

Early Spring Retriggers Farming Nightmare In Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

The signs of climate change and global warming have once again created farming concerns in Kashmir where early blossoming has heralded spring. The blossoming, experts say, has sprouted a month earlier. Even though the valley witnessed intermittent rainfall in the months of February and March, the rising temperature in the number of sunny days has raised alarm bells among the orchardists and



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

6 THE FLYEY SEASON STARTS IN ENDING MARCH AND EARLY APRIL. Even though we can't witness much blossom, a good number of fruit trees have developed white and pale type flowers."

environmentalists of the valley. One could see new buds and early blossoms appearing on a number of trees including almond, peach and Gul-tour—a spring flowering herb—giving the signs of early spring in Kashmir. These flowers are generally seen in the month of April, said Ghulam Mohammad

Najar, an orchardist from North Kashmir's Sopore. He said farmers are worried about the early blossom locally known as "flyey" because if it snows, it will hit the production. "The flyey season starts in ending March and early April," Najar said. "Even though we

can't witness much blossom, a good number of fruit trees have developed white and pale type flowers." Sonam Lotus, Director Meteorological Department (MeT), told Kashmir Observer that February 2023 was warmer than the last few years and the MeT department expects a "hotter March" this year. "The temperature is of course rising," Lotus said. "We can attribute it to climate change." In February and March, the weatherman **More on P6**

Higher Reaches Receive Fresh Snowfall

Agencies

Srinagar: The upper reaches of Kashmir, including the famous ski resort of Gulmarg received fresh snowfall on Saturday while the plains were lashed by incessant rains bringing down day temperature sharply.

According to an official of the MeT department, in last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Srinagar received 8.7mm of rain, Qazigund 9.8mm, Pahalgam 9.4mm, Kupwara 4.8mm, Kokernag 13.6mm, Gulmarg 8.2mm, Jammu 22.3mm, Banihal 33.0mm, Batote 47.2mm, Katra 29.2mm, Bhaderwah 34.8mm and Kathua 37.8.

Gulmarg received 3.8 cms of fresh snowfall during the time, the official said.

The Met department also forecast scattered to fairly widespread light rain/thunders in plains and snowfall over upper reaches in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours. For subsequent two days, the weather department predicted mainly dry weather with **More on P6**

Railway Line To Kashmir By December: Minister

Says 'Vande Bharat' Trains Designed Keeping Temperature, Snow In Mind



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The railway line connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country will be completed this year, and the special Vande Bharat trains will chug in the Union Territory next year, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the Srinagar railway station in the Nowgam area here, he said the Udhampur-Banihal track, connecting Jammu with Srinagar, will be completed by December this year, or early next year.

With this, the Udhampur-Baramulla railway line in J&K will be completed.

"There is a good progress on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line. The work on the Chenab and Anji bridges, and major tunnels is also going and there is a good progress. By the grace of God, the train will chug on this route in December this year or January-February next year," Vaishnaw said.

He said a specially designed Vande Bharat train is being developed for this line.

"Everything like temperature, snow, has been kept in mind while manufacturing this special train. Once the railway line is opened, you will have the Vande Bharat train in the middle of 2024," he said.

Asked about **More on P6**

ECI Orders Spl Electoral Roll Revision In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered a special summary revision of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir, the second such exercise after the completion of the delimitation process in the Union Territory.

In a communique to Chief Electoral Officers of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the ECI has conveyed to them its decision of holding a special summary revision of electoral rolls with reference to April 1, 2023 as the qualifying date. The exercise would start on April 5 with the publication of draft electoral rolls and culminate on May 10 with the publication of final electoral rolls.

The polls were held in HP and Gujarat in 2022.

This is the second time in less than one year that the poll body has ordered a special summary revision of electoral rolls in J&K. In June 2022,

Private Schools Warned Against Unilateral Fee Hike

Agencies

Srinagar: The School Education Department (SED) has warned private schools of Valley's North and Central Kashmir districts of strict action for unilateral hike in tuition fees and other charges collected from the parents under different heads.

As per the circular instructions issued by the Joint director Central and North Kashmir districts, the private schools have been warned to refrain from giving unilateral hike in fees and remain careful in future, while going for a revision

or hike in fees.

"Parents of students studying in Private Schools of Central and North Kashmir districts are openly coming in Social Media, Print and Electronic Media to express their anger and grievances with regard to overcharging of various fees like Admission fee, Tuition fee and Bus fees collected by the Private Institutions from the students in Brazen violation of rules and regulations and cannons prescribed by the (FFRC) Fee Fixation Review Committee established by the Govt of **More on P6**

Rahul Defiant Despite Disqualification From LS

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A combative Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he would continue to defend democracy in the country even if he is disqualified from Parliament for life or jailed and claimed that a "panic-stricken" government has handed the Opposition a "big weapon" by disqualifying him.

Addressing his first press conference after his disqualification from the Lok Sabha, Gandhi claimed



that the action against him was taken because Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "scared" of his next speech

in Parliament on the Adani issue and alleged that the "whole game" was to distract people from the issue and the panic the government was feeling over the matter.

He said he would continue to ask questions on the Adani issue, adding the moot questions remain who invested Rs 20,000 crore in Adani shell firms and what is the businessman's relationship with the prime minister. He vowed he will keep raising these questions. **More on P6**

Cong To Observer Day-Long 'Satyagraha'

The Congress will organise a day-long 'Satyagraha' on Sunday in solidarity with Rahul Gandhi in front of Gandhi statues at all states and district headquarters to protest against his disqualification from the Lok Sabha. The satyagraha will begin at 10 AM and end at 5 PM. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will stage the satyagraha at Raj Ghat in the national capital. The party feels that Rahul Gandhi's **More on P6**

J&K Special Status Revocation Cong Dragged Its Feet On The Issue For Yrs: HM

Press Trust Of India

Chhindwara: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the Narendra Modi government removed provisions of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, while the Congress dragged its feet on the issue for years.

Speaking at a gathering in Chhindwara, the bastion of Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath for almost 50 years now, Shah asked



people to vote overwhelmingly for the BJP in the Assembly polls to be held in the state later this year and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Training his **More on P6**

Srinagar: A special court on Saturday sentenced an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) rank Jammu and Kashmir police officer to one year jail over accusations of demanding and accepting a bribe.

The Special Judge of Anti-Corruption Court Chain Lal Bavoria convicted ASI Mushtaq Ahmad under sections 5(2) PC Act and 161 RPC and sentenced him to undergo simple imprisonment for one year and pay a fine of Rs. 10,000/- under each offence, a spokesperson of the anti-graft body said Saturday. The court further announced that in case of default in payment of fine, the accused shall undergo further imprisonment for one month under each offence.

"The convict has been taken into custody and **More on P6**

SHORT TAKES

Two OGWs Arrested In Bandipora

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from Bandipora district of North Kashmir. The two over-ground workers (OGWs) Abrar Ahmad Wani @Abu Qadir and Danish Pervaiz were arrested by a joint team of police, army's 14RR and the personnel of CRPF 3rd battalion at a checkpoint established at Sumlar area near fisheries farm, a police spokesperson said. During checking, he said, two Chinese grenades & other incriminating **More on P6**

Tehsildar Suspended On Graft Charges

A revenue officer in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district has been suspended and a probe ordered against him following allegations of corruption, officials said. The Jammu divisional commissioner, in an order issued on Friday, suspended Darhal Tehsildar Mumtaz Iqbal and attached him in the office of the Rajouri deputy commissioner following "the allegation of illegal gratification". According to the order, "Pending inquiry into his conduct, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, tehsildar Darhal, **More on P6**

Minor Girl Injured By Stray Dogs

A minor girl was attacked and injured on Saturday by a pack of stray dogs in Lolab valley of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. 10-year-old Tayba Shafi was attacked by stray dogs outside the home of her maternal uncle in Rednag Lalpora village on Saturday morning, reports said. The girl received multiple injuries, including her head in the canine attack. She was immediately taken to sub-district hospital (SDH) Sogam **More on P6**

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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1
Goonj Urban Fellowship 2023-24

applications only
• Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GUF3

the ground realities, geographical and socio-economic conditions of the region of placement.

Description: Goonj Urban Fellowship 2023-24 is an opportunity offered by Goonj (a non-profit organisation) to graduate students. It is a 12-month pro-

Scholarship Name 2
Goonj Grassroots Fellowship 2023-24

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 12,000 per month
- Last Date to Apply: 25-05-2023
- Application mode: Online applications OR via email at - fellowship@goonj.org
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GGS5

Scholarship Name 3
Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship & Mentorship Programme 2022-23

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2022 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher secondary, 3-year graduation, and 4-year BDS Dental course. Annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

- Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail of scholarship awards of up to INR 50,000 per year for up to 4 years of studies depending on their current level of education.
- Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KISF6



gramme where fellows will be working in both urban and rural areas in any part of the country by engaging with the communities on ground.

Eligibility: Open for a candidate who is between the age group of 21 and 30 years as on 31st July 2023. The applicant must graduate by 31st July 2023. The students must be fluent in Hindi or English (reading, writing and speaking).

- Prizes & Rewards: A monthly stipend of INR 20,000
- Last Date to Apply: 25-05-2023
- Application mode: Online

Description: Goonj Grassroots Fellowship 2023-24 is offered by Goonj (a non-profit organisation) to students who have passed their matriculation examination. It is a year-long programme where selected fellows will be working in various development initiatives in geographies across rural India

Eligibility: Open for candidates who are between the age group of 18 and 30 years as on 31st July 2023. They must pass the matriculation examination by 31st July 2023. The applicants must be fluent in Hindi or English (reading, writing and speaking) and have an understanding of

Indian-Led Team Develops Technique To Use Discarded Face Masks For Carbon Capture



Press Trust Of India

An international team led by a researcher from India has developed a new technique that uses discarded face masks to effectively remove carbon dioxide (CO2) from the air.

The researchers converted used face masks into porous activated fibrous adsorbents -- materials which capture molecules from a gas, liquid or dissolved solid to a surface.

These adsorbents possess multiple benefits such as a higher absorption rate, more capturing sites, higher adsorption capacity, and ease of handling compared to granular and powdered materials.

The team led by Associate Professor Sunanda Roy, from Alliance University in Bengaluru, developed an approach by which a large number of pores, suitable for heavy CO2 adsorption, can be formed on the developed fibres.

The surface of the fibres was further modified by amine containing compounds, which have nitrogen, to further enhance the CO2 capture.

The new material, described in a

paper published in the journal Carbon, shows an absorption capacity higher than found in many contemporary studies.

The adsorbed CO2 can be readily regenerated and the adsorbent can be used for several cycles. The regenerated CO2 can be utilised for green fuel, beverages and dry ice based on the purity, according to the researchers.

The team, including researchers from Birla Institute of Technology in Jharkhand, Newcastle University, UK, Inha University and Hanyang University, both in Korea, has also developed a graphene foam-based catalyst that can convert CO2 into fuel.

The fibrous adsorbents obtained from the recycled face masks can also be utilised for separating various dyes from aqueous solutions, the researchers said.

The efficiency of the dye removal properties remained above 94 per cent even after nine cycles of adsorption-desorption, they said.

The research suggests that the porous adsorbent has potential applications in treating polluted waste water that has been discharged from industries such as textiles and leathers.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg@jktourism.org

Sub: - Application for transfer of registration certificate of Guest House under name and style "Lowood" situated at Gagribal Buchwara, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Abdul Haleem Pandit S/o Late Abdul Aziz Pandit R/o Gagribal, Buchwara, Srinagar has approached this office for transfer of registration certificate of Guest house under the name and style "Lowood" situated at Gagribal Buchwara, Srinagar in his name;

Whereas, the Guest House has been registered by this Department in the year 2004 vide No. Reg/258/DT/III dated 29.09.2004 in the name of Mr. Abdul Aziz Pandit S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Pandit and the Registration Certificate has been renewed upto 31.03.2014;

Whereas, the said registration certificate holder namely Mr. Abdul Aziz Pandit S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Pandit R/o Buchwara, Dalgate, Srinagar has passed away on 25.05.2020;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Death Certificate of the RC holder, Undertaking given by other legal heirs of the deceased, Declaration regarding confirmation of the Oral Gift wherein the registration certificate holder has out of his own free will, love and affection transferred the said properties along with all encumbrances to his son namely Mr. Abdul Haleem Pandit S/o Late Abdul Aziz Pandit, Land /Revenue documents, Undertaking by the applicant, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, Character Certificate and State subject;

Whereas, transfer of registration certificate for the Guest House is purely for the purpose of running operation management of the said Guest House and do not confer any right of ownership of the Guest House upon the transferee;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012 (Notification of Changes), before transfer of Registration certificate of the Guest House "Lowood" situated at Gagribal Buchwara, Srinagar from "Mr. Abdul Aziz Pandit S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Pandit R/o Buchwara, Dalgate, Srinagar" in favour of "Mr. Abdul Haleem Pandit S/o Late Abdul Aziz Pandit R/o Gagribal, Buchwara, Srinagar" is effected, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received beyond a period of 07 days shall not be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

Sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism, Registration

No. Reg/103/1054/DTK
DIPK-18790/22 Dated: 25.03.2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No. 60 of2022-23

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jand K U.T, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K.U.T. Govt. for the following works:-

S. NO.	NAME OF WORK	Estt Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs.)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
1	Providing of Bed Treatment/ Jacketting to leaked Spot at RD 3000m of Awantipora Canal.	2.28	5000/=	5 Days	DEE	200	2702 M&R	Ex.Engineer, ID Anantnag

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information , eligibility criteria , specifications , bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from :-

1.	Publishing date	24.03.2023	06.00 PM
2.	Download Date Starts	24.03.2023	06.00 PM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	24.03.2023	06.00 PM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	31.03.2023	06.00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	01.03.2023	10:00 AM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag / latest GST clearance certificate /Registration card duly renewed along with Verification/BID Security in the form of EMD as per above. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/FDR (2% Uploaded at the time of Uploading of Bid and rest 1% before the issuance of Allotment Order) pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR and other documents in original shall be deposited within two Days positively after opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned latest by 30 days after award of the contract. The check list of documents for cover 1st is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check list.

2. In case the bid of the bidder is unbalanced, the bidder has to upload additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below failing which the tender shall be rejected. The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz. Quoted percentage on BOQ.	Additional Performance Security
01.	Upto and including 15% Below	Nil
02.	> 15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of Advertised Cost
03.	> 20 % upto and including 25% Below	10 % of Advertised Cost
04.	> 25% upto and including 30% Below	15 % of Advertised Cost
05.	> 30 % Below	20 % of Advertised Cost

1. Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/FDR / Treasury Challans as required, there EMD will be forfeited, besides they will be barred/prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.

3. Contractor who shall be allotted the work has to start the work within the stipulated time period after the date of allotment as the works are of very important nature.

4. The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to any reason what so ever.

5. The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.(Ninety Days)

6. As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department.

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a. Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.

b. The successful bidder fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract.

Remittance Head:-0702

Position of AAA:- (i) Accorded Vide AA No.380 DB of 2023 Dated 18-03-2023 Issued Vide No. SE/Hyd/DB/AA/13529-30 Dtdated 18-03-2023.

Position of TS. (i) Accorded vide TS No. 29/DB/ of 2022-23 Dated 23-03-2023 Issued vide No IDA/9157 Dated 23-03-2023.

Position of Funds. - Budgetary Provisions.

No.IDA /9166-88
DIPK-18817/22 Dated:- 25-03-2023

Sd
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division
Anantnag

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سائل اسلام: شیر احمد صوفی بنام رجسٹرار تحسین اینڈ ڈیپٹس
درخواست بجز اندراج تاریخ وفات

نام: مہرہ

تاریخ وفات: 24-02-2021

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسلام نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ وفات مہرہ زوجہ عبدالرحمان صوفی ساکنہ بکرہ پورہ کا دائرہ سرینگر مورخہ 15-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا احوال الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے غدرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 03-04-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

پنجرکس سرینگر nj

ازعدالت سب جج میوہاں مجسٹریٹ سرینگر بالجلاس مہرہ مشتاق

Renu Waza Through
Authorized Person Adv.
بنام Farppq Aj.ad [ai]

سائل اسلام:

درخواست بجز اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفات

نام: رنو وازا

تاریخ / پیدائش: 11-08-1968

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسلام نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوفات رنو وازا S/o Jawahir Lal Waza مورخہ 20-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا احوال الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے غدرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 29-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

سب جج میوہاں مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

"Is main kya haraj hain" (what is wrong in it) Omar told reporters who sought his comments on the National Conference support to BJP alliance at the centre. However the young NC MP did not make any mention of the banner of revolt by his senior colleague and former union minister Saif-Ud-Din Soze, on the issue of National Conference supporting a "communal party" like BJP (Kashmir Observer, 26 March, 1998)

The Dark Side of Education

When Teachers Become Tormentors

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

“The predicament that students face in such instances is the fear and trepidation of lodging a complaint against a teacher. During the tumultuous teenage years, the very idea of challenging a teacher’s authority is often met with hesitancy and uncertainty. This allows unscrupulous teachers to reign with impunity, leaving their students helpless and vulnerable

Teachers are the architects of a nation’s destiny, entrusted with the formidable task of shaping and guiding the next generation. Since time immemorial, the act of teaching has been revered as a sacred calling, a beacon of light that illuminates the path towards knowledge and wisdom. In Islam, the exalted status of teachers is enshrined in their rights and privileges, as expressed by the wise words of Hazrat Ali (RA): “Whoever teaches me a single word, becomes my master for life.” Let us celebrate the noble profession of teaching, for it is through the selfless dedication of teachers that our future shines bright. When teachers are the architects of a nation’s destiny, it is unfathomable to think that they could bring misery to their students. Yet, sadly, this can occur. As the foundation of our future, teachers hold an immense responsibility to instill a love for learning and provide the tools for success. Any action that deviates from this sacred duty is a betrayal of the trust placed in them by both students and society.

As I delved into a poem, seeking to unveil its intricate rhyme scheme, my thoughts were drawn back to my high school English teacher. It grieved me to remember his lackadaisical approach to teaching, as he blindly regurgitated information from a guidebook without any effort to prepare for his lessons. The role of a teacher goes far beyond mere transmission of knowledge; it is a sacred duty to impart wisdom and guidance to students, so that they can attain their full potential. I strongly believe that the lessons we learn in our formative years stay with us for a lifetime, which makes it all the more critical for educators to be meticulous in their preparation.

Sadly, there were numerous instances when this teacher failed to live up to this noble calling. In one such incident, he delivered a lecture on the bird “swallow,” where he erroneously equated it to a pigeon without taking the time to look up the facts or spare a minutes to consult a dictionary. Such a casual approach to teaching is nothing short of an insult to the intelligence and potential of the students. I do not mean to implicate all teachers in this deplorable behavior, but it is a sad reality that some see their students as a burden rather than a precious opportunity to shape the future.

The reason behind such behavior exhibited by teachers could stem from a myriad of causes.



Feature image caption: An empty government school in Srinagar | Danish Ismail / Reuters

As you delve deeper into the art of teaching, remember that with great power comes great responsibility – a teacher’s bond with their students must be nurtured with unwavering care and utmost devotion. Etched indelibly in my mind is the fierce competition among teachers in their private coaching centers during my higher secondary education. Regrettably, students were often left to suffer the consequences of this cut-throat rivalry, bearing the brunt of a system driven by self-interest rather than the noble pursuit of education. Seared into my memory is the recollection of practical exams, where students were compelled to face an unjust interrogation if their tutor was not the examiner. The sheer audacity of such a practice, where students were subjected to an arbitrary barrage of questions, left a sour taste in the mouths of those who sought a fair and just evaluation. I, myself, have experienced such incidents, and there may be countless others who have encountered similar situations. The predicament that students face in such instances is the fear and trepidation of lodging a complaint against a teacher. During the tumultuous teenage years, the very idea of challenging a teacher’s authority is often met with hesitancy and uncertainty. This allows unscrupulous teachers to reign

with impunity, leaving their students helpless and vulnerable. I harbor no animosity towards educators, for there are those among them who exhibit commendable dedication.

As an erudite being, I am well-acquainted with the noble breed of instructors who extend assistance to indigent pupils, be it in the form of pecuniary aid, literary provisions or even affording them their precious time. While my admiration for my educators runs deep, it is paramount that we institute amendments to facilitate redressal of grievances by pupils. To this end, a judicious committee must be established to scrutinize and expeditiously investigate any charges brought against instructors, and to mete out appropriate retributive measures upon substantiation of guilt. It behooves the learned and revered cadre of instructors to discharge their duties with utmost probity, and to meticulously craft and rehearse their pedagogical presentations ere delivering them.

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

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The word, ‘troll’, is one of the most commonly used expressions on social media. We constantly refer to someone as a troll or are accused of being one ourselves. Its etymology points to characters from Scandinavian folklore who are said to be ugly, annoying, mischievous creatures with magical powers. They seem to be averse to human beings, stealing from and attacking them. The current connotation also probably includes in its meaning trolling as used in the context of fishing: a moving, baited line. Combine these with another word, trawl, and voila! we arrive at the trolling trawler of the internet: the troll.

Who is this troll? More often than not, the troll is an unknown person; someone we are unable to Google and find any information about. They are often anonymous, have peculiar pseudonyms, and their profile pictures can range from sport stars, gods, hymns, quotations of the famous, landscape, flat colours and fantasy creatures. Their words are harsh, abusive, vulgar and personal. They are triggered by something a certain person has said or done. The latter is usually someone with a fair social standing. The troll’s objective is not to engage with the issue but to inflict psychological and emotional trauma, which they do effectively. There is never a singular troll; they always work in groups. The first opens the door and others follow behind and incessantly target the individual. The trolls may or may not be paid for this under-the-table job, but they do it with great efficiency. Like with everything else in our society, the ones who bear the brunt of their assault are women, Dalits, the sexually fluid, and trans-people.

The expert trolls are not just proficient at abuse. They follow people constantly, never letting go of their fishing line, comment on every post, and know exactly how to get you to fall into their well-laid net. They will push the right buttons, instigate and, soon, our vulnerability is exposed. Once that emotional shift happens, we have fallen into their trap. Not only do we respond but we also begin using their language. After a point, we may not know who is trolling whom. Like the troll collective, an anti-troll collective gathers around us and the battle rages. We are constantly on the phone, watching each exchange, responding with lightning speed to every jibe, liking and laughing at the ugly repartees that our colleagues dish out. All private conversations revolve around this event, WhatsApp messages of solidarity fill our minds, and sleep is lost. The trolls have, indeed, won.

While we do not fall for the same trolls’ line every time, I have often wondered why we respond to trolls. In intellectual discourse, the virtual world is described as a separate entity; the real being the physical. Though we have come to recognise the intimate connection and the osmosis between the two, a mental wedge still exists, at least in compre-

Toxic Orchestra

T.M. Krishna



“The expert trolls are not just proficient at abuse. They follow people constantly, never letting go of their fishing line, comment on every post, and know exactly how to get you to fall into their well-laid net. They will push the right buttons, instigate and, soon, our vulnerability is exposed

hension. In reality though, the real and the virtual are inter-changeable terms. The virtual and the real live within each other and it is impossible to speak of one without referencing the other. The virtual breathes the same air as the real and the real articulates the virtual. Who we are is the same; it is the language that changes. Therefore, when we are attacked on Twitter or on Facebook by a faceless entity, it hurts as much as it would if someone yelled at us face-to-face.

Then there are the onlookers! Social media platforms are like a street filled with innumerable people. Imagine being abused, teased and shouted at in public by a growing crowd. It is atomizing. Online

abuse is no different. It leaves us reduced, scared, and we spend hours re-reading the abuses. Therefore, to trivialise it as being just a few words typed on a keyboard by a distant person is entirely wrong. Since the virtual and the physical are the same, we can never be sure when an online threat will manifest into an attack on a street. There are enough examples of this from our recent past.

But let us go back to the troll. Most of us see trolls as the foot soldiers of bigger powers; the puppeteers who control these minions. But the control here operates differently. The operators are not giving instructions on an everyday basis. Their job is to create the intellectual edifice for their violent thoughts and con-

sistently build narratives that enhance and enlarge its presence. The ‘intellectuals’ do not need to say, ‘go, attack so and so,’ ‘use these expletives’ or ‘vulgarise them’. The trolls know what to do because the ‘enemies’ have been pointed out and their vulnerabilities and reasons for their decimation explained. Trolls, then, are on autopilot. They get up every morning knowing what to do and improvise as they move along. They learn from their network, using each other’s strategies. On social media platforms, twisted and manipulated videos, infographics and WhatsApp forwards do the job of providing the fodder to further hate. The ultimate powers do not create these; that job is executed by another set of people at a lower position. Those at the top just need to ensure that they continue to construct misinformation and fake news that can be made into virtual products to be disseminated. Trolls learn from them and that converts into their abhorrent and cursed behavior.

The troll is at the lowest rung of the social media hierarchy. The rowdy with whom we do not want any relationship. The hate-product creators, usually a step above, are often hidden from the public. At times though, they too get caught in the vortex. But the father figures stand tall even when the s***t hits the ceiling. The controllers share hateful tweets, lies, and manipulated videos, but do not lose credibility. The troll is the irrelevant nobody who does not deserve to exist. Keeping the troll uneducated and bitter is essential for those sitting on the higher tables. The privileged, well-spoken, powered abuser is the insulated man. At the most, we accuse him of behaving ‘like trolls’. We will never call him out for who he is: a troll. Worse, we share stage at literature festivals, media conclaves and on television channels and debate matters of society, culture and politics with him.

There is no way to keep away from social media because it is also a real conversation. Hence, trolls are always going to be around waiting for the right moment to pounce and destroy us. Therefore, we have to ask ourselves: how do we retain our sanity and yet converse? When we have a conversation with people we do not know, we judge its extent, intensity and proceed accordingly. The same applies here. We need to evolve a mechanism to disengage. Crucial in all this are the people around us, those who are compassionate and critical, so that we do not run away from real discussions and call every sharp voice a troll.

But beyond these safeguards, we must call out the big daddies of trolling who sit on top of the pyramid and conduct this hostile orchestra. They are the real violators of social ethics; the fountainheads of the troll factory.

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

The Five Love Languages: An Islamic Perspective

NOSHEEN NASIR

Love is a complex construct that is central to human relationships and widely used in every aspect of life. It is challenging to understand love as it can be perceived differently by different people. Some see it as an emotion, while others see it as a belief or a behavior. This makes it difficult to define love in a single way. However, the beauty of love lies in the simplicity of its expression. By knowing how to express love in the right way, we can create a bond that is strong enough to transcend time and distance.

The trace of humanity goes back to Adam and Eve and one of the most significant aspects of their story is the love they shared for one another. As the first human couple, they were created to be in perfect harmony with each other and with God. Their love was pure and unspoiled, free from the complexities and difficulties that would later plague human relationships. Adam and Eve remains a powerful symbol of the human capacity for love and connection.

Even in the face of adversity and loss, their love persisted, and it serves as a reminder of the beauty and value of human relationships.

This companionship is a foundation of love, which is an essential aspect of the Islamic faith. The Quran states, “And among His signs is that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your hearts. Verily, in that are signs for those who reflect.” (Quran 30:21).

Islam is a religion built on love, the love Allah (S.W.T) has for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, as well as for us, and the love the Prophet ﷺ had for humanity.

Nowadays, there is a common struggle around the ability to understand and accept one’s own feelings of love and to identify ways in which your partner expresses their love leading to confusion and frustration in relationships (1). Gary Chapman developed the concept of “Five Love Languages” that describes the different ways that people feel and express love. According to Chapman, everyone has a “love language,” or a primary way that they prefer to receive love and affection (2). The five love languages are:

- ▶ Words of Affirmation
- ▶ Quality Time
- ▶ Act of Service
- ▶ Receiving Gifts
- ▶ Physical Touch

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

This is the language of love, which involves using words to express love and affection towards others. People with this as their primary love language value verbal affirmations, compliments, kind words and phrases of encouragement. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ encouraged the use of kind and loving words when addressing others. He said, “The best among you are those who have the best character and manner.” (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 56).

The Prophet ﷺ was once asked by ‘Amr b.

al-‘Āṣ, “O Messenger of Allah, who do you love most?” The Messenger of Allah replied “Aishah” ‘Amr then asked, “And amongst the men,” The Prophet ﷺ then said, “Her Father, Abu Bakr.” (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3462)

He ﷺ always used to praise his wife in front of people and declare his love openly and in private. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was known to hold his wife, Khadijah (RA), in high esteem and spoke of her often in a loving and respectful manner. He would frequently praise her for her qualities, and referred to her as “the best amongst the women of her nation”. (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3432)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would often praise and recognize the positive qualities of his companions to express his deep affection for them. Zahir Bin Haraam was a Bedouin, he received little support from people, Prophet ﷺ approached him once while he was selling his merchandise and embraced him from back. Prophet ﷺ said “Who will buy this slave?” Zahir responded, “O Messenger of Allah, in that case, by Allah, you will find me an unsellable commodity!” The Prophet ﷺ then reassured Zahir by saying, “You are precious to Allah!” (Ash-Shama’il Al-Muhammadiyah 238).

These small affirmations like “I am proud of you” or “you are hard working” can serve as a lovely reminder of our relationships and help to maintain a strong connection.

QUALITY TIME

This involves expressing love through undivided attention and presence, involves spending quality time with their loved ones and engaging in activities together and investing in relationships.

The Prophet ﷺ would spend time with his wives every single day after Asr prayer, listening to their concerns and offering them guidance and support. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also had the habit of speaking to Aisha (RA) after the night prayer or the Sunnah prayer of Fajr.

On another occasion, the Prophet ﷺ asked his companions to proceed on their trip while he stayed behind to engage in a playful race with his wife, Aisha (RA). This highlights how a simple act of spending time together can be a memorable and meaningful expression of love.

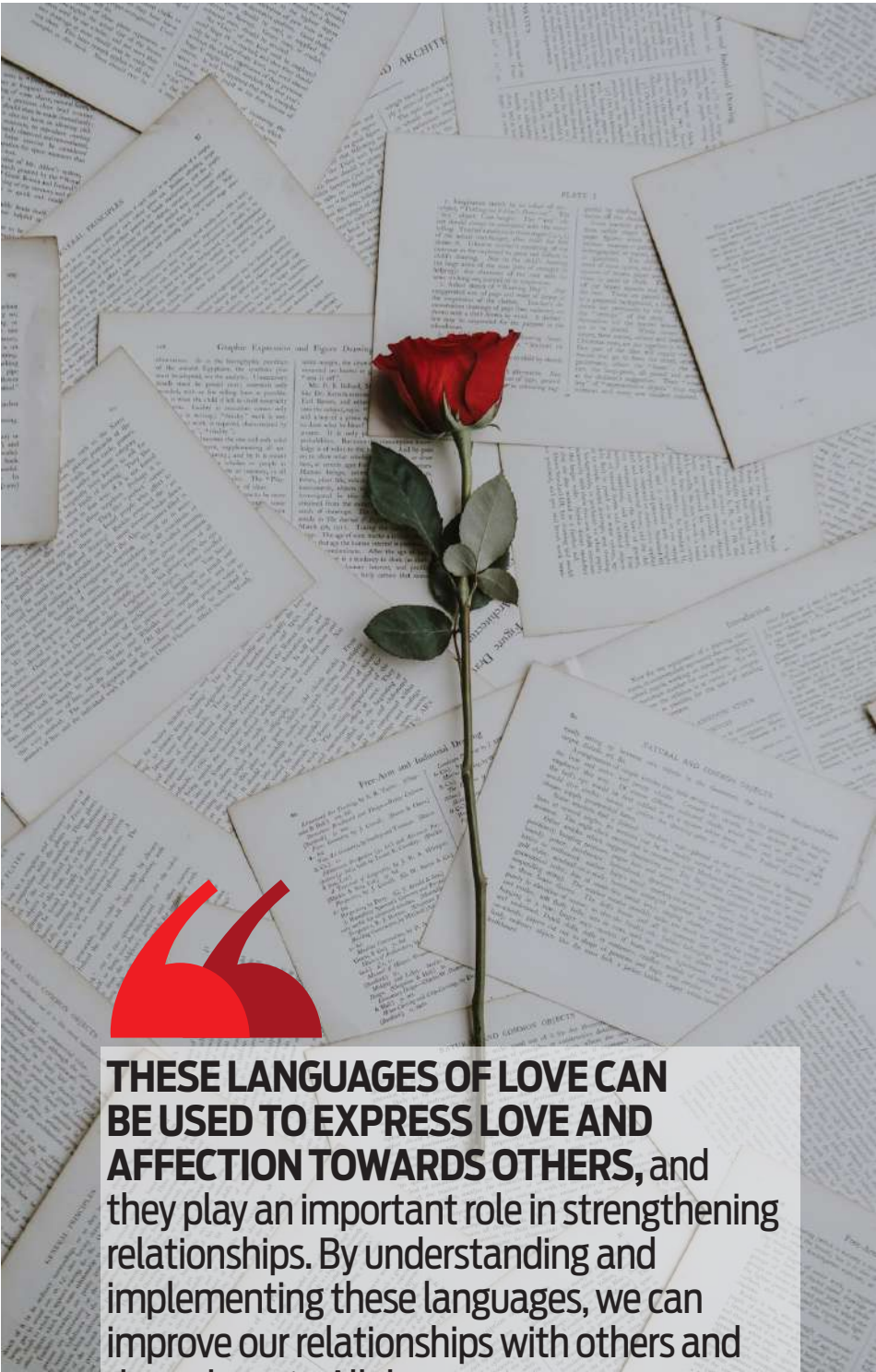
Quality time involves not only spending time together but also valuing each other by actively listening, encouraging, advising and motivating each other.

ACTS OF SERVICE

This involves expressing love through actions that demonstrate care and support, such as doing chores or running errands for a loved one.

The Prophet ﷺ encouraged Muslims to serve others and to put the needs of others before their own. He said, “The best of you are those who are the best to their wives.” (Sunan Al Tirmidhi 1162) He ﷺ would often serve his wives and attend to their needs himself, rather than delegating the task to others, and he played a very instrumental role in doing home chores.

While on a journey, when it was time to cook, one companion volunteered to slaughter the goat, another offered to remove its skin, and a third offered to cook it. The Holy Prophet ﷺ then said, “I will fetch firewood from the jungle.” The companions respectfully replied, “Our Master, may our parents be sacrificed for you! Please do not



THESE LANGUAGES OF LOVE CAN BE USED TO EXPRESS LOVE AND AFFECTION TOWARDS OTHERS, and they play an important role in strengthening relationships. By understanding and implementing these languages, we can improve our relationships with others and draw closer to Allah

bother, we can do that too.” However, the Prophet ﷺ replied, “I know that you are capable, but I do not wish to place myself above you.” (3)

This action could be carried out by anyone else,

but he ﷺ chose to do it, in order to express the significance he holds for his loved ones.

RECEIVING GIFTS

This involves expressing love through the giving of gifts, both large and small. People with this as a primary love language value the thought and effort that goes into selecting a gift.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ encouraged the giving of gifts as a way to strengthen relationships. He said, “Exchange gifts, for they remove hatred and jealousy from the heart.” (Al-Adab Al-Mufrad 594)

After the death of Khadija (RA), Prophet Muhammad ﷺ expressed his appreciation and love for her and continued to send gifts to her friends, he ﷺ would say “Go to such person, for they were a friend of Khadijah. Go to the house of such a person, for they were loved by Khadijah.” (Al-Adab al-Mufrad 225)

The Prophet ﷺ also said, “O Muslim women, none of you should look down upon the gift sent by her (neighbor) even if it were the trotters of the sheep (fleshless part of legs).” (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 2566) This suggests that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ valued not only the act of giving, but also the spirit in which the gift was given. This is reflected in his practice of never refusing a gift, as it was not the material value of the gift that mattered to him, but rather the goodwill and kindness behind the gesture of giving.

PHYSICAL TOUCH

This involves expressing love through physical touch, such as holding hands, hugging, or cuddling, valuing physical affection and intimacy.

The Prophet ﷺ used to show his love for his wives and family through physical touch, such as embracing, holding hands, and kissing. He ﷺ also showed affection towards his companions and followers by embracing and patting them on the back. Anas ibn Malik (RA), who served as a servant in the Prophet’s household, reported that the Prophet ﷺ would often pat him on the back and call him by affectionate nicknames (4).

When any of the wives of the Prophet were menstruating, he would make them wrap around their lower body and he ﷺ would cuddle, caress them to provide them comfort and show his love (Sahih Muslim 293a).

Whenever the Prophet’s ﷺ daughter Fatima (RA) would enter his home, he ﷺ would rise from his seat to greet her, take her hand, kiss her, and offer her his own seat. Similarly, when he ﷺ visited her home, Fatima would stand up to greet him, take his hand, kiss him, and offer him her own seat. (Sunan Abi Dāwūd 5217)

These languages of love can be used to express love and affection towards others, and they play an important role in strengthening relationships. By understanding and implementing these languages, we can improve our relationships with others and draw closer to Allah.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

The Differences Between Grief and Depression

GRIEF

Grief is the struggle that happens as we cope with the death of a loved one. Grieving can also happen in response to the loss of an important identity or relationship, such as during retirement, when one might grieve their “professional self.” Losses like these can shatter the core beliefs we have about things, like how much we are in control of our lives, how predictable things are, or how good people are.

We assume our core beliefs are true, especially if we have not had much reason to question them. During grief, people often experience sadness, sorrow, emotional pain, and preoccupation with the person or identity that was lost. As the process unfolds, we attempt to make sense of the core beliefs that were shattered during the loss.

DEPRESSION

Depression is connected to a negative view of oneself, as well as a tendency to pay attention to negative information. This often happens because a core negative belief (or set of beliefs) exists about the self and the world. Beliefs like these can be very stable and live deep in the subconscious mind and are often connected to motivations to avoid situations that could confirm them.

Depression can be triggered by experiences that bring negative core beliefs into focus, like a relationship or job where a person feels inadequate or undervalued. During the depression, we usually feel sad, empty, and even irritable. Fatigue, chronic pain, insomnia, trouble concentrating, changes in appetite, and thoughts of self-harm or suicide can also be part of depression. With depression, these symptoms interfere

with regular life so much that it can be hard to perform daily tasks or maintain relationships.

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Both grief and depression are connected to the core beliefs that we subconsciously hold as true about ourselves and the world. However, grief is connected to the shattering and rebuilding of a set of core beliefs, whereas depression is connected to the rise of a particular set of negative core beliefs about the self and/or world. Grieving in response to a loss may include some of the same feelings and symptoms that encompass depression, but grieving does not always involve negative beliefs about the self and world. When this does occur, we can say that depression and grief overlap.

FEELING BETTER IN THE AFTERMATH OF GRIEF AND DEPRESSION

There are some practices and techniques that can help people recover from both grief and depression. Mindfulness and acceptance-based practices or therapies can help us gain feelings of control over intrusive thoughts about the core beliefs at the center of depression or grief. Focusing on building self-compassion can also help us move towards reflecting on life’s circumstances in a gentler way, which can pave the way towards creating new, healthier habits and finding peace.

Everyone’s journey with grief and depression is different, and different things work for different people. Understanding and recognizing the symptoms of these experiences can help us move towards activities that help us feel better.

– Psychology Today



J&K NHM Releases Ranking Of Public Health Facilities For Feb-2023

Observer News Service

Jammu: National Health Mission, J&K, today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of February 2023.

In first phase of implementation, 578 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in a phased manner.

In the category of Associated

Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital Jammu followed by Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Jammu, GMC Baramulla, AH GMC Rajouri, and GMC Doda. The bottom five in this category included SMHS GMC Srinagar, Kashmir Nursing Home, Srinagar, Children Hospital Bemina, Srinagar, Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Srinagar and GMC Kathua.

In the category of District

Hospitals, first rank has been secured by DH Shopian followed by DH Reasi, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu; DH Samba and DH JLN, Srinagar. The bottom five in this category included DH Kishtwar, DH Handwara, DH Pulwama, DH Ramban and DH Ganderbal.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), CHC Ramgarh bagged first rank followed by CHC Zainpora, CHC Dooru EH Vijaypur and CHC Seer. The bottom five in this

category included CHC Darhal, CHC Magam, CHC Zachaldara, CHC Thatri and CHC Tral.

In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and UPHCs, first rank has been clinched by PHC Achabal followed by PHC Mattan, PHC Kakapora, PHC Srigfwar and PHC Aishmuqam. The bottom five in this category included UPHC Sangam, PHC Thakrakote, PHC Teetwal, PHC Massu and PHC Machil.

JKTPO Participates In Source India Bangladesh Exhibition By TPCI In Bangladesh

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) participated Source India Bangladesh 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The exhibition was organized by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) with support of Department of Commerce, Govt. of India.

The event was inaugurated by Pratik Negi, First Secretary, Economic & Commerce, High Commission of India, Dhaka in presence of Md. Anowar Hossain- General Secretary, Bangladesh

Food Stuffs Import & Suppliers Association (BAFISA) and Abul Kalam Azad -Secretary General, Bangladesh Chemical Importers & Merchant Association.

This event provided the gateway to the Food Processing Companies, Basic Chemical, Dyes and Pigments, Edible Chemicals sector of India to enter the Bangladesh market. The event was a perfect B2B platform for our manufacturers to showcase their products under one roof in the Bangladesh Market. This event has provided an interactive platform for our delegates to

generate business through product displays, direct interaction with the Buyers.

JKTPO in collaboration with TPCI, facilitated the participation of 09 entrepreneurs of J&K from Agro and Food Processing industry for the event from J&K. The J&K exhibitors received very good response from the buyers and around 500+ business lead were generated by them in the event. Products like Saffron, Canned Cherries, Honey, Fresh Fruits, Walnuts, Dry fruits, Aromatic oils, etc received very good response from the buyers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Early Spring Retrigger

said, there have been no major western disturbances.

According to Abdul Qadoos Beig, Horticulture Officer at Directorate of Horticulture Department the early blooming of flowers is definitely a cause of concern for farmers.

"If it rains or snows after the blossom," Beig said, "the flowers will fall and hit the fruit production."

The natural process, he said, has started one month earlier this year and it needs to be taken seriously by the farmers and reschedule the percentage of pesticides.

"We can attribute the rise in temperature in spring to the abnormal temperature across the world," said Dr. Arshid Jahangir, Assistant Professor, Department of Environment Science. "Even the local meteorological conditions can lead to such kinds of events."

Notably, Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing unusually high temperatures in the spring for the last few years. The month of March 2022 was confirmed as the warmest month in Srinagar in 131 years.

The "warm winters" is a major concern leading to melting of glaciers early at a significant rate, according to a study which used satellite data to find that over 1,200 glaciers in the Himalayan region saw an annual reduction in mass of 35 centimetres (cm) on average between the year 2000 and 2012.

"On the basis of just one study, we can just declare that warm winters are because of climate change," Dr. Arshad said. "But yes, the early spring blossom is a matter of concern."

Higher Reaches

possibility of "isolated very light rain and thunders".

Regarding temperature, the MeT official said, Srinagar recorded a low of 5.0°C against 5.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 4.6°C against 4.0°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.5°C against 0.6°C.

Kokernag recorded a low of 3.8°C against 4.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.0°C against 0.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 3.4°C against 4.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the north Kashmiri area.

Jammu recorded a low of 13.2°C against 14.9°C on the previous night. It was 2.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 2.2°C (below normal by 3.1°C), Batote 3.5°C (below normal by 4.6°C), Katra 10.0°C (2.5°C below normal) and Bhardarwah 3.0°C (0.9°C below normal).

Avalanche Alert

said that avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 3000 metres above sea level over Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Doda, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Poonch, Ramban, Reasi districts in next 24 hours.

"People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders", he said.

Police Officer

sent to Central Jail Srinagar for serving the sentence," the spokesperson said.

Giving details of the case, he said, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, posted at Charar-e-Sharif, Budgam, was trapped on the basis of a complaint by Abdul Rashid Chopan on September 19, 2008 alleging that the officer demanded bribe from him when he was transporting 3 quintals of rice purchased by him from a government ration Depot in Nagam in a sumo towards his home.

"On his way he was intercepted by ASI Mushtaq Ahmad Shah of Police Station Charar-e-Sharif, Budgam who took him along with rice to Nowhar, Charar-e-Sharif where he demanded and accepted bribe of Rs. 500/- from the complainant but returned only 2 quintals of rice to him," the spokesperson said.

The accused officer, he said, handed over the remaining one quintal of rice to a shopkeeper and demanded a further bribe of Rs. 1000 Chopan. The complainant, he said, persuaded the accused who agreed to accept Rs. 500 only to settle the issue. The bribe was agreed to be paid on 19-09-2008.

"However, the complainant lodged a complaint with VOK (now ACB) and accordingly a team of officers of VOK was constituted to lay a trap for the accused public servant. The team laid a successful trap and arrested ASI Mushtaq Ahmad Shah red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe. The tainted money was recovered from his possession," the

spokesperson said.

Railway Line

the delay in completing the project, the Union minister said there was less funding before Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014.

"The cost of the project is Rs 35,000 crore. They used to get only Rs 700-800 crores per year. So, after Modi came to power, he doubled it. Then tripled it and now has increased the funding six times of what it was," Vaishnav said.

He said this year, Rs 6,000 crore has been allotted for the railway project in J&K in the budget.

Vaishnav said there were technical reasons for the delay as well.

"The Himalayas are the young mountains which means they are soft and tunnelling work is very difficult," he said.

However, all big challenges have now been completed and all the difficult work has been done, he added.

Describing the Chenab railway bridge as an engineering marvel, the minister said it is one of the highest bridges in the world and the highest railway bridge in the country.

"It is higher than the Eiffel Tower. All the tests have been done and all have been successful. High velocity winds, extreme temperature, earthquake prone area, hydrological impact -- everything has been studied in detail. Now, the bridge is ready for operation, ready for commissioning. The track laying work is on. This is the greatest thing for J-K, he said.

The Union railway minister said the Anji bridge will also be completed by August this year and after fine-tuning works, it will be available for commissioning by September this year.

He said 41 segments out of the 47 have already been launched, adding the whole project is very complex.

Crediting Modi for transforming the railways across the country, Vaishnav said this year, the Railways is laying a track of 13 kilometres per day, which is a record.

"This speed of work has been witnessed for the first time after independence under the able leadership of Modi," he said.

He said electric train will be inaugurated in J&K very soon as the electrification work has been completed.

The minister said demands have been received for connecting three areas -- Sopore-Kupwara, Awantipora-Shopian, and Bijbehara-Pahalgam -- with the railway line, and the Railways will discuss it.

"We will discuss this with J-K LG, and then with Union Home minister (Amit Shah) and Prime Minister (Narendra Modi)," he added.

He said Modi wants to give the country's and the world's best facilities and infrastructure to J&K. "We are working in that direction."

"He (Modi) is strongly determined to increase and improve the railway network in J&K," Vaishnav said.

The minister also said the railways has started a parcel booking facility in Srinagar, along with the Department of Posts, to send products by booking parcels from here to different parts of the country.

"We will take it up on a large scale in the days to come, especially when the railway line is completed," he said.

Vaishnav said about 750 one station-one product' stalls have been put up at railway stations across the country.

"These stalls have unique products of the area which can be sent to every corner of the country," he added.

There are 146 Gati-Shakti cargo terminals across the country for handling rail cargo and I have directed the officials to develop three to four on the Banihal-Baramulla line, the minister said.

Vaishnav, who is also the minister of Communications and Electronics and Information Technology, said every village and city in J&K will have a telecom facility.

J&K, and Ladakh will have seamless connectivity. About 500 new mobile towers have been sanctioned for Ladakh and soon they will have good 4G/5G connectivity, he added.

ECI Orders Spl

the ECI had ordered a special summary revision of electoral rolls in J&K. The exercise was completed on November 25, 2022.

In its communication to the CEOs, the Commission said the exercise has been ordered to keep the roll updated and to provide an opportunity to all young eligible citizens to enroll them as the last revision exercise in these States/UT was undertaken with reference to October 1, 2022 as the qualifying date.

The ECI said that it has decided to conduct a special summary revision of electoral rolls in J&K UT, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat with reference to April 01, 2023 as the qualifying date.

Meanwhile, the chief electoral officer of J&K has directed that all district election officers shall submit action plans including SVEEP

activities for the special summary revision to the office by or before March 28, 2023 so that a UT-level action plan, as desired by the Commission can be submitted by this office within the prescribed time.

"A review meeting on the action plans and other aspects of the special Summary Revision shall be taken by the Chief Electoral Officer on April 01, 2023, the schedule of the same shall be notified separately," the CEO's communicate states. (KNO)

Rahul Defiant

Gandhi was disqualified from the Lok Sabha on Friday, a day after a court in Gujarat's Surat convicted him in a 2019 defamation case. The disqualification will bar Gandhi (52), a four-time MP, from contesting polls for eight years unless a higher court stays his conviction.

Asserting that "democracy has finished in this country", the former Congress chief claimed that he never sought foreign intervention in his remarks made in the UK and accused Union ministers of "lying" against him in Parliament to which he said he wanted to respond but was not allowed.

He also said that the BJP was trying to divert the issue by alleging that he had insulted OBCs and he would continue to ask what is Modi's relationship with businessman Gautam Adani.

"I am here defending the democratic voice of the Indian people, I will continue to do that. I am not scared of these threats, of these disqualifications, allegations, prison sentences. I am not scared of them. These people don't understand me yet, I am not scared of them," he said, attacking the BJP.

"Disqualify me for life, put me inside jail, I will keep going. I will not stop," he said, noting that it makes no difference to him.

"I have been disqualified because the prime minister is scared of my next speech. I have seen it in his eyes. So he is terrified of the next speech that is going to come and does not want that speech to be in Parliament," the former Congress chief alleged at the 30-minute press conference, flanked by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and party general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal.

He claimed that his attack on Adani was the reason for distraction through allegations and now disqualification.

Hitting back, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad rubbished the contention that Gandhi's conviction in a defamation case and his subsequent disqualification was linked to the latter raising the Adani Group issue and his conviction has come in a defamation case for his defamatory remarks made in 2019.

Prasad alleged that the Congress did not press its battery of lawyers in service to immediately obtain a stay on Gandhi's conviction by a Gujarat court with a view to "encashing" the issue in the upcoming assembly polls in Karnataka. The former union minister also charged Gandhi with insulting OBCs, "an issue that will be taken up in all earnestness by the BJP across the country".

Gandhi, when asked if he was worried, quipped: "Do I look worried. I am excited, I am happy that they have given me the best gift that they could give me." He said when somebody is guilty of something, they want to distract everybody's attention. "If you catch a thief, the first thing he says is 'I didn't do it', the second thing he says is 'look there, look there.' That is what the BJP is doing." Asking where the money into Adani group has come as Adani does not generate this type of money and that money has come from someone," he said all this drama - OBC, disqualification, anti-national, is being orchestrated to distract from the panic that prime minister is feeling that his relationship with Adani is going to be exposed. "That relationship is going to be exposed. Nobody is going to stop that. It is going to happen, because the opposition is going to find that answer," he said.

Asked if he was hopeful that his membership would be restored, Gandhi said, "I am not interested in hope. (Whether) I get my membership back or not, I will do my job. Even if they permanently disqualify me I will do my job, if they reinstate me, I will do my job. It does not matter to me whether I am in Parliament or outside it. I have to do my 'tapasya' and I will keep doing it," he said.

The Congress leader also thanked Opposition parties for extending support to him and asserted that going forward, all of them will work together.

Asked about the consequences of his disqualification, Gandhi said the Opposition will benefit the most from this "panic reaction of Prime Minister Modi".

"They got into panic mode that the truth will come out. They have handed over the biggest weapon to the Opposition because people have a question on their mind... and question is why is the prime minister saving this corrupt person," Gandhi alleged.

He said he will continue to fight for the truth in the country and to defend the democratic

nature of this country.

"I will do whatever I have to do to defend the democratic nature of the country. What does that mean? It means defending the institutions of the country, defending the voice of the poor people of the country, it means telling the people of this country the truth about people like Mr Adani who are basically exploiting the relationship with the prime minister," Gandhi said.

He alleged that for the BJP-led government, "country is Adani and Adani is country".

Asked about the BJP's charge that his 2019 remarks that were the centre of the defamation case were an insult to OBCs, Gandhi said he has always talked about brotherhood and the issue was not about OBCs but about Adani and his ties the government.

In response to another question, Gandhi said, "My name is not Savarkar, my name is Gandhi, Gandhi does not offer apology to anyone." Asked about the defamation case in which he was convicted, Gandhi said it is a legal matter he will not comment on it.

He also said attacks are being made on democracy in the country and examples of it keep manifesting from time to time.

Cong To Observer

conviction and disqualification, which it has alleged was done in reaction to his consistently questioning the relationship between PM Narendra Modi and businessman Gautam Adani, poses a serious threat to the world's largest democracy.

The Congress has said that Rahul Gandhi is not alone and millions of congressmen and people irrespective of their political affiliations will join him in this fight for truth and justice.

To this end, all Pradesh Congress Committees have been asked to organise a one-day Satyagraha in front of Gandhi statues in all State and District Headquarters from 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday.

The top Congress leadership also went into a huddle once again at the party headquarters here with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and general secretaries K C Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh, along with the two chief ministers Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel.

Private Schools

Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory," the circular reads.

The move as per the department circular, has been viewed "very seriously" by the higher authorities and the stakeholders.

"Parents of the students who have to bear the brunt of the onslaught of this unilateral hike of fees by the unbridled School Managements, who are always in search of opportunities to give a hike to the fee in any Head/Sector without any plausible justification and slap this Hukum-I-Tughlak to the parents through WhatsApp/SMS/Telephonic-Calls," the circular reads.

The department has observed that the private school managements have become so arrogant that they withhold the results of the students who don't pay advance fees of the current month which is yet to finish.

"They don't bother or feel it necessary to consult the Parent Body, Working Committee or any official machinery to get the hike of charges examined, discussed, justified, and finally accepted by one and all," the circular reads.

The joint director has warned the Private School Managements to remain careful in future, while going for a revision or hike in fees and shall immediately consult the Chief Education Officers or Zonal Education Officers concerned and the Parents Body of that school and move a proposal for any such hike.

"With this, the menace of overcharging of fees, exorbitant admission fees are streamlined as per standard of school, the facilities provided by school, quality of education, transport facilities, playground," the circular reads.

The Joint Director has issued instructions to all the Chief Education Officers and Zonal Education Officers of all the six districts including

Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara to mobilize themselves and re-activate their institutions.

"Make surprise visits to your school jurisdictions and take cognizance of complaints received in this behalf and take a strong notice of violations to curb this menace with Iron hand and restore confidence and faith of General Public, Parents and students in the law of the land and law enforcing agencies," the circular reads--(KNO)

Cong Dragged

guns on Nath, the Union minister said the former did nothing for the people of the state when he was chief minister between December 2018 and March 2020 but "indulged in corruption".

"Previous Congress governments did not care for the tribals, the poor and those from the Other Backward Classes. Only the BJP can provide security, prosperity and ensure welfare of the poor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi cares

for the respect of tribals, whom the Congress has neglected for years," Shah said.

"A woman from a poor tribal family, Droupadi Murmu, is now the honourable President of India after 75 years (of Independence) due to the efforts of PM Modi," he said.

The PM had also announced nationwide celebration of legendary tribal leader Birs Munda's birth anniversary on November 15 last year as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas', the Union Home Minister said.

"The Congress has always talked about the downtrodden but did nothing for them. PM Modi gave constitutional status to the OBC Commission after coming to power in 2014 and laid the foundation for their respect. Only the BJP has cared for the respect of tribals and OBCs," Shah asserted.

After the formation of the NDA government in 2014, PM Modi said the BJP's regime was that of the poor, the downtrodden, Dalits, tribals and OBCs, while the Congress, which gave the slogan of "garibi hatao", (eradicate poverty) did nothing for them, Shah claimed.

"In the last nine years (of NDA rule), the Union government has worked to transform the lives of 80 crore poor people. Bank accounts had been opened for 60 crore citizens, 13 crore persons got gas cylinders and 10 crore families saw toilets getting built in their homes. Three crore people got their own houses. More than 60 crore people are reaping the benefits of Ayushman Bharat health scheme, which has a coverage of Rs 5 lakh," Shah said.

"PM Modi got 130 crore people vaccinated for free to protect them from coronavirus. Modiji has ensured the poor get five kilograms of rations free every month at their doorsteps," he added.

Attacking Nath, the Union Home minister said, "Instead of doing something new (during his tenure as CM), Kamal Nath indulged in corruption."

Shah alleged several crore rupees were paid in advance without following laid down procedures in a dam construction work in which names of people close to the Congress leader cropped up.

"He had promised to give allowance to unemployed (youth) during the last Assembly polls but no one got it. Instead, he abandoned the welfare schemes launched by Shivraj Singh Chouhan," said Shah, who listed many "unfulfilled promises" of Nath.

Shah said the BJP government had made a budgetary allocation of Rs 34,000 crore for Chhindwara and spoke of multi-crore central projects sanctioned for the region.

Some 35-40 per cent of people from the Chhindwara region are from the tribal communities.

The Narendra Modi government removed provisions of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, while the Congress dragged its feet on the issue for years, he said.

MP Congress president and former chief minister Kamal Nath was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Chhindwara in 1980 and repeated the feat several times, with his only loss coming in a bypoll in 1997.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP managed to win 28 out of 29 Lok Sabha seats in MP, including that of then Congress heavyweight Jyotiraditya Scindia, but Chhindwara remained out of grasp with Nath's son Nakul Nath winning it by a margin of more than 35,000 votes.

The Congress had formed government under Kamal Nath after the 2018 Assembly polls before a rebellion by MLAs loyal to Scindia brought it down in March 2020 and paved the way for the return of a BJP dispensation under Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Shah's meet was part of the BJP's mass outreach programme set to cover 130-odd Lok Sabha seats it failed to win in the 2019 polls, party functionaries said.

Two OGWs Arrested

materials have been recovered from their possession.

"They have been arrested and shifted to the Police Station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 40/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Bandipora and further investigation has been initiated," the spokesperson added.

Tehsildar Suspended

is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of J-K Civil Services (CC&A) Rules of 1995 and shall remain attached in the office of deputy commissioner, Rajouri."

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Nowshera) Kartar Singh has been appointed as inquiry officer and directed to submit a detailed report within 15 days.

Minor Girl Injured

for treatment. However, the doctors there referred her to SDH Kupwara for specialised treatment.

NSG Carries Out Anti-Hijacking Drill At Jammu Airport

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The National Security Guards (NSG) has carried out a full-fledged anti-hijacking drill at the Jammu airport, officials said on Saturday.

The drill was conducted by the NSG with the activation of the Anti-Hijack Committee (AHC) at the Jammu Air Force

Police, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

"The drill involved the entire spectrum of events, including negotiations with hijackers followed by intervention and overpowering of hijackers by a potent team of the NSG," the public relations officer (PRO) said.



Station on Friday, a defence PRO said.

He said the exercise involved all the key stakeholders, including the Indian Air Force, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Union Territory administration, the Jammu and Kashmir

He said the exercise gave a unique opportunity to validate the processes of various agencies during such a crisis.

"An Air India aircraft that landed at the Jammu airport in the afternoon was utilised for the realistic drill," he added.

Mehbooba Fumes Over New SM Rules For Govt Employees

'J&K Admin Wants To Strip People Of Their Livelihood'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the social media guidelines for Jammu and Kashmir government employees were part of "a clear intimidation of dispossessing people" of their livelihood.

Senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami too hit out at the J and K administration, saying being a government employee does not mean one giving up all legitimate constitutional rights as a citizen.

"Whether it was blacklisting contractors and the social media gag to employees, a clear intimidation of dispossessing people in J&K of their livelihood has emerged. Authorities have become judge, jury and executioner in complete violation of the fundamental rights of people," Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has warned its employees of strict disciplinary action, including termination from service, for posting any material on social media that is critical to any policy pursued or action taken by the government.

Tarigami said barring employees from expressing their views about the issues concerning them is tantamount to stripping them of their basic rights.

"They must be treated as citizens, not as subjects," he said, adding an employee is not a slave.

"He has presented his services to the government for government works, but he has not sur-

rendered himself. The administration should understand this. A citizen cannot be deprived of his constitutional rights, and if it is done, then it is unconstitutional and unlawful," Tarigami said.

The CPI(M) leader said an employee should get all the rights which a citizen has.

The Constitution has given him the right to criticise policies of the government, but how he expressed that should be under the ambit of the law and the Constitution, he added.

A circular issued on Friday by Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Sanjeev Verma said fresh provisions have been incorporated in the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Conduct Rules, 1971, barring employees from commenting on political or government policies on social media.

As per the new guidelines, no employee shall, through any post, tweet or otherwise, discuss or criticise on social media, any policy pursued or action taken by the government, nor shall he or she, in any manner, participate in any such discussion or criticism on social media communities or micro-blogs.

No employee shall post, tweet or share content that is political or anti-secular and communal in nature or subscribe to pages, communities or Twitter handles and blogs of such nature, said the guidelines on the use of social media by government employees in the Union Territory.



J&K To Have Consumer Forums, Ombudsman For Electricity-Related Complaints

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir would soon have consumer grievance redressal forums and an ombudsman for resolving electricity-related problems of consumers.

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UT of J&K and Ladakh has unveiled regulations for establishing consumer grievance redressal forum(s) and for the appointment of an electricity ombudsman by the Commission.

In a notification, the JERC said that every distribution licensee shall establish electricity consumers' grievance redressal forum(s) at the company level to ensure redressal of the grievances of the complainants.

These consumers can approach these Forums over non-supply, disconnection of supply, new service connection, meter-related issues, and billing-related issues. "They shall ensure that consumers can also have a remedy in the event of failure or delay on the part of the distribution licensee in redressing their complaints," the regulations state.

These Forum(s) shall settle the grievances of the consumers within a period of 30 days normally and not exceeding 45 days in any case, the regulations further state.

The Forum shall be headed by the Managing Director of the licensee,

the Director Finance of the licensee, an independent member, and not more than four as consumer/prosumer members.

The independent member shall be an individual possessing a minimum bachelor's degree preferably in engineering (electrical/mechanical/electronics/computer)/law/public administration/journalism/economics/political Science or equivalent having at least 5 years of experience in power sector related matters.

The members as consumer and prosumer representatives shall be appointed by the licensee with the consent of the Commission who have attained the minimum age of 35 years and who have been consumers/prosumers of licensees.

The Regulations state that the Commission may appoint the electricity ombudsman or ombudsmen to discharge the functions as mandated under the Electricity Act-2003.

"The Commission may appoint or designate electricity ombudsman or ombudsmen separately for each licensee or a common electricity ombudsman or ombudsmen for two or more distribution licensees considering factors such as the number of representations received, disposal of representations within the specified time limit, ease of access for the consumers and the geographical area," the regulations further state. —(KNO)



A YOUTH CARRYING UMBRELLA rides his cycle through busy Residency Road in Srinagar on a rainy day Saturday.
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

No Truck Halts At Nagrota, Qazigund: CS Mehta

People To Reach Akhnoor Within Half An Hour By May This Year



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Saturday impressed upon the traffic authorities to completely do away with the halting of trucks at Nagrota and Qazigund on Sgr-Jmu National Highway and instead let them ply smoothly without putting any forced halt to their movement either way between Jammu and Srinagar.

Dr Mehta made these remarks in a meeting with different stakeholders called for reviewing the progress of construction of National Highways under Prime Minister Development Programme across the UT.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed upon the executing agencies to complete all these road projects providing interconnectivity to different regions in the stipulated timeframe. He enjoined upon them that the significance of these roads is very high and deserves all efforts to be completed on time.

He directed the concerned authorities to strictly stick to the timeline of completing the Expressway to Akhnoor in all respects by May this year so that the travel time to reach there gets reduced to half an hour. He made out that this road is going to play a vital role in bringing this circuit on the

tourism map of J&K and increase the footfall to this location considerably.

Regarding the Delhi-Katra Expressway the Chief Secretary directed for continuing the momentum of work besides meeting timelines set for completing different sub-projects. He asked them that this Road project is of national importance as it leads to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi visited by millions of pilgrims every year. He said that the work on such a prestigious project should be given due priority for completing it at the earliest.

Dr Mehta also sensitized the executing agencies about the significance of Uri-Poonch Highway. He told them that the work on this project should be taken in hand at the earliest so that it is also completed on time bringing respite to people besides providing alternate route between the two divisions of the UT.

As far as the movement of traffic on National Highway is concerned the Chief Secretary directed for ensuring its smooth movement all across the road by properly maintaining the 6 kms difficult stretch between Ramban and Banihal. He advised them to use necessary manpower and machinery efficiently besides exploring few dry days for traffic to make the travel on this road pleasant and

hassle free for all times to come.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the work done on the Srinagar-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam Highway (NH-444). He stressed on completing the stretches near all the towns of Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama so that the road is complete before the onset of Tourism season this year. The highway is going to drastically reduce the time taken for traveling to and fro and to reach to Srinagar. He also took stock of the progress made in execution of Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway, Chenani-Sudmahadev-Goha- Khellani and Akhnoor-Poonch Highways and stressed on their early completion.

He directed the Deputy Commissioners to facilitate the executing agencies in performing their work smoothly. He pointed out that tourism sector is going to be the biggest gainer by their completion.

Dr Mehta enquired from the executing agencies about the bottlenecks affecting the pace of their work. He instantly passed on directions to the concerned government departments for taking the measures to address them. He asked them to own these significant national projects and show eagerness in seeing them completed well on time. He fixed timelines for each of the road project for its completion.

Aaliya Mir Becomes First Woman From J&K To Receive Wildlife Conservation Award

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has felicitated Aaliya Mir, a wildlife conservationist working for India-based charity Wildlife SOS with an award for her conservation efforts in the region.

Mir, who received the award from Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor became the first woman from J&K to be felicitated with an award for her role in wildlife conservation. She was given a cash prize of Rs 25000 along with a Memento.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Mir said that she is thrilled to receive the award which will keep her "motivated"

"I will continue to do my job but the appreciation keeps a person motivated," Mir said.

Mir was felicitated on the International Day of Forests event held by the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment in Jammu on 21 March.

"Mir was felicitated with an award in recognition of her efforts spanning diverse aspects of wildlife conservation. This includes the rescue and release of wild animals, treatment of injured animals, human-wildlife conflict mitigation and managing two bear rescue centres in Kashmir," said the Wildlife SOS in a statement.

Aaliya Mir is the Programme Head and Education Officer at Wildlife SOS and Kashmir's first female wildlife rescuer. Despite having rescued Asiatic black bears, Himalayan brown bears, birds, leopards and other mammals, Mir is best known for her work with snakes.

"Over the years, she has rescued snakes from the most unlikely places such as kitchens, lawns, gardens and toilets of residences, government buildings and offices, school and university premises, and from tyres and engines of vehicles, to name a few," Wildlife SOS said.

One particular instance made headlines when the Wildlife SOS team, led by Mir, rescued a Levantine viper – a highly venomous snake – from the Chief Minister's residence in an hour-long operation and safely released it



back into the wild. "This individual was one of the heaviest vipers that we had encountered and weighed around 2 kg," Aaliya Mir revealed.

The statement further reads that despite the stern stigma and a deep-rooted fear of snakes, Mir built credibility among local communities through continued rescue efforts.

In May 2021, Wildlife SOS launched a wildlife rescue helpline under Mir's leadership. The NGO works closely with the J&K Wildlife Protection Department in handling rescue calls to save snakes and other wild animals.

Mir and her team also manage two bear rescue centres in Dachigam and Pahalgam, which house eight bears that include both Asiatic Black bears and Himalayan Brown bears. Here she displays her expertise in ex-situ conservation of wild animals. Additionally, Mir has participated in various revolutionary surveys including the Hangul (Kashmir Stag) census and the annual Asian Waterbird Census. She has also worked on human-wildlife conflict extensively, especially on the human-leopard conflict in the North division of Kashmir.

Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-founder and CEO, Wildlife SOS said, "Wildlife SOS is at the forefront of women empowerment and this particular recognition is a testament to Aaliya's leadership qualities and skills. She has played the most important role in the outreach of our conservation efforts in this region. Working on various aspects of wildlife and biodiversity conservation for nearly 15 years, she has been a role model and inspiration for all women who aspire to be conservationists in future."

Couple Having Links With Amritpal Aide Detained In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police on Saturday detained a couple from R S Pura on outskirts of Jammu for allegedly having links with Papalpreet Singh, the brain behind on-the-run radical preacher Amritpal Singh, an officer said.

The couple -- Amrik Singh and his wife Sarabjeet Kour, residents of R S Pura -- were handed over to the Punjab Police after being detained, the police officer said.

Papalpreet has been on the run along with Amritpal since the Punjab Police launched a crackdown against the pro-Khalistan preacher and his 'Waris Punjab De' outfit on March 18.

DC Inaugurates Amritsarovar River Front At Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Saturday inaugurated Amritsarovar River front at Goos in Kupwara district which has been constructed by Rural Development department under MGNREGA with a project cost of Rs 17.89 lacs.

River front Amritsarovar has been constructed at the gateway of Lolab valley and presents a picturesque scene because of lush green forests and gushing water of Nallah Lolab and has become an attraction



for local residents and visitors due to its scenic beauty and recreational facilities.

BDC chairman, Hayhama, Ali Mohammad Sheikh, ACD Kupwara, Hilal Ahmad Mir, BDO Hayhama Dr. Tariq Ahmad Padder were present at the occasion.

Facilities of a recreational LED park with laser-show, open Gymnasium, cafeteria, walkway and a floating restaurant are being constructed near the river front. These facilities

are being constructed under convergence with the tourism department and flood control department.

River front is already having reservoir, seating facilities, boating facilities, fishing and sightseeing of flora and fauna of nearby forest area.

On the occasion Deputy Commissioner while stressing on the need of convergence for different programmes and schemes said that "Due to convergence of different schemes we are successful in making it a beautiful tourist attraction which can provide recreational facility and employment to the



unemployed youth of the area" Deputy Commissioner said adding that

"We have identified 40 places in Kupwara district where such river fronts will be developed"

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara said that there are several beautiful places like Lolab, Keran, Tangdhar, Teetwal, Bungas, Drangyadi and Macil in Kupwara district which have great potential for tourism related activities.

KPs Determined To Preserve Their Cultural History

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Kashmiri Pandits have witnessed a significant decline in their cultural practices and traditions since their displacement from the Valley in 1990, but community members are now focused on preserving their rich past glory.

The community, living in migrant camps in Jammu, takes the help of special occasions to reach out to the younger generation and educate it about its culture and history.

Mata Baderkali Ashtapan Trust organised a special function on Friday on Zang Trai, an auspicious occasion on the third day of the Kashmiri Hindus' new year, Navreh'.

Many programmes, depicting the cultural history of Kashmiri Pandits, were held during the day.

"People living in Jammu have come here to celebrate Zang Trai, a special ritual connected with Shaktism in Kashmir. It was the first major effort by Mata Baderkali Ashtapan to not only promote this special tradition but also educate the young generation about it," cultural activist Kiran Raina told PTI.

Asserting that over 30 years of terrorism and living outside Kashmir has caused changes in their culture, she said Friday's



event was a beautiful scene for the elder generation to refresh their memories and the younger generation to educate themselves about "pheran" (closed gown), "tarang" (special headgear), "pooch", "sheehlaat", "zooj" and "loong" (other traditional dresses of Kashmiri Pandits).

Prominent spiritual guru Dr Shiv Prasad Raina, while addressing a session, spoke about the significant role played by women in maintaining the cultural ethos and centuries-old traditions of the community.

Former legislator Surinder Ambardar said, "KPs are fighting hard to survive in this battle while in exile and to preserve and promote traditions and educate the younger generation. It is a difficult time, but the

community is doing its bit to carry forward these traditions."

Prominent social worker Pammi Ambardar gave a detailed spiritual and social genesis of Zang Trai.

She said Zang Trai is the day of goddess Chandraghanta'.

"The day was celebrated as a women's day by Kashmiri Pandits and perhaps the unique function in the world. Women scholars, academicians, writers, scientists should be honoured on this day," she said.

Speaking on the occasion, president of Mata Baderkali Ashtapan Trust Dileep Pandita highlighted the changes in the socio-culture ethos of the community and stressed to make the youth conservant with age-old traditions and customs.

Sportspersons Call On LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: A delegation of outstanding sportspersons from J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan on Saturday. The delegation included S. Chanddeep Singh, international Para Taekwondo medalist; Danish Sharma, international Judo player and

coach, and Appu Jamwal, Wushu National medalist. The athletes discussed the implementation of J&K Sports policy with the LG. LG Sinha assured the sportspersons that the Jammu Kashmir Government is committed to safeguard the interests and promote the welfare of the sportspersons through the J&K Sports Policy 2022.

Saweety, Nitu Become World Boxing Champions

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and the seasoned Saweety Boora (81kg) etched their names in history as they were crowned world champions after notching contrasting wins at the Women's World Championships in New Delhi on Saturday.

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Nitu put up a stupendous performance to see off Mongolia's Lutsaikhana Altansetseg 5-0 and claim the title for the minimum weight category in front of a packed crowd. Saweety made it two out of two for the hosts as she warded off a challenge from two-time medalist China's Wang Lina.

WPL: 'Final Against Mumbai Indians A Massive Challenge'

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Meg Lanning's Delhi Capitals may have been the first team to enter the WPL final but the summit clash against Mumbai Indians will be a "massive challenge", a game in which she wants dashing batter Shafali Verma to come in with a clear mind. "Both Mumbai and Delhi have been consistent throughout the tournament. We have had two good contests. I am looking forward to taking on a really good team, they played some really good cricket last night," Lanning told the media during the pre-match press conference at the Brabourne Stadium on Saturday afternoon. "We know how dangerous they can be, they have got some great players. It is a massive challenge for Delhi, but we are confident as well. We come in having been pushed in a few



games which are important, we have not had things going our way and that prepares us really nicely. "(It is) a high-pressure game tomorrow night and we just got to play our best cricket," she added. Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur acknowledged

that in Lanning and Shafali, Delhi have a strong opening combination but added that her side have plans against them in place. Lanning said fielding will be a key aspect in the final, highlighting that teams that have done well consistently in WPL have fielded well.

'Qatar's Al Thani Submits New \$6B Bid For Man United'

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani has submitted a new bid to buy Manchester United which is believed to be worth around 5 billion pounds (\$6.12 billion), Sky Sports reported on Saturday. Sheikh Jassim, a son of Qatar's former prime minister, launched the bid in February. A spokesperson representing Sheikh Jassim said at the time that the bid was completely debt free, via Sheikh Jassim's Nine Two Foundation. Manchester United did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Finnish entrepreneur Thomas Zilliacus also placed a bid on Thursday and told Reuters that he was willing to pay a premium for the English soccer club. British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, a life-long United fan and founder of chemicals producer INEOS, put in a bid for the club in February. United's current owners, the Glazer family, began looking at options for the record 20-times English champions in November, including new investment or a potential sale, 17 years af-

ter they bought the Old Trafford club. Any sale of the club would likely exceed the biggest sports deal so far, the \$5.2 billion including debt and investments paid for Chelsea, sources told Reuters previously. United's Premier League rivals Liverpool have also said



they would explore the option of bringing in investors, while Iranian-American billionaire Jahm Najafi was set to launch a \$3.75 billion bid for Tottenham Hotspur, sources told Reuters in February. United are the fourth richest soccer club in the world, according to analysis by Deloitte. They are widely seen as one of the most prized assets in all of sport.

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