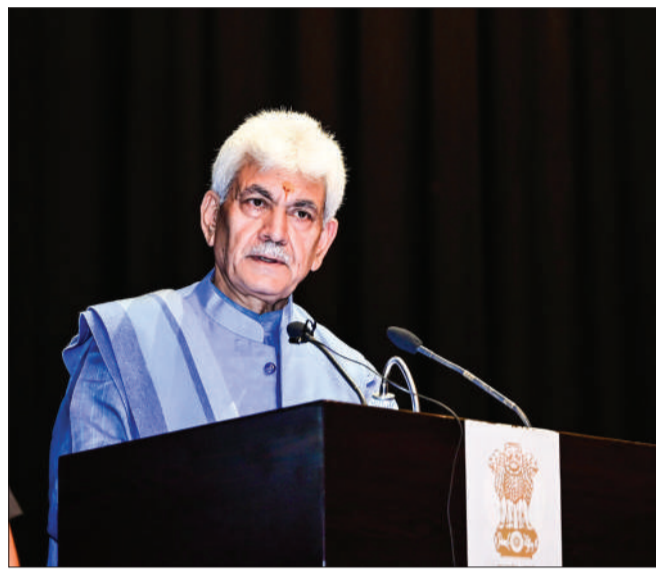
Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will conduct the deferred computer-based written tests (CBT) soon, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday, reiterating that transparent and merit-based selection is the top most priority of his administration.

He also welcomed the Rs 1.18 lakh crore budget announced by the Centre for Jammu and Kashmir and said this will help the "new J&K" to reach new heights of development.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the Chancellor's Trophy at the Jammu University here, Sinha said he stood by his statement that terrorists and their family members were provided jobs by previous governments.

"The examination (to fill vacancies in various government departments) has been deferred for the time being and will be conducted soon when the JKSSB will be completely satisfied (with the situation)."



the lieutenant governor said, responding to a question about the deferment of CBT, scheduled to be held from March 16 to April 5, by the government recruitment agency amid protests by job aspirants.

The job aspirants are on a protest over the past several days demanding cancellation

of the contract with previously blacklisted company APTECH, technical investigation into exams conducted by the company and a strong law against those involved in paper leak scams.

"I have time and again stated that transparency and merit-based selection of candidates is our priority. We will | [More on P6](#)

SI RECRUITMENT SCAM

BSF Officer Denied Bail For Fifth Time

The bail application of a BSF officer, the main accused in the police sub-inspector recruitment scam case, was again rejected by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday, the fifth since his arrest by the CBI in the matter in October last year. Justice Sanjay Dhar, while rejecting the bail application of Border Security Force (BSF) Commandant (Medical) Karnail Singh, said a person, who indulges in facilitating leakage and sale of question papers related to competitive examinations, plays with the career of thousands of young aspirants, and such an act is more heinous than the offence of murder. | [More on P6](#)

India Invites Pak DM For SCO Meet

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India has invited Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif for a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) next month along with his counterparts from other member nations of the grouping, people familiar with the development said on Wednesday.

The invite to Asif for the April 28 meeting was sent by India in its capacity as current chair of the eight-nation SCO, weeks after a similar communication was sent to Islamabad inviting Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for a foreign ministerial conclave of the grouping that is scheduled to be held in May.

"The invites to ministers and officials concerned of the SCO member nations for respective meetings are being sent as part of laid down norms," one of the people cited above said.

They said Pakistan defence minister Asif was sent an invitation through the Indian high commission in Islamabad for the defence ministerial meeting.

India is also set to send separate invites to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin for the annual SCO summit later this year.

The SCO member countries are India, Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan. While the SCO defence ministers' | [More on P6](#)

PAK POWERPLAY

Rangers Lift Siege Around Ex-PM Khan's House



Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: In a temporary relief for Imran Khan, a Pakistani court on Wednesday ordered the police to stop its operation outside the former prime minister's residence in Lahore to arrest him in a corruption case, amidst clashes between the security personnel and his supporters.

The Zaman Park in Lahore where Khan lives remained under siege for the last two days and the government sent the elite Rangers to aid police teams who struggled on Tuesday to muscle their way through a ring of enraged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters to

arrest party chairman Khan. The police, with their riot gear on, closed in on Khan's home to comply with the court orders to arrest the 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician in the Toshakhana case.

However, the police withdrew from the area after the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered them to stop their operation at Zaman Park till 10 am on Thursday.

The LHC summoned the Punjab inspector-general, chief secretary and Islamabad police (operations) head on a petition filed by PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry seeking order for the government to stop the police action | [More on P6](#)

I WILL NOT LIKE TO COMMENT ON SOME ALLEGATIONS. This is a reality that 47 people were dismissed from government service for anti-national activities. What I have said is based on reality."

G-20 MEETING

Bunkers In Srinagar Too To Get 'Fancy Look'



Auqib Javed

Srinagar: The district administration here is likely to introduce 'smart security bunkers' across the city ahead of the G-20 meeting scheduled to be held with much fanfare in May this year.

An official from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) told

Kashmir Observer that district administration will go for "beautification" of the bunkers in the city, especially around Dal Lake and the stretch from Srinagar International Airport towards the city Centre Lal Chowk.

He further said that the bunkers will be given a "fancy look" in the city. | [More on P6](#)

Situation Along J&K Borders Under Control: BSF

Press Trust Of India

Budgam- The situation along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir is under control and the border has been made impenetrable, but the BSF is alert and will be successful in foiling any misadventure against the country's security, a top officer of the force said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after a passing out parade of fresh recruits at the BSF's Subsidiary Training Centres (STC) Kashmir here, Additional DG BSF (Western Command) P V Rama Sastry said border guarding is a very important role for any country's internal security and the force has been playing this role very successfully.

"The BSF has been playing a very important role since 1965 and has been successful in meeting all the challenges.

"In today's situation also, the BSF is giving its contribution whether it is to stop the infiltration or take action against drones or in anti-tunnelling actions or in stopping smuggling, we have been | [More on P6](#)

Azad Promises To Secure Land, Jobs If Voted To Power

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Democratic Progress Azad Party (DPAP) will bring in a laws to protect land and job rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir if voted to power, its chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Wednesday.

The former J-K chief minister, who was addressing a public rally in Zaloor area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, said the aim of his party is the restoration

of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. "It is the basic fight. Otherwise, they will keep threatening us, taking away our lands, bulldozing our houses. So, It is very important to have our own government, chief minister, ministers and MLAs," Azad said.

Azad said if his party is elected to power, it would also enact a law in the assembly to provide land and job rights to the people of J-K.

"Article 35-A was taken away. There were two main rights for the

people of J-K because under that We have to restore land and job rights. But, that can be done only through an assembly, by passing a law in the assembly so that outsiders cannot get employment or land here," he said.

My party aims to get rid of poverty and unemployment by providing employment opportunities to the youth, Azad said. He said he and his party colleagues do not fear anyone and will rid J-K "of the currently prevalent system". | [More on P6](#)

S H O R T T A K E S

NIA Raids Multiple Spots In J&K, Punjab

The National investigation Agency on Wednesday said it conducted searches at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab in a militancy related case. According to a statement, in June 2022, NIA had registered a suo-moto case against OGWs and cadres of various proscribed outfits and their affiliates, who were operating under various pseudo names on the commands of their Pakistani handlers. In follow-up operations in 2022, the statement said, searches were conducted at 14 locations in 6 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar. | [More on P6](#)

Militant Associate Held In Baramulla

Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested an over-ground worker (OGW) of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Baramulla district of North Kashmir. During naka checking at Singhpora Pattan, security forces noticed a person wearing a 'Pheran' (traditional cloak) coming from Matipora side, a police official said. On seeing the naka party, he said, the person tried to flee, but the alert party chased him and he was apprehended tactfully. Seventy-one live rounds of AK-47 were recovered during the personal search of the militant associate who was | [More on P6](#)

Soldier Dies Of Heart Attack

An army man died after suffering a cardiac arrest in Sawjian area along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said Wednesday. Naik Sunil Kumar suffered a major cardiac arrest while performing his duty near the LoC in Sawjian area in Mandi tehsil of the district on Wednesday morning, reports said. A resident of Panipat, Kumar died even before he could be rushed to the hospital for treatment. Reports said that the body of the deceased soldier was handed over to his unit after medico-legal formalities were conducted at a civil hospital. | [More on P6](#)

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2

Mild Fever May Help Clear Infections Faster Than Medicines: Study

Press Trust Of India

It may be better to let a mild fever run its course rather than reaching for medicines, suggests a new animal study which found that slight temperature could help clear infections faster.

The study, published in the journal Immunology and Inflammation, shows that a mild fever helped fish clear their bodies of infection rapidly, controlled inflammation and repaired tissue damage.

"We let nature do what nature does, and in this case it was very much a positive thing," said immunologist Daniel Barreda, lead author of the study, from the University of Alberta in Canada.

"Moderate fever is self-resolving, meaning that the body can both induce it and shut it down naturally without medication," Barreda explained.

The researchers noted that health advantages of natural fever to humans still have to be confirmed through research, "but because the mechanisms driving and sustaining fever are shared among animals, it is reasonable to expect similar benefits are going to happen in humans."

The study suggests that people should resist reaching for over-the-counter fever



medications, also known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), at the first signs of a mild temperature.

"NSAIDs take away the discomfort felt with fever, but you are also likely giving away some of the benefits of this natural response," Barreda said.

The study helps shed light on the mechanisms that contribute to the benefits of moderate fever, which "has been evolutionarily conserved across the animal kingdom

for 550 million years," the researcher noted.

For the study, fish were given a bacterial infection and their behaviour was then tracked and evaluated using machine learning, a form of artificial intelligence (AI).

Outward symptoms were similar to those seen in humans with fever, including immobility, fatigue and malaise. These were then matched to important immune mechanisms inside the animals.

The research showed that natural fever offers "an integrative response that not only activates defences against infection, but also helps control it," Barreda said.

The researchers found that fever helped to clear the fish of infection in about seven days -- half the time it took for those animals not allowed to exert fever.

Fever also helped to shut down inflammation and repair tissues that had been injured, they added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides License under name & style Fuzail Pesticides Khurampora Shopian . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained .
Parvaiz Ahmad Ganie
S/o Ab Razaq Ganie
R/o Khurampora Shopian

fko

BEFORE THE HON'BLE

1) Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar.
2) Principal District and Session Judge at Srinagar ,
3) J&K Special Tribunal Srinagar

In the case of:-
Irfan Bilal Dar s/o Ab- Ahad Dar R/o Batmaloo Sgr. ...Caveator
Versus
Public At Large.

the matter of: caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC.

The caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveators may file an appeal/writ /revision or any other proceeding before this honble court on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked up story, therefore may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators may suffer an irreparable loss and injury which can't be compensated by any means later on, therefore it would be proper to put caveators on notice so that an opportunity of being heard is given to the caveators counsel Advocate Mohammad Younus bhat & Umar bhat Advocate mobile no :- 6006673466 , 9682546477 before passing any such relief/order, hence this caveat application.

nj

Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff Judicial Magistrate 1St Class At Srinagar

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKSG030071312023 Date of Filing 13.03.2023

Mohammad Yaseen Malik S/o Assad Ullah Malik
R/o New Colony Lal Bazar, Srinagar

Applicant

Versus
Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Mohammad Iqbal Malik S/o Mohammad Yaseen Malik R/o New Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar has born on 05-04-1988 and the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the Birth particulars, Mohammad Iqbal Malik, in the concerned register of births and deaths. Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 14th day of March 2023.

Sd/-
(AHTZAZ AHMED)
2nd Additional (JMJC), Srinagar

Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff Judicial Magistrate 1St Class At Srinagar

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKSG030070282023 Date of Filing 13.03.2023

Haleema Bano W/o Khazir Mohammad Bhat
R/o New Umar Masjid Drugian Dalgate Srinagar

Applicant

Versus
Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Khazir Mohammad Bhat S/o Lt Ab Razak Bhat R/o Near Umar Masjid Drugian Dalgate, Srinagar has died on 01-07-1996 and the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the death particulars, Khazir Mohammad Bhat, in the concerned register of births and deaths. Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 13th day of March 2023.

Sd/-
(AHTZAZ AHMED)
2nd Additional (JMJC), Srinagar

Before The. Hon'ble Court Of Judge Small Causes AT SRINAGAR

In the case of:-
MANZOOR AHMAD DEGLOO
S/o Ghulam Nabi Degloo R/o Safakadal. Srinagar
Through his mother namely JAMEELA BANO

Applicant

VERSUS
Registrar Births & Deaths.
SMC, Srinagar

In the matter of:- Application for recording the date of birth of the below named person.
May it please your Honour:

The application is submitted as under:-

1. That the date of birth of the below named person has not so far been recorded in the records of non-applicant as is evident from the N.A.C issued by non-applicant enclosed with this application.
2. That the applicant wishes to get the date of birth of below mentioned person be recorded in record of non-applicant and solicits application accordingly.
3. That this application is supported by duly sworn affidavit. In the premises, it is therefore prayed that the non-applicant be directed to record the following particulars of the below named son of applicant who is under disability.

Name: MANZOOR AHMAD DEGLOO
Sex: MALE
Father's Name: GHULAM NABI DEGLOO
Mother's Name: JAMEELA BANO
Date of Birth: 16/12/1990
Residence: SAFAKADAL, SRINAGAR
Place of Birth: AT HOME

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Registrar

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04. Applicant's father may not be a Govt, employees and a certificate issued by the concerned Tehsildar or District Employment Officer in this regard must be enclosed with the application form.
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06. Only the meritorious students on the basis of screening test will get admission in the Hostel.
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08. Age of the applicant should be in between 10 to 12 years.

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NOTIFICATION

Applications on prescribed forms are invited from the domiciles of UT of J&K / Ladakh for determination of sports merit desirous to seek admission in NEET MD/MS/PS - Diploma & MDS Courses for the session 2022-23 under Sports quota in terms of letter No: JKBOPEE/Exam-10/2023 dated: 10-03-2023 from J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations.

The forms duly numbered are available on payment of Rs 200/- in the office of Sports Officer (K), J&K Sports Council, Polo Ground, Srinagar & Sports Officer (J) J&K Sports Council, New Indoor Sports Complex. M.A. Stadium, Jammu from 15-03-2023 to 25-03-2023 during office hours.

The candidate who fulfill the following qualification/condition as prescribed in Government order No: 808-GAD of 2008 dated: 17-06-2008, 946-GAD of 2008 dated: 15-07-2008, 1090-GAD of 2008 dated: 14-08-2008 & 733-GAD of 2010 Dated: -24-06.2010 should only apply:-

i) A person who has represented India at the Olympic Games, Aslan Games, SAARC Games, Common Wealth Games or other officially recognized Test Matches/World Cup Competitions in any of the Games/Sports mentioned below.

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The other terms & conditions as enclosed with the Application Form will also be applicable for determining the eligibility of the candidates for grant of sports category weightage. The last date of receipt of Applications is 27-03-2023 during office hours in the office of the respective Sports Officers, Sports Council at both Divisions at New Indoor Sports Complex. M.A. Stadium, Jammu & Polo Ground playing field, Srinagar

No.-SC/491-NEET-PG/17193-17201

DIPK-NB-6770/22

Dated: 15-03-2023

SD/-
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از عدالت سبج میوہیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

بالجلاس مہرین مشتاق

Mohd Salam Dar

نام: محمد سالم دار

درخواست لغز اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوقات

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معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سائل سالک نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ وفات

نام: عبدالرشید بخاری ولد عبدالرزاق بخاری ساکنہ بابا پور جبہ کدل سرینگر مورخہ 02-03-2023

پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر پس پیم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 27-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدور

nj



Admin Intensifies Market Checking In Srinagar Ahead Of Ramadan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Food Safety Department Srinagar intensified market checking in various parts of the District and imposed fine on erring Food Business Operators (FBOs) violating FSSAI standards and regulations.

A special team of officers headed by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Yameen Ul Nabi, Designated Officer under FSSAI Srinagar on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad conducted rigorous market checking of various food business units including restaurants, fast food outlets, tea stalls and ethnic street food makers.

During the intensive market checking a fine of Rs 65000 was imposed on 34 Food Business Units operating in various areas of Srinagar for insanitary conditions and violation of Food Safety Regulations 2011.

In addition, 5 improvement notices were also issued to the dealers with the directions to take necessary steps to improve their premises/food operations as per the stan-

dards laid down in the Food Safety and Standards Act.

The team also conducted milk adulteration testing drives through Mobile Food Testing Van and about 23 milk samples were tested on the spot besides 11 legal samples of milk lifted for analytical purposes.

On the occasion, the team warned the erring Food Business Operators not to indulge in violations of Food Safety regulations and insanitary conditions which are against public health failing which a hefty compound will be imposed upon them.

The Assistant Commissioner Food Safety/Designated officer Srinagar stressed on sale of safe and quality food items, the said drive is being carried out to ensure all Food Safety Standards are practiced in letter and spirit.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on owners of all Business establishments/shopkeepers to ensure sale of safe and quality food items/essential commodities and make sure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates. He asked the Market checking teams to continue the drive.

G20 Summit

Div Com Kashmir Visits SKIMS, Kashmir Nursing Home

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of G20 Summit to be hosted in Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Wednesday visited Kashmir Nursing Home and SKIMS Soura to take the stock of health facilities and availability of equipment's and staff in the institutions.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Commissioner, SMC and CEO Smart City Srinagar, Athar Amir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ah Rather, Chief Engineer, R&B and other officers of line departments.

Div Com during his visit to Kashmir Nursing Home issued a slew of instructions to the officers to facelift the

outer boundary wall and entrance gate of the institute. He directed for replacement of existing Iron Gate and display board with new ones and instructed for installation of signages.

Div Com impressed the administration of the Kashmir Nursing Home to pace up the ongoing developmental and upgradation works of wards and theaters including tiling, painting of walls, installation of equipment, replacement of damaged windows and impressed for completion of the same before 31st March.

He also instructed CE R&B for black topping of interior lanes and parking space at KNH besides he asked for landscape development of the lawn.

To enhance the aesthetics of ambience, he directed color coating of rusted roofs of adjoining buildings.



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Sprawling ‘Badamwari To Witness Full Bloom By Next Week’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid an increase in the footfall of visitors at the sprawling historic Badamwari garden in Srinagar's old city, Authorities on Wednesday said there is around 60 percent of flower bloom in the garden and that the peak is likely to be witnessed by 'next week'.

Imran Ahmad, an official at the department looking after the city parks said the full bloom is subject to weather conditions and that the flower bloom on almond trees at Badamwari garden started in the first week of March.

"So far, there is 60 percent

bloom in the garden and if the weather remains dry and warm, we can witness the full flower bloom by next week," he said, adding the life of the flower petals is very sensitive and if there is wet weather, the flowers may fall down from almond trees, thus cutting down the lifespan of the blossom.

In an appeal, the official said the visitors should avoid littering in the green lawns and use dustbins instead. "Park is meant for people, and they can sit and enjoy but should avoid throwing any leftover food, empty bottles of cold drinks or juices or polythene inside the flower beds or green lawns as it takes us a full day to clean the area," he urged.

Badamwari garden is one of the major sources of attraction for nature lovers and tourists, especially during spring, when there is a bloom of flowers on almond trees here.

The garden is situated on the foothills of Koh-e-Maran and is spread around 300 kanals dotted with trees, flowers and cascades, providing a soothing experience to the visitors.

In summer, families from across the valley, mostly from the Srinagar areas, often visit the park in the afternoon and have namkeen (salt) tea with large-sized parathas fried in oil and the famous 'Nader Monje' Kashmiri handmade snacks.

J&K Bank Hands Over Branded Barricades To Traffic Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Collaborating with Traffic Police Department for better traffic management in Srinagar and Jammu cities of the Union Territory, J&K Bank handed over 200 branded barricades, 100 each in Jammu and Srinagar to the Traffic department.

In Jammu, General Manager and Divisional Head J&K Bank, Sunit Kumar handed over branded barricades to SSP Traf-

fic Jammu City, Faisal Qureshi in presence of Zonal Head Jammu, Rajesh Dubey besides senior officials from Bank and Traffic department.

In Kashmir, J&K Bank Zonal Head, Srinagar, Shabir Ahmad and Deputy General Manager Ashok Gupta handed over these barricades to SSP Traffic Srinagar City, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah in presence of Cluster Head Srinagar, Reyaz Ahmad Wani and senior officials from

both the organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, GM & Divisional Head Jammu, Sunit Kumar said, "As a responsible financial institution, J&K Bank feels pleased to collaborate with an organization that remains committed to efficient management of public-traffic across the UT. And towards achieving greater common good, we shall continue to extend our support to institutions for initiatives aimed at public welfare."

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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

<div></div> <div>HIJRI CALENDAR</div> <div>23 Shaban 1444</div>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5 :18
	ZUHR	12:40
	ASR	4:56
	Magrib	6:42
	ISHA	8: 02

This Day In History

- 1527 - Battle of Khanua: Mughal Emperor Babur defeats Raimput forces led by Rana Sanga consolidating Mughal power
- 1731 - Treaty of Vienna signed by Prince Eugene of Savoy, Count Sinzendorf and Count Gundacker, Thomas Stahremberg and the British envoy to Vienna, Sir Thomas Robinson.
- AssassinationAssassination of King Gustav III
- 1862 - Battle at Pound Gap, Kentucky: Confederates separate battles
- 1865 - Battle of Averasboro North Carolina (1,500 casualties)
- 1867 - First publication of an article by Joseph Lister outlining the discovery of antiseptic surgery, in "The Lancet"
- 1871 - 1st fertilizer law enacted
- rediscovers the bronze age city of Knossos in Crete, home of the legendary Minotaur
- 1917 - Russian Grand Duke Michael, brother of Tsar Nicholas II declines the Russian throne
- 1921 - Britain signs a trade agreement with the USSR and sends a trade mission to Moscow: this goes against the US, who in the same month refused to sign a trade agreement
- 1922 - Egypt achieves independence from Britain, but British troops remain

From KO Archives

Vajpayee Is The Prime Minister

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The soft spoken and moderate face of the right wing Bhartiya Janata Party, Atal Behari Vajpayee is the next prime minister of India. The president K Narayanan, late tonight formally appointed Vajpayee as the prime minister, after Congress president Sonia Gandhi expressed her inability to stake claim to the power as the party didn't have the requisite number to form a government on its own, though "informal consultations" were going on with the like-minded parties. However what seems to have prompted the president to invite Vajpayee to form the government was the statement made by United Front leader and president of Tamil Manila Congress (TMC) GK Moopanar, that the UP had "no role to play in the formation of the government at the center" as the Congress decided against staking the claim for the same.

"Right now OF has virtually no role", Moopanar told newsmen after an hour long meeting of the OF leaders held at prime minister I K Gujral's residence, 7, Race Course Road.

The swearing in ceremony of Vajpayee led government is scheduled to take place on Thursday, March, 19, the prime minister designate told reporters after his meeting with the president. The president has asked Vajpayee to prove his majority within 10 days of being sworn in. Last time Vajpayee was given 13 days' time to prove his majority, which he failed to do and had to resign in a huff. Vajpayee said he would consult his party colleagues and allies on composition of his cabinet and its size.

The number of MPs supporting BJP led coalition comes to just 264, which is short of the half way mark in the house of 539. However when seen in the context of the decision taken by Telugu Desam Party (TDP), to remain neutral when the heads will be counted, the number of 264 does cross that limit required for a simple majority for the BJP led coalition.

Meanwhile, in a volte-face, AIADMK and two of its allies today decided to join a BJP-led coalition ministry at the Centre clearing any last minute hitch which may come in the way of President K.R. Narayanan inviting A.B. Vajpayee to head the next government.

BJP prime ministerial candidate Vajpayee's special emissary Jaswant Singh, who air dashed to Chennai successfully persuaded AIADMK general secretary Jayalalitha to change her mind about not joining the government and extending unconditional support to the BJP.

Congress tonight "accepted" President K.R. Narayanan's decision to invite BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee to form the government but made it clear that it would attempt to defeat the coalition during the confidence motion.

Asked to comment on the development, party spokesman V.N. Gadgil said the president has gone by the text-book and as per Supreme Court judgement of inviting the single largest party to form the government.

"We accept the president's decision. But we will try to defeat the government during the confidence motion."

Meanwhile CPM has charged BJP with going to "any extent" for the sake of power and said it would be difficult for BJP to run a government with its allies laying down various conditions.

Reacting to AIADMK supreme Jayalalitha's decision to join a BJP-led government, CPIM general secretary Harkishan Singh Surjeet said "it is clear that BJP is going to any extent for grabbing power."

(Kashmir Observer, 16 March, 1998)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notification is for the information of general public that during the course of COVID 19 my wards were admitted in Al-Misbah School Papachan Bandipora but unfortunately the private school authorities registered them by their nick names. The same nick names also got reflected in their Adhar cards also as the same were taken from the school. Now I, Pz Rayees Ahmad Shah, the father of these children want to change the names of my daughters in school records and in Adhar cards from their nick names to their original names as mentioned.

School Name	Nick name as registered in School / Adhar records	Original Name to be registered	DOB	Class
Al- Misbah Papachan Bandipora	Pirzada Ifra	Afra Binti Rayees	08.03.2012	6th
	Aneeqa Rayees	Aiza Binti Rayees	15.02.2014	4th

Anybody having any sort of objection may contact on the following address as mentioned within 07 days. No objection shall be entertained after the due date.

Name: Pz Rayees Ahmad Shah
R/O: Papachan Bandipora
ell No. 7006180151

bb

Before The Hon'ble Principal District Judge At Srinagar

In the case of:-Mst Suriya Altaf, Wife of Altaf Hussian Shah R/o Habak Hazratbal & S/A Syed Colony Habak Srinagar

CAVEATOR

VERSUS
Public at large

NON-CAVEATOR

In the matter of:-Petition in terms of Section 148-A CPC.

May it please your honour,
The caveator submits as under:-

The Caveator has reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before this Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at the back /in exparte against the caveator and in such eventuality, the caveator will be put to irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate
Peer Majid Hamid & Associates

NJ

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KASHMIR OBSERVER

Thursday | 16-03-2023

Pakistan On
The Brink

Pakistan Police and supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan have been clashing outside his residence in Lahore over the last two days, ahead of his arrest. Khan is facing arrest after being convicted by the court in October last year for unlawfully selling gifts from Toshakhana (treasure house) to foreign dignitaries. But the reason for the arrest has become beside the point here. Truth is that Khan has become immensely popular in the country after he lost power in a vote of no-confidence last year. Khan has been claiming his government was toppled by the United States miffed with his growing closeness to Russia and China. He has been demanding the resignation of the government and the holding of the fresh elections. Last year, soon after his ouster, Khan has held successive mass rallies to force the government out of power. While the Pakistan government, backed by the military establishment, is unlikely to resign in the near term, Khan's stubborn political campaign has destabilized the country. At the same time, his popularity has skyrocketed and in case of an election, he is expected to return to power with a landslide majority.

However, Pakistan is not only facing a political turmoil. Over the last two years, the country has careened from crisis to crisis: political, economic and on a security front. Pakistan economy is on the verge of a default with agreement with the International Monetary Fund far from being concluded. The IMF is putting stringent conditions before it advances loan to bail out the country.

On the other hand, after a relative peace for some years, Tehreek Taliban Pakistan has again become a major security challenge for Pakistan. In recent months, the TTP has mounted several daredevil attacks on Pakistan's security installations. This, in turn, has also spoiled Pakistan's relations with the Taliban government in Afghanistan, otherwise considered Islamabad's allies. Ongoing economic and political turmoil have only compounded the country's mounting security challenges. This has created an alarming situation for Islamabad. And the resurgence of the TTP threatens to make things worse. Islamabad's dialogue last year with the TTP which was mediated by Afghan Taliban came to naught as the former refused to budge from its rigid position. There is no hope for a fresh engagement. So, the conflict looks set to continue. And considering the complexities involved, nobody expects a dramatic breakthrough in the near future. The existing situation looks set to continue for a long time before getting any better. But the TTP insurgency is only one part of the larger and layered security nightmare that is Af-Pak region. The scenario for the immediate future looks bleak. The region has already undergone a profound geo-political transformation following US exit from Afghanistan in 2021. This situation has some unsettling dimensions and unless the countries of the region especially India and Pakistan, come together and jointly address the problems that have arisen post US withdrawal, the new forces and factors which are likely to be unleashed could detrimentally impact the region.

OTHER OPINION

There are no losers
this Oscar season

Complaining about Oscar winners is as much an annual ritual as obsessing over who wore what on the award ceremony's red carpet (or champagne carpet, as it was this year). Indeed, 2023 may be one of those rare years when there is almost unanimous agreement over the winners: Everything, Everywhere, All At Once, which won seven awards was a favourite in most of the categories it was in, while few cavilled at the honours won by All Quiet on the Western Front (the anti-war movie was a shoo-in, considering the Russia-Ukraine conflict which has just completed one year), Black Panther: Wakanda Forever and Women Talking.

But the day after the Oscars is a good time to reflect on the also-rans. For Indian cinema lovers, the biggest miss is likely to be the Documentary Feature award that eluded All That Breathes, one of the most impressive documentaries to have emerged from this country in recent times. Mournful tweets from around the world also expressed disappointment over the searingly poignant The Banshees of Inisherin not winning even the Original Screenplay award and Austin Butler losing the Best Actor trophy for his chameleon-like turn in the biopic Elvis.

There is some consolation in remembering that an Oscar win doesn't always guarantee classic status. Who, after all, remembers How Green Was My Valley, the movie that beat Citizen Kane for the Best Picture award in 1941? And is the power of Morgan Freeman's performance in The Shawshank Redemption diminished by his loss of the 1995 Best Actor trophy to Tom Hanks (for Forrest Gump)? There is also the relief of knowing that none of the choices this year come close to being considered a travesty of the process: Recall, for example, the hue and cry that greeted the ham-fisted Crash winning Best Picture over Ang Lee's sublime Brokeback Mountain. The quality of this year's nominations shows in the fact that even the so-called losers have enriched the collective cinematic legacy.

The Indian Express

Shakir Nisar

JKSSB's credibility was at stake and now the biggest challenge was to conduct re-exam of cancelled posts. Everyone was of the opinion that after such shame and backlash, JKSSB will take every move with utmost transparency. Yet, JKSSB was not looking for redemption

JKSSB: The
Incredibly Uncredible

Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board is a staff recruiting board constituted by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir that conducts examinations to various departmental services or non-gazette posts in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It was established in 1992 as a constitutional body. The board is headed by its chairman who is responsible for the recruitment process, JKSSB policy formulation, and its implementation. The board Chairman including other members is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The LG has the right to determine the number of members as well as the members of the commission and their terms of service.

JKSSB has done recruitment for almost every department of J&K in the past. The board is in news due to recent scams and corruption in the recruitment process of FAA, JE and JKPSI. The board has been in news for scams in the past as well but the elected governments never got those allegations investigated. One such scam was alleged in the list of Fire & Emergency Services in which people believed a mass corruption. The board got the biggest setback in June 2022 when a scam in the recruitment process of Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub Inspector (JKPSI), Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) and Junior Engineer (JE civil) was alleged. LG Administration ordered a timely probe into the allegations and constituted a special committee for the purpose. All these exams were conducted by M/S Meritrac Pvt. Ltd. The said company was already blacklisted by ONGC (public sector undertaking) for paper leaks. In August 2022, all the three exams were cancelled and investigation was handed over to the CBI. It was recorded that OMR sheets were replaced to help candidates crack the exam. FIR was lodged and raids were conducted at more than 100 places in J&K and other states. This was for the first time in the recent past in J&K that a recruitment exam was cancelled due to corruption. The LG Administration was applauded for this bold move and everyone thought that it's the beginning of corruption free J&K. The only negative in the process was that no JKSSB official was arrested for their misconduct and no aspirant was debarred from appearing in further examination even after being part of daylight corruption.

JKSSB's credibility was at stake and now the biggest challenge was to conduct re-exam of cancelled posts. Everyone was of the opinion that after such shame and backlash, JKSSB will take every move with utmost transparency. Yet, JKSSB was not looking for redemption. Tendering process to shortlist a firm to conduct exams was again started. In November 2022, JKSSB selected



As per STF reports, a system mirroring software was used to clone the Aptech exam software and attempt papers remotely. Police have arrested a few people in this case.

M/S Aptech Pvt Ltd to conduct the exams of cancelled posts and other pending exams. Eyebrows were again raised on JKSSB's credibility as the selected company was blacklisted in UP for paper leak for 3 years. Aspirants alleged that JKSSB changed the tender clause to favour Aptech. Aspirants dragged this matter to court and Honourable High Court acknowledged the allegations. The High Court of J&K ordered judicial enquiry into the matter. The court also ordered to quash the tender given to Aptech and stop the recruitment process at whatever stage they were on 8th Feb 2023.

JKSSB successfully got a stay on the Single Bench order in Division Bench on technical grounds that it was not given a chance to be heard. Honourable High Court passed direction to carry on with the recruitment process till a final decision is made. It further directed not to declare the result till further orders. Later on, the Supreme Court passed orders that the case should be decided within 3 months and heard on merit basis when SLP was filed.

Exams for JE and JKPSI were conducted from 5th Nov. to 20th Dec. 2022. The answer key of JKPSI was leaked two days before its notified date which further dented the hopes of aspirants to believe in fair and transparent recruitment. The answer key leak was a high point for the aspirants to question the credibility of Aptech and JKSSB. Aptech also did not have a good record of transparent recruitments in the past. In 2018, Aptech conducted UPPCL(JE) exams and leaked papers in that exam. Due to this, Aptech was blacklisted for 3 years in UP. Aspirants protested from Kuthua to Kupwara in every district of J&K but JKSSB termed the Answer Key leak a mere technical error.

Aptech conducted its tainted recruitment records even in 2023. In January 2023, Aptech conducted C-TET exams for CBSE. Papers of the exam were leaked in Meerut, Lucknow, Aara, etc. As per STF reports, a system mirroring software was used to clone the Aptech exam software and attempt papers remotely. Police have arrested a few people in this case.

In Feb, 2023, Aptech conducted KV PGT exams for KVS (All India Level exam). The papers of this exam were leaked in Patna, Amritsar, Haryana, etc. Several people were arrested with laptops and mobiles. They were helping candidates using some system mirroring software.

In Feb 2023, a centre supervisor of Aptech was involved in corruption in KVS exams in Ladakh. He helped some candidates to appear in exams from a desired centre in which the systems were already bug infected to attempt papers remotely.

All these observations are posing greater question marks on the credibility of the recruitment board of J&K. Candidates demand Judicial Enquiry into the matter and want Aptech to be removed from the recruitment process. Deserving candidates are frustrated. Unemployment is taking a toll on the mental health of J&K youth.

Currently, Candidates call JKSSB Incredibly Uncredible.

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 Vocational Trainer at Govt Boys High School Gariend Khurd Budgam and can be mailed at shakirnisarofficial@gmail.com



OBSERVER
MAIL

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Self-Styled Seminaries

What if I tell you that Kashmir is turning into a paradise for religious business? You will be shocked to hear that many self-styled clerics have made darsgah (religious seminary) the centre of business.

Earlier, there were only a few Darasghahs in the valley which were well managed by the authorities and the facilities provided to the children were good enough especially for the students.

Every day we see a huge number of vehicles with loudspeaker asking for donations in city streets and villages too, have we ever wondered why people from one district go to another district to collect donations? Because new small seminaries are being built by self-made clerics to earn their livelihood as it costs no money to run your own seminary.

Children are being treated like animals in such seminaries. I once saw that children were washing their clothes with cold water on bank of a stream in the bitter cold in Bandipora district of North Kashmir. When I spoke to them, one of them said that they use the same cold water daily for bathing and wudu (ablution) etc as their Darasghah lacks proper infrastructure. The seminary they were staying in was poorly built and one of the student was standing on the road side with a receipt book from the same Madrasa to collect donations from commuters.

Who forced them to study there

when we have so many good Madarasas in the valley as well as in Bandipora district?

Every child has the right to live happily, self styled religious clerics treat students in such Madarasas like animals.

Recently, a case where teachers were booked for beating a minor student was reported. Thus, times have changed; corporal punishment is banned in schools, daycare and alternative child care institutions, but alas! no-one dares to talk about the hardships faced by minors in these seminaries.

Such Darasghah lack proper registration and get no funds from any Madrasa organizations. Self styled clerics force student to collect donations.

Article 24 of the Indian constitution clearly states that, "No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or employed in any hazardous employment."

When there are laws and regulations for everyone in the world, why are these self-made clerics are set free to do whatever they want?

Such a small self-made seminary should be regulated by the Waqf Board or the administration only with terms and conditions.

Ab.Basit Khawaja

Rekindling the Magic of Conventional Gatherings: “A Nostalgic Journey”



A cherished tradition from my youth was the splendid “Kae’him chai” gathering, where a piping hot brew was concocted in a gleaming samovar. The gatherings were often held beneath the sprawling branches of majestic chinars or in the living rooms or courtyards of houses and are usually organized by the host family



Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

Nestled in the breathtaking landscape of Kashmir lies a land steeped in cultural opulence and timeless traditions, passed down through the ages. Amongst the many customs that enrich its tapestry, conventional gatherings stand out as a vital pillar of communities worldwide. These age-old events serve as a poignant reminder of our shared humanity, uniting us in times of celebration, grief, and everything in between. The aroma of delectable food and the warmth of familial love used to fill the air at conventional gatherings of bygone days. Regrettably, the fond memories of yesteryear seem but a distant dream, as our hearts grow increasingly distant and consumed by the green-eyed monster of envy. We have become isolated in our own homes, forsaking the joy of each other's company behind the fortress walls of our hearts. The advent of mobile phones has only hastened the demise of these cherished traditional gatherings, once a beacon of love and a bond of our

social fabric.

I still reminisce of the lively after-dinner assemblies, where uncles and aunts would flock to their parents' abode for thought-provoking discussions on a plethora of topics, captivating the little ones with tales of wonder and fairies. But now, everyone is confined to their own rooms, even eating their meals there. The essence of communal joy and togetherness that was once a hallmark of conventional gatherings has been lost to the solitude of our individual lives. The rise of depression in today's society can be attributed to our growing reliance on mobile phones and the loss of communal connections. In Kashmir, conventional gatherings such as marriages have always been a crucial aspect of strengthening love, understanding, mutual respect, and family reunions.

Kashmiri marriages were once a grand affair that spanned several months, bringing together entire villages in a celebration of joy and happiness. These gatherings were not just about the union of two individuals but a unification of entire families. However, the current gen-



NOW NOT ONLY HAVE WE ERECTED TOWERING WALLS AROUND OUR WELL-MANICURED LAWNS, BUT WE HAVE ALSO CONSTRUCTED FORMIDABLE FORTRESSES AROUND OUR VERY HEARTS. It is my ardent wish that the upcoming generation witness the revival of traditional assemblies in the mesmerizing valley of Kashmir. Let us strive to rejuvenate these convocations, for they hold the key to preserving our cultural heritage

eration seems to have lost interest in these age-old traditions, with many now avoiding attending these once-beloved ceremonies.

It's unfortunate to see parents now having to force their children

to attend these events, and people refraining from participating in such important communal gatherings. In times of yore, individuals would congregate to extend financial aid to each other during wed-

dings, with each person diligently tending to their designated task.

A cherished tradition from my youth was the splendid “Kae’him chai” gathering, where a piping hot brew was concocted in a gleaming samovar. The gatherings were often held beneath the sprawling branches of majestic chinars or in the living rooms or courtyards of houses and are usually organized by the host family. The guests were welcomed with great warmth. Kashmiri tea or “Kehwa” and a variety of snacks like “bakirkhani” and Kashmiri “kul-chas” were served those gatherings were typically held in the evening or at night, where family, friends, and acquaintances gather together to share stories, food, and tea. These gatherings were a reflection of the warm and hospitable nature of Kashmiri people and were great way to strengthen bonds between friends and family both young and old to partake in the convivial atmosphere. We must recognize the importance of these traditions and work to preserve them, as they play a vital role in building strong bonds between individuals, families, and communities. The

convivial assemblies were not solely sustained by just food and tea, but also by a profound bond of fondness that united individuals. The gatherings provide an opportunity for people to come together and share their opinions on various topics, ranging from politics to social issues. This exchange of ideas and perspectives helps in creating awareness and promoting critical thinking among the people. Amidst the “Kae’him Chai” congregation, both adults and children delighted in mirthful conversation and jovial laughter. But now not only have we erected towering walls around our well-manicured lawns, but we have also constructed formidable fortresses around our very hearts. It is my ardent wish that the upcoming generation witness the revival of traditional assemblies in the mesmerizing valley of Kashmir. Let us strive to rejuvenate these convocations, for they hold the key to preserving our cultural heritage.

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JOINT FAMILY SYSTEM A Blessing of Bygone Days

Observer News Service

During the last four or five decades, the world has changed and made stupendous material progress with a man enjoying never seen before amenities to make life easier.

Man has set foot on the moon, is vying for stars and has pierced the chest of earth establishing his rule over mighty oceans. But in the process, he has lost much more. Values, morals, and ethics have vanished from our lives. We are humans sans humanity. Kashmir Valley which is very famous across the globe for its hospitality and rich ethos is not an exception to it.

Till yesterday, our ancestors used to live in joint families. Like many other distinctions, the joint family system was an integral part of our living. There used to be parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins in our families, but now, the concept of nuclear families is emerging rapidly. Our younger generation is parting ways from its elders.

The joint family system is not all about living and eating together and sharing a common house but it ensures the transmission of values from one generation to the other and the inculcation of virtues among

children. It teaches us to live harmoniously with others. Joint families are the sources of values and virtues.

Parents and bread earners of joint families would remain busy in earning a livelihood and performing different domestic chores while grandparents and other elders in the family would take care of their children. The values were imparted through different means like storytelling, and the basic education was taught to children by their grandparents. The virtues like mutual help, tolerance, love, understanding and care were very common in our families. Moral values were transmitted from one generation to the next consciously and children would learn the basics of life without any formal education. That is why our elders were obedient and virtuous in their lives though they had never attended any formal educational institution. There was no space for the phenomena like 'generation gap and communication gap.' Spending time with grandparents was an ultimate source of joy and contentment for youngsters. The spirit of oneness was the binding force behind happy families. Any kind of partition or separation was considered to be an offense and sin.

But alas! the time has changed.

Globalization and urbanization have snatched these centuries old legacy from us. Although the urban areas portray a dismal picture but the situation in our villages too is not encouraging enough. The glare and effulgence of modernization has shattered our homes. The emergence of 'old age homes' is an ugly blot on the face of the so-called modern societies where parents and elders are left at the mercy of God. Joint families are replaced by nuclear families. According to surveys and observations, the children from nuclear families, possess several behavioral abnormalities in comparison to the children from joint families. Children brought up in joint families are more tolerant and lesser quarrelsome while as the children of nuclear families possess certain behavioral abnormalities.

What has forced us to abandon this great system of living together? Is it the success of Happy families in real terms? No, not at all! People who prefer to live in nuclear families, end up regretting their decisions. It deprives the children from the warmth of love, affection, and sympathy which is essential for the development of a balanced personality in a child.

When a married man parts ways



When children watch their parents serving their own old parents with utmost care and love, the grandchildren watching all this, grow up as young men and women, full of values and virtues. Here, sermons are not needed rather they won't work

with his family, either at the behest of his better half or at his own will to provide better living standards and education to his own children. Though he succeeds with the first thing i.e., better living, like comfortable housing, good eating and clothing but fails miserably to impart good education. He ends up by

producing robots who know only how to make money, who San values and virtues, who care least about the well-being and respect of elders and their own parents. We have many examples in our own society where parents are abandoned by their children in their old age. Our mantra of a nuclear family is proving disastrous for ourselves and for our children. When children are supposed to be with their parents, at that crucial juncture, our own children abandon us because we as children have done the same with our parents in the name of nuclear families. Many parents died in their rooms untended and their children were not to shoulder their coffins. They were either in USA, UK or in any other country. Nuclear family concept is proving detrimental in destabilizing the social structure of contemporary societies. We should not sow thorn seeds and expect roses.

Here, the role of joint families comes to our rescue. When children watch their parents serving their own old parents with utmost care and love, the grandchildren watching all this, grow up as young men and women, full of values and virtues. Here, sermons are not needed rather they won't work. People leading from the front set glaring

examples before their children who are sure to serve their parents when grown up or when their parents will reach the old age. Thus, values are transmitted in joint families not taught because mere lectures can't enter the clean minds of children.

Children of many nuclear families become parasites who suck the blood of their parents because the appreciation of work is missing in nuclear families while as most of the children from joint families are hard workers who are taught the value and appreciation of work. Let us all take a pledge to live with our grandparents who bring lot of value to our families and teach us the best education at our homes. Thus, we can pay off to our elders and will reap big dividends in their company. Children from nuclear families fell prey to many ills because there is no one to keep a vigil on their activities while as the children from joint families live together with their elders, cousins, and others. Thus, there is proper scrutinization in joint families while such scrutiny is missing in nuclear families.

Let us hope the institution of joint family system is revived and preserved to safeguard our newer generations from many un-noticed and noticed vices.

Community Involvement Priority Of Administration: DC Budgam

Observer News Service

Budgam: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid on Wednesday chaired the Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Halqa Waterhail in Block Waterhail. Chairman DDC Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan, DDC Member Parneva were also present on the occasion.

Local PRIs, respected elders and local youth delegations from villages Waterhail, Muqam, Hardwail, Brail, Jawalapora and other adjacent villages raised their demands with the DC.

The DC gave them patient hearing and assured that all their genuine demands shall be addressed on priority. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that Jan Baghidari is the guiding principle of District

Administration to ensure overall development of the people.

While taking assessment of road development, drainage network and facilities related to drinking water, health, Sheep and Animal husbandry, Agriculture and other allied sectors, the DC emphasized on speedy work completion of all ongoing developmental works.

Stressing on the robust development of the area, the DC directed concerned to expedite work besides ensuring early execution of developmental works.

In order to ensure better public service delivery, the DC said that a joint awareness camp shall be conducted at Waterhail village on March- 18, for on spot redressal of public issues and awareness

generation about different schemes among locals including self-employment schemes among the local unemployed youth.

He urged local unemployed youth to register under different self-employment schemes to open their own business ventures.

The DC said that work on different schemes under JJM is going on full swing across the district and all households shall get potable drinking water connection by June- 2023. He stressed that pending development work on the playground be expedited for its timely completion to provide better sports facilities to the local youths.

Expressing his concern over the drug abuse spread, the DC appealed locals to play an active

role in curbing the drug menace from the society and safeguarding the young generation. He urged elders and parents to ensure tight vigil that their wards remain away from drugs or any other social evil activity.

Stressing on cleanliness and maintenance of proper sanitation, the DC urged locals to avoid dumping of waste on roadside, drains, streams or anywhere in open areas besides urging locals to cooperate with panchayat bodies for proper disposal of daily generated garbage in their villages.

Among others, SDM Khanshab, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Xen PDD, ARTO, BDO, Tehsildar, DSHO and concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

HDFC Bank And Flipkart Wholesale Launch Industry-First Co-Branded Credit Card

Srinagar: HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale today launched an industry-first co-branded credit card exclusively for Flipkart Wholesale members. The credit card will run on the Diners Club International® network, part of the Discover Global Network and can be used in more than 200 countries around the world where Diners Club cards are accepted.

Koteshwar L N, Business Head of Flipkart Wholesale said, "At Flipkart Wholesale, we are committed to transforming the Kirana retail ecosystem by leveraging the power of technology and innovation. As part of this vision, we focus on enabling easy and right credit options for small retailers that are aimed at solving their financial challenges. Through the launch of these credit cards, we will

help smaller retailers manage their cash flows better while ensuring that the benefits of digitization trickle into the entire B2B ecosystem. We are delighted to join forces with HDFC bank to enable finance for our members and offer an industry-highest cashback of 5% on online spends, that will accelerate their growth trajectory and empower them to build a more sustainable business."

"SMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy. As the country's leading card issuer, it is our endeavor to provide customized solutions for this vital segment. Through this partnership with Flipkart Wholesale, we hope to support even more Kirana stores and small merchants, and help them to optimize their transactions, streamline their operations

and deliver a rewarding experience," said Parag Rao, Country Head, Payments and Consumer Finance Technology and Digital Banking, HDFC Bank.

"Working with HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale will provide a valuable offering to small and medium-sized businesses in India and extend the benefits and capabilities Diners Club offers in the market," said Annie Zhang, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, at Diners Club International.

Members can apply for the card directly at Flipkart Wholesale stores as well as through its Best Price Flipkart Wholesale App. HDFC Bank will also set up dedicated booths inside Flipkart Wholesale stores to process applications for credit cards and provide related customer service.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Transparency, Merit-Based

not make any compromise on it," Sinha said.

Asked about People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti's criticism of his statement that previous governments provided jobs to terrorists and their families, Sinha said he stood by his statement which is based on truth.

"I will not like to comment on some allegations. This is a reality that 47 people were dismissed from government service for anti-national activities. What I have said is based on reality," he said.

Mehbooba on Tuesday hit back at Sinha over his remarks that previous governments in Jammu and Kashmir provided jobs to terrorists and their families, saying this "is not our tradition" but giving employment to "hooligans" might have been a custom in Uttar Pradesh.

"LG sahab has come from Uttar Pradesh and was probably speaking about his experience there. There might have been a tradition to provide jobs to mafia and hooligans in Uttar Pradesh but that is not our tradition," she had said.

The lieutenant governor said the budget for Jammu and Kashmir for 2023-24, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Monday, was praiseworthy.

"The budget should be looked into in totality. We have made our plan for holistic development with focus on all major sectors. The budget is commendable and it will help to take new J&K, the foundation of which was laid earlier, to new heights of development," he said.

He said 70 per cent of the population of Jammu and Kashmir is connected with agriculture and allied sectors and during the next five years, additional budget allocation of Rs 5,013 crore will be infused in this sector. "Security is a priority and so are other focus areas such as tourism, youth empowerment and education."

Earlier, the LG lauded the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that National Education Policy (NEP) is creating a progressive ecosystem for the students to translate their dreams into reality.

"Sports nurtures both mind & body and enables students to become well-rounded across disciplines. NEP has given us an opportunity to promote Sports through multidisciplinary system and end fragmentation in education system," Sinha said.

"Prime Minister's vision for FIT India, Khelo India, National Education Policy, start-up opportunities, is building a strong foundation for India's future," he said, while pointing out that the sports was deeply rooted in the ancient education system.

"Our Gurukuls had emphasized using sports as a tool to enable socio-economic change," he added.

The LG also encouraged the youth to follow in the footsteps of prominent personalities who achieved excellence in both academics and sports.

"Nothing is Impossible. You can achieve excellence in any field with your hard-work, dedication, right guidance and can build your future with your individuality and independent thinking," the LG added. (With PTI inputs)

BSF Officer

The high court rejected Singh's bail application after hearing both sides, accepting the argument of senior additional advocate general and CBI counsel Monika Kohli that the investigation in the case is still underway.

The court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to complete further probe in the case and file a supplementary charge-sheet, if any, expeditiously, preferably within a period of three months.

The officer was arrested by the agency on October 18 last year for allegedly using touts to get his son the question paper of the police sub-inspector recruitment examination conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in March.

He was among 24 persons charge-sheeted by the CBI in the case on November 12 last year and it termed him the main accused and the kingpin of the conspiracy.

Justice Dhar, in his 13-page order, did not agree with the petitioner that he was "wrongly and false implicated" in the case and said it has been submitted by the respondent that another FIR related to the question paper leak of the finance accounts assistant examination conducted by the JKSSB has been registered and the role of the petitioner has surfaced.

"Not only this, even the report of the enquiry committee set up by the government is damning against the petitioner (Singh). In the report, it has been noted that the petitioner had managed to induct several candidates in the BSF against financial consideration and that he had advertised secretly that he would help prospective candidates in passing the medical tests," the court said.

It said the report further records that the petitioner has close links with some high and mighty politicians.

"In the face of the propensity of the petitioner to indulge in similar types of offences, it may not be appropriate to enlarge him on bail at this stage when the investigation relating to the larger conspiracy of question paper leakage of sub-inspector posts is still underway," Justice Dhar said.

In July last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration headed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha cancelled the selection of 1,200 police sub-inspectors, 1,300 junior engineers and 1,000 finance account assistants following allegations of paper leak and malpractices.

"The charges levelled against the petitioner can by no stretch of imagination be termed as ordinary charges. Economic offences constitute a class apart and need to be visited with a different approach in the matter of bail," the judge said.

"The economic offence having deep rooted conspiracies and involving huge loss of public funds needs to be viewed seriously and considered as grave offences affecting the economy of the country as a whole and thereby posing serious threat to the financial health of the country," Justice Dhar said.

The high court also took note of the repeated bail applications moved by the accused over the past five months in the court of chief judicial magistrate, Jammu, additional sessions judge and the high court.

There can be no dispute to the legal position that an accused can maintain a bail application before a superior court once his application for grant of bail by the subordinate court has been rejected without there being any change of circumstances but then the petitioner has not been to persuade this court to take a view different from the one taken earlier, Justice Dhar said.

"I do not find any merit in the bail application (of the accused). The same is dismissed," the judge said.

India Invites

meeting is scheduled to be held in Delhi, the foreign ministerial conclave is set to take place in Goa in early May. India has already invited Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang for the meeting.

The defence ministers' meeting is set to delve into various issues relating to regional security including the threat of terrorism and the situation in Afghanistan.

The meeting will be chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, he said.

There was no indication yet from Pakistan on whether Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif will attend the respective meetings.

If Asif decides to attend the defence ministerial meeting in-person, it will be the first such visit from Islamabad to India since 2011. The then Pakistani foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar had visited India that year.

Khar is currently serving as the minister of state for foreign affairs.

There has been speculation that Pakistan may send Khar for the SCO foreign ministerial meeting.

In May 2014, the then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited India to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony.

In December 2015, the then external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj visited Pakistan, and days later Modi made a brief visit to that country.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's

warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India in August 2019 scrapped the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two union territories.

Rangers Lift Siege

at Khan's residence. Khan's party on Tuesday challenged the police operation in the Lahore High Court, requesting it to direct the government to end its bid to arrest the party chief.

"IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar appeared before the court and told it that police had to launch the operation as Islamabad police had brought an arrest warrant for Imran Khan in the Toshakhana gifts case. We had to implement this order under the law. He said some 59 policemen have been injured during the clashes with the PTI workers," a court official told PTI.

"The PTI advocate told the court that the sessions court Islamabad had issued the order to ensure the presence of Khan in the court on March 18 in the Toshakhana gifts case... why police operation was launched to arrest him four days before, requesting it intervenes to save human lives," the official said.

LHC's Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh asked the PTI counsel whether the Islamabad High Court is hearing the PTI plea to cancel the arrest warrants of Khan in the Toshakhana case.

"The counsel informed the judge that the IHC is hearing Khan's petition. On this Justice Sheikh said let the IHC decide the matter and meanwhile the government stop the police operation forthwith," the official said.

Meanwhile, a large number of lawyers also converged on Mall Road in Lahore to protest against the police operation.

The district and sessions court in Islamabad on February 28 issued non-bailable arrest orders against Khan in the Toshakhana case about the concealment of the proceeds from the sale of state gifts.

The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday heard the petition by Khan against arrest orders. He also submitted an affidavit through his counsel that he would appear before the court at the next hearing on March 18.

IHC Chief Justice Amir Farooq ordered Khan to present the petition in the trial court and refused to suspend the arrest warrant.

On March 13, Additional District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal issued an arrest warrant for Imran and instructed the police to present him before the courts on March 18.

Khan was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan last year in October for not sharing details of the sales. The election body later filed a complaint with the district court to punish him under criminal laws for selling the gifts he had received as prime minister of the country.

After Pakistan Rangers and police personnel retreated, Khan came out of his residence, donning a gas mask, and met the party workers. His supporters cheered "chasing the Rangers away".

In a tweet, the party said that more workers were reaching Zaman Park and vowed not to let the "impure intentions" of the coalition government succeed.

Earlier in the day, authorities deployed the elite Rangers outside Khan's residence, a day after clashes with police left over 70 people injured, including 59 policemen.

Lahore's Zaman Park area was turned into a battleground after Khan's defiant supporters engaged in pitched battles with policemen on Tuesday to stop them from arresting their leader in the Toshakhana case, resulting in injuries on both sides. Khan's supporters clashed repeatedly with police overnight.

The injured were shifted to Lahore's hospitals and police arrested dozens of Khan's supporters.

Khan has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana and selling them for profit.

Established in 1974, the Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores

precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries.

In a video address to the nation from his residence, Khan earlier said that he has asked the military establishment to end this 'tamasha' (drama)".

The Pakistani TV channels did not broadcast Khan's speech. His party said the media blackout the speech's coverage on the order from the "top".

"My house has been under heavy attack since yesterday afternoon. Latest attack by Rangers, pitting the largest political party against the army. This is what PDM and the enemies of Pakistan want. No lessons learnt from the East Pakistan tragedy," he said, referring to the creation of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) in 1971.

Khan said he had prepared his bag to go to jail but his party workers didn't allow him to surrender, fearing a threat to his life in police custody.

"They (PTI workers) think that I will be tortured and killed in custody because those involved in an attempt on my life are in power," he said.

"Clearly 'arrest' claim was mere drama because the real intent is to abduct & assassinate. From tear gas & water cannons, they have now resorted to firing. I signed a surety bond last evening, but the DIG refused to even entertain it. There is no doubt of their mala fide intent," Khan said in a series of tweets on Wednesday.

Khan's party claimed that live bullets were fired at the party workers present on the roads leading to Khan's residence.

Fearing the worst, various PTI leaders including Khan himself Tuesday appealed to party workers to rush to Zaman Park, where they served as human shields and stood between Khan's residence and the police.

The PTI has declared that it would not let law enforcement agencies arrest Khan as it fears he may be given poison in jail.

Khan was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

Since his ouster, Khan has been asking for early elections to oust what he termed an "imported government" led by prime minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Sharif has maintained that elections will be held later this year once the parliament completes its five-year tenure.

Bunkers In Srinagar

Earlier, reports suggested a number of bunkers from various parts of the city were being removed by the administration.

The security bunkers manned by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including CRPF around Dalgate, Barzulla and Jehangir-Chowk flyover have been removed so far and many bunkers from other areas of the city are likely to be removed or relocated in the coming weeks.

However, Abhiram Pankaj, Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the CRPF, Srinagar sector, said that the removal of bunkers has nothing to do with the G-20 meeting and that Jammu and Kashmir police were reviewing the entire process.

"CRPF has nothing to do with it. It is the J & K police who are reviewing it. They have removed the fixed bunkers and placed mobile bunkers instead," Pankaj said.

Pertinently, India is hosting the G-20 (Group of 20) leaders' summit in New Delhi this year, after assuming the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023. Over 200 meetings are expected to be held across the country, including J&K Union Territory.

Srinagar city—the summer capital is also going to host one of the G-20 events in May this year for which the administration is making advance arrangements by repairing major roads, drainage systems and beautification of the city.

"The face-lifting of the Srinagar city is going on in full swing. Various smart city projects are going on which will likely be completed next month," said an official from Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

It may be noted that the central government rushed 50 companies of additional

paramilitary forces in the valley, especially in Srinagar, when the targeted killing of civilians rocked the city last year. The troop deployment was followed by setting up of a number of bunkers to prevent militants from carrying out further attacks.

In 2010, over 50 security pickets and bunkers were removed in Srinagar on the recommendations made by an all-party delegation visiting Kashmir in that year.

However, post abrogation of Article 370 and after the series of targeted killings of civilians and Kashmiri Pandits in 2021, the bunkers made a comeback—reminding the peak militancy years of the 1990s.

Situation Along

performing very well in all these roles and have also been able to have a good relation with the border population," he said.

The Additional DG BSF said the BSF guards the borders to prevent the infiltration and if there is any attempt to infiltrate to this side, "we will take lawful action against the infiltrators".

"We have definitely been successful in stopping infiltration from the ground and also to prevent any misadventure, any attempt, to use underground mechanisms also. We have controlled the situation and made the borders impenetrable so that the forces which are fighting the militancy, their hands are strengthened," he said.

"The BSF is alert 24/7. We have been successful and we will be successful in (foiling) any misadventure or any attempt against the country," he added.

Asked about drones being used for smuggling drugs and arms into Jammu and Kashmir from across the border, Sastry said smugglers always try to find new mediums.

"Drone is a medium. They have been using such methods before as well, which were controlled by us. For the last three-four years, they have been using drones. But, we have achieved good successes in combating drones whether it is to bring them down, or forcing them to turn back without dropping the payload or in seizing the dropped payload.

"We are keeping good coordination with local police in the areas where such things happen. We have been able to arrest gangs as well. There has been a decline in such incidents, and I think, in the future, we will be successful in totally controlling it," the additional DG BSF said.

Azad Promises

"We do not fear anyone, we do not fear any raids, we are not afraid of being jailed. We have not done anything in our life to fear either the central government or the state government," he added.

NIA Raids Multiple

Baramulla, Pulwama, Anantnag, Budgam and Kathua.

"The case relates to a terror conspiracy hatched by Pakistan based commanders of proscribed militant organisations to radicalize youth of J&K and target members of minority communities, security personnel and religious events and activities. The accused were also found involved in spreading terror in J&K over cyber-space," it reads.

The statement reads during investigations, 12 suspects were identified who were in touch with different Pakistan based handlers.

"Searches were conducted at 11 locations belonging to the suspects in Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag and 1 location in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab in case RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU. Digital devices and incriminating material were seized from these locations yesterday. Further investigations in the case are in progress," it reads.

Militant Associate

taken into custody immediately, the official said.

During his questioning, he revealed his name as Ali Mohammad Bhat, a resident of Arampora Pattan, and said he is working as a militant associate with the banned LeT, the official said.

A case under sections of the Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been registered and investigation initiated, the official added.

Soldier Dies

Meanwhile, Police have started investigation and legal proceedings into the matter.

CMOs Asked To Come Up With Micro Plan To Improve Sex Ratio

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has directed chief medical officers (CMOs) to come up with a micro plan to improve the sex ratio in the Union Territory.

The directions were passed by Secretary Health and Medical Education Bhupinder Kumar at a meeting convened to review the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (prohibition of sex selection) Act, an official spokesman said.

Kumar said gender bias and sex determination is a critical public health concern which can be regulated through effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act for which a comprehensive action strategy needs to be devised and monitored.

Instructing the directorates of health services in both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir to conduct an assessment of all the registered ultrasound clinics for their conformity to the PCPNDT Act, he said it must be ensured that all the provisions of the Act are strictly implemented in letter and spirit.

Kumar asked the CMOs to consider cancellation of those

entities which are found deficient in terms of any provision of the Act.

Director health services and CMOs were also asked to study the last five years of HMIS (Health Management Information System) data for district-wise trend analysis of sex ratio at birth, the spokesman said.

They were also asked to introspect and come up with a micro plan to improve the sex ratio, he said.

He said director health services were asked to furnish comprehensive proposals to the administrative department in consultation with Mission Director, National Health Mission, with regard to constitution of appropriate authority and appellate authority as per the PCPNDT Act.

Kumar also directed the concerned to ensure that unique identification AB-HFR (Ayushman Bharat-Healthcare Facility Registry) and AB-HPR (Healthcare Professionals Registry) is created for all the ultrasound clinics and medical professionals (sonologists) handling the ultrasound equipment in Jammu and Kashmir under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in a time-bound manner.

J&K Gets 20 More DNB Seats In GMCs, District Hospitals

Observer News Service

JAMMU: As a step towards strengthening Diplomat of National Board (DNB) in Jammu and Kashmir, 20 more seats have been sanctioned by National Board of Examinations in Medical Science (NBEMS) under DNB for the institutions of J&K during the start of the Session 2023.

These seats shall be in addition to the earlier granted DNB seats.

As per official data Government Medical College Srinagar received approval for 2 seats in FNB Paediatric Anesthesia, JLNH Hospital, Srinagar received 3 Post MBBS DNB seats in General Surgery, DH Udhampur received sanction of 5 seats under Pediatrics, General Medicine and Orthopedics DH Poonch received 2 seats in General Medicine DH Ganderbal got sanction for 2 seats each in DNB General Medicine and Diploma Pediatrics, DH Kulgam received 2 seats in Family Medicine while CHC Kupwara got 2 seats in Diploma Pediatrics.

Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Ayushi Sudan, while giving details about the development said that implementation of the DNB courses at the District Level in J&K has been termed as a best practice in the Country. Under DNB programme in the UT, a total of 250 seats

were granted to the accredited departments during Session 2022 consequent to the concerted efforts and hard work of the administrative department H&ME J&K, NHM J&K and the team of health institutions being monitored by Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar.

"All the efforts are being made to scale up the DNB courses in all the District Hospitals and potential CHCs of J&K. During upcoming session, J&K is planning to submit more than 30 applications including almost all District Hospitals", she added.

Pertinent to mention that the DNB courses have been introduced in the District Hospitals and new Government Medical Colleges besides old GMCs and SKIMS in order to strengthen the institutions, decongest the GMCs and to address the shortage of specialists in the UT of J&K.

Implementation of DNB courses has led to an equitable distribution of health care services and manpower especially in far flung and hard to reach areas. This has also proved beneficial for the population who have very meagre access to health care services in their areas, leading to low referrals from DNB institutions to Tertiary care institutions thereby further decreasing the Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) of patients.

Hikayat-e-Rumi By Mohiudin Ajaz Launched

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Kashmiri translation of Maulana Rumi's book Hikayat-e-Rumi was launched on Wednesday at an impressive function held at Government Degree College (GDC) Chrar-e-Sharif in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

The book of Maulana Rumi, a popular 13th century Turkish-Persian poet, translated by Mohiudin Ajaz was launched by Patron of Adbi Markaz Kamraz Dr. Rafiq Masoodi at a function organized by Budshah Cultural Organisation Wa-

thara on Wednesday.

Former Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr Farooq Renzu Shah, Principal GDC Chrar-e-Sharif, HoD Kashmiri Nilofar Afaq, General Secretary Gulshan Cultural Forum Gulshan Badami and a large number of students and language lovers of the area also attended the book launch.

Masoodi, former Secretary Cultural Academy, appreciated Mohiudin Ajaz for this valuable contribution & hoped that will be an important addition to the prose genre of Kashmir's rich language.

Five CRPF Men Among 14 Injured In Separate Accidents

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Five Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were injured when their vehicle was hit by a truck along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police officials said.

The CRPF personnel were on patrolling duty when the Jammu-bound truck hit their vehicle from behind at Mand near Tikri around 6.50 am, the officials said.

They said the injured personnel - four Assistant Sub-Inspectors and a selection grade constable - were

shifted to nearby hospital and their condition is stated to be "stable".

A case was registered against the truck driver under relevant sections of the law and further investigation is on, they said.

Meanwhile, at least nine persons were injured in a road accident that took place in Thune area of Kangan in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Wednesday. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a load carrier turned turtle near Thune area today morning.

He said in the incident at least nine persons were injured and they were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital.

Shrines In J&K To Have Permanent Illumination System

Waqf Board Asks Engineering Wing To Put Out Concrete Proposal, Move Aimed To Save Rs 30L Spent Annually

Aquib Javeed

SRINAGAR: In a move aimed to reduce cost on the illumination of shrines and mosques on festivals and special occasions, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has decided to install a permanent modern illumination system across all the religious places under its management in the Union Territory.

The shrines which are managed by J&K Waqf Board are usually illuminated during Urs days or special prayers.

According to an order by Ishtiyak Mohi-ud-Din, Executive Magistrate Tehsildar, J&K Waqf Board, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, reads that a currently, a temporary archaic illumination system is being installed during special occasions, that is hired on rent.

"The practice has large amounts of recurring financial implications as well," the order reads.

"The hon'ble Chairperson J&K Waqf Board has desired that a permanent illumination system on modern lines shall be installed at all Waqf controlled Shrines/Khanqas, to provide a brighter & efficient lighting system that shall enhance the beauty & aesthetics of the Shrines", the circular reads.

Accordingly, the circular adds that the Engineering



Wing has been instructed to put up a concrete proposal in this regard, outlining the benefits & costs of a permanent modern illumination system.

"The proposal should include the cost estimates, installation timelines, & maintenance requirements, among other details," the circular reads, adding that a separate proposal be submitted for all heritage structures keeping in view their preservation & fire safety measures.

Notably, the Waqf board led by BJP leader Dr Darakhshan Andrabi has issued a slew of orders ever since she was made Chairperson of the board. While the Board is facing criticism from various political parties for their alleged interference in the religious

affairs, Andrabi says that the Waqf board aims to promote religious activities only and end political interference in the board.

Meanwhile, Executive Magistrate Waqf Board told Kashmir Observer that the board earlier used to issue tenders for installing the illumination system, depending on the size of the shrine.

"However it would cost around Rs 30 lakh annually," he said, adding "It was a time consuming and expensive process. So, we decided to save the money and install the illumination system permanently," Mohi-ud-Din said.

He further said the shrines on the hillock with a permanent illumination system will present a scenic view during nights.

Offbeat Tourist Destinations Identified For Promotion In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Seventy-five offbeat tourist destinations, including Nathatop, Basholi and Machail, have been identified for tourism promotion in Jammu and Kashmir this year, officials said Wednesday.

Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma said while 37 of these offbeat destinations are located in Jammu region, the rest are in Kashmir valley.

Basholi, Baraderi, Dudu, Basantgarh, Darhal, Mandi, Sudh Mahadev, Nathatop are some of the locations selected for the promotion.

Secretary, Tourism, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said the last few months have witnessed an encouraging tourist footfall due to coordinated efforts of all stakeholders.

Chairing a joint interactive session attended by tour travel operators, hotel associations and officers of the tourism department here, Shah said it is the endeavour of the government to promote the tourism potential of the Union Territory which is blessed with picturesque destinations.



"We need support and cooperation from the stakeholders in further promoting the 75 offbeat destinations identified by the department across J-K this year," the tourism secretary said.

He also advised them to come up with attractive and competitive packages so that more and more tourists are attracted to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

"The main aim of this interactive session is to create a direct dialogue with the stakeholders on schemes, policies and steps being taken up to promote tourism in Jammu," he said and sought suggestions from all stakeholders towards making the tourism industry a

lucrative venture in the region.

Shah directed the officials of the tourism department to come up with a vibrant and innovative digital tourism promotional campaign in the form of videos, reels, social media, informational blogs and vlogs.

The Tour Travel Operators and hotel association members lauded the efforts of the tourism department in promoting Jammu at national and international level.

They appreciated the role of the department in actively promoting various regions of Jammu, including Bhaderwah, Bani-Basohli, Kishtwar, in recently held travel marts within and outside the country, an official spokesman said.

Delhi Police Disallows 'Media Blackout In Kashmir' Event

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has denied permission for a public meeting on Kashmir at the Gandhi Peace Foundation on Wednesday, citing the possibility of law and order disturbance, officials said on Wednesday.

The event was scheduled at 2 pm at the venue and the speakers at the event included Delhi University professor Nandita Narain, Hussain Masood, retired judge of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, CPI (M) leader MY Tarigami, filmmaker Sanjay Kak, Mir Shahid Saleem, Chairman of United Peace Alliance, and Anil Chamadia, a senior journalist.

In a communication to the Gandhi Peace Foundation, the Station House (SHO) of IP Estate police station said, "Information/local input has been received that some anonymous group is planning/ organising public meeting on 'Media Blackout in Kashmir' at 3 PM on March 15, 2023 at Gandhi Peace Foundation.

Efforts to get the details of members of the anonymous group have been made but the same could not be verified.

"There is discreet input of disturbance in law and order situation in view of organising this above public meeting. In view of the above, you are requested to cancel the booking and intimation may kindly be sent to the undersigned at the earliest."

According to Narain, one of the speakers of the event, the public meeting was organised by several student and teacher groups.

"The speakers were informed about the cancellation, just when they were about to leave

for the event. It was not a protest but a public meeting. It was being carried out in a hall and the police had nothing to do with it.

"This is what is happening. They are entering colleges to stop events. There was to be a discussion on media blackout in Kashmir but this cancellation shows that it is happening everywhere," she told PTL.

Narain claimed that the police had "tried the same thing" with the Bharat Bachao programme at HKS Surjeet Bhavan on March 11 and 12, but the organisers managed to get a court order allowing the programme to be held.

"This outrageous cancellation at the last minute only serves to reinforce the widely known fact about the suppression of free speech, not only in Kashmir but all over India, including in its capital Delhi," she alleged.

Last week, the Delhi High Court allowed the holding of a national seminar of the members of a collective called "Bharat Bachao" and asked the organisers to provide a list of participants and their details to the police.

At that time, Gade Inna Reddy and Mondru Francis Gopinath, members of Bharat Bachao, a collective of scholars, had approached the court with a grievance that the Delhi Police unilaterally denied them permission to organise the private programme, titled "Understanding Fascism in Present India Context", two days before the event was to be held.

Justice Tushar Rao Gedela had asked the parties to cooperate with each other to ensure that the seminar is held in a peaceful atmosphere and there is no untoward incident.

Muslims Help Perform Last Rites Of KP Man In Pulwama

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The local Muslims in South Kashmir's Pulwama district helped in performing the last rites of a 70-year-old Kashmiri Pandit, who died on Tuesday.

Setting an example of communal harmony and brotherhood, the local Muslims in Batapora Wahibugh village of Nawa hamlet in South Kashmir's Pulwama came together to help perform the last rites of their Pandit neighbor.

According to reports, Pyarey Lal Pandit resident of Wahibugh village about 8 kilometer from Pulwama town was a known figure in the area as according to the locals, he used to help persons in need.

As only a few of his family members were around, Lal's local friends and neighbours from the Muslim community took it upon themselves to help perform his last rites, locals said.

The local Muslims organised and

performed his last rites and mourned his death as one of their own. They shouldered his coffin and arranged wood for the cremation in the village, said Javid Ahmad, a local.

"He was one of us. We never thought of him as a KP. We arranged everything needed for the cremation," said Mohammad Ramzan, a middle-aged man from the locality.

"He has been living here among us for many years. We have lived alongside each other and done everything together," he said, adding that people from other adjacent areas also visited the residence to sympathise with the bereaved family members.

Lal's relatives also said that Muslims of the village always help them in times of need and they don't intervene in religious affairs.

"They (Muslims) sit at a distance when a ritual has to be done by a Pandit, but the rest of the arrangements were arranged by them," they said—(KNO)

भारतीय पर्यटन विकास सहकारी संस्था

Odisha experience is unforgettable



BY: PARTHA CHATTERJEE

BHUBANESWAR: The experience of Odisha is unforgettable. Odisha is truly a gift of nature that can only be realized after visiting its tourist attractions. This was stated by operators of the Indian Tourism Development Agency in Maharashtra after visiting Odisha's tourist spots.

Organized by Odisha's leading tourism company OM Leisure Holidays at Hotel Youngistan, Pune's renowned tour operators participated in this thought-provoking event to experience Odisha tourism.

Shri Debabrata Dash, Managing Director, Om Leisure Group addressing this tourism business conference said that this is his pleasure and privilege to welcome भारतीय पर्यटन विकास सहकारी संस्था (Bhaaratteeya Paritatan Vikaas Sahakaree Sanstha, Pune) for a FAMILIARIZATION TRIP to ODISHA from 11th to 15th March 2023. Om Leisure Holidays got the opportunity to conduct this entire trip. "We are grateful to you for availing the hospitality services at Om Leisure Hotels and Resort located at 3 major places at Puri - Satapada & Bhubaneswar."

Tour Operators of Maharashtra - also liked the trip to Odisha based OM Leisure Group Hotels and Resorts. They assured that this study tour will help them to connect more easier way tourists of Maharashtra with Odisha State as one of the best tourists destinations.

During conversation Mr. Dash said that his Team Omleisure Hotels (PURI, Chilika - Sadpada and

Bhubaneswar Golden triangle of Odisha State will extend fullest support and best of the services to all guests and world tourists visiting Odisha and staying at their hotels and conducted tours through Om Leisure Holidays, Om Leisure Resort Puri, Om Leisure Hotel Bhubaneswar and Om Leisure Chilika Resort.

Shri. Utpal Pati, Former Joint Director, Department of Tourism, Govt. Of Odisha presented Odisha most important tourist destinations of India in his presentation.

The state of Odisha is buzzing with many cultural, literary, sporting events and exhibitions. Odisha's people are deep rooted in arts and culture and the same reflects in their continuous on-going events in various cities.

Highlighting Budhaya Circuit, Eco Tourism, Heritage, Culture, Wellness Tourism he added that Odisha has all tourism potential spots from sea beaches, hills, forests, river banks, temples, caves, handicrafts, art and culture, every thing that a tourist can aspire. He said Odisha Tourism celebrates many tourism oriented festivals at places like Konarak and Puri.

Speaker Sri. Gagan Sarangi, Director Dove Tourism, Bhubaneswar welcomed all the guests.

Hon'ble CM Shri. Naveen Patnaik initiated this journey with new dimensions, to establishing Indian Sports in World Sports and Games Map - Sports for youth, youth for future, Odisha transforming the Sports landscape, empowering athletes across Odisha and India's other states. Thus world sports tourism industry also growing in larger aspect in Odisha State through Sports and Games he added.



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