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Kashmir's PR Industry Emerging Winner In Institutional Race

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

Tith the establishment of new institutions V like AIIMS and NIFT, Kashmir's Public Relations (PR) industry is witnessing a tre-mendous potential for growth and development.

The growing recognition of the importance of effective communication and stakeholder engagement is said to be behind this boost.

"But as of now," said Dr. Archana Kumari, "JK's PR industry is still in its infancy."

As Secretary, Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Jammu

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration led by

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has ordered a Special

Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the illegal lease of temple

Governor's Secretariat References Monitoring Cell, Jammu &

Kashmir, a letter has been issued

to the 10 Deputy Commissioner's

(DCs) of Kashmir, wherein they

were asked to probe the illegal

lease of temple properties and

nexus in temple properties being

"I am hereby directed to en-

used illegally.

properties across the Valley. On the directions of Lieutenant

LG Orders Probe

Into 'Illegal Lease' Of Temple Properties

Chapter, Dr. Archana affirmed that there is a growing demand for public relations professionals to help new institutions, like NIFT, IIT and AIIMS, communicate effectively with their stakeholders.

But at the same time, she says, the PR industry in Jammu and Kashmir is facing multiple challenges.

"Lack of trained and skilled professionals and the limited access to digital and social media platforms in some remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir are some immediate challenges," says Dr. Archana, who's also an Assistant Professor



in Media studies at Central University of Jammu.

In an interview with Kashmir

Observer, the professor talks about the position and potential of the region's PR industry.

What's the current state of the PR industry in Jammu and Kashmir?

The PR industry is still in its early stages, but there's tre-mendous potential for growth and development as the region continues to evolve and adapt to changing media and political landscapes.

With the establishment of new institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, such as NIFT, IIT, and AIIMS, there is a growing demand for public relations professionals to help these organizations

communicate effectively with their stakeholders.

What're some of the biggest challenges for the PR industry in Jammu and Kashmir?

One of the main challenges is the lack of awareness and understanding of the role of public relations among businesses and organizations in the region. The lack of trained and skilled professionals and the limited access to digital and social media platforms in some remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir are equally some big challenges. More on P6

31 Police Officers Transferred In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer and posting of 31 police officers with immediate effect in the interest of the administration. According to an order issued by the Home Department, Paramjeet Singh, Addl. SP Railways, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP Kathua vice Suresh Kumar.

Suresh Kumar, Addl. SP, Kathua, has been transferred and posted as Vice Principal, PTS, Kathua, against an available vacancy.

Sandeep Bhat, Commandant, 1st Women Bn., has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP Bandipora, against an available vacancy.

Imtiaz Ahmed, Dy.SP PC Sangam, has been transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Ops.), Kunzer vice Aumer İqbal. İmtiaz Ahmed shall also hold the additional charge of the post of SDPO Tangmarg, till further orders.

Aumer Igbal, Dy.SP (Ops.) Kunzer, has been transferred and posted as Dy. SP IR-10thBn., against an available vacancy.

Rashid Younis, More on P6

DAK Seeks Death Penalty For Drug Traffickers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Taking a tough stand over the rising crimes triggered by substance abuse, the Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday sought death penalty for drug traffickers.

"Drug trafficking is destroying our young generation and it deserves exemplary punishment," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said unseen forces are involved in peddling and promoting drugs in Kashmir.

They are using their touts and agents who receive financial and material assistance for trafficking drugs. Youth are particularly targeted and initially drugs are gifted More on P6



A beggar on crutches collects alms during congregational Friday prayers on the 16th day of the holy month of Ramazan in the capital city of Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

close herewith copy of communication along with its enclosures bearing O.M no. GAD-RMC/256/2022-LGRMC-GAD dated 20-05-2022 received from Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat References Monitoring Cell, Jammu & Kashmir with the request to ascertain any such instances in your district and take appropriate necessary action un-

der rules with intimation to this office," reads a letter issued from Divisional Commissioner's office. Besides, the DCs have been asked

to furnish the updated inventory of Religious Minority Properties (Temple, Gurudwara, Others) within a week's time positively.

The SIT probe comes after Satish Mahaldar, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Peace Forum, moved a complaint to the LG's office and the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking investigation into the illegal lease and sale of temple properties across the valley.

In a statement issued to the media, Mahaldar expressed gratitude to LG Sinha for initiating the SIT probe.

"Since the last 33 years no successive governments have taken anv initiative to protect temple properties More on P6

SINCE THE LAST 33 YEARS NO SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE TAKEN any initiative to protect temple properties of minorities of Kashmir. Despite repeated court orders, temple

Iltija Mufti Fumes Over **Conditional Passport**

properties have been illegally given on lease.'

'Am I A Fugitive? Am I Nirav Modi, Am I A Terrorist, Anti-National That I Am Being Punished?'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: "Am I a terrorist or an anti-national", PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija asked on Friday, a day after she was issued a "country-specific passport" for two years to allow her to study in the United Arab Emirates.

The 35-year-old had moved the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in February after her application for a passport was not cleared following an adverse report by the J-K Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Her passport had expired on January 2 and she had applied



for a fresh one on June 8 last year. court directed the Regional Passport Office (RPO) to look into the merits of the case. Following this, Iltija, who wants to go for higher studies, has been issued a More on P6

Govt Lifts Burden From Shoulders Of School Children

KG Students Not Required To Carry School Bags

Auiqb Javeed

Srinagar: In a move aimed to ease the burden on the shoulders of school children, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday directed all schools to reduce weight of school bags, besides adhering to the recommendations of books made by the Department of School Education and Literacy Ministry of Education, Government of India

In a circular issued here Friday, the Directorate of Education Kashmir (DSEK) said that in compliance to the directions passed



in a Public Interest Litigation, School Education Department had made the amendment to J&K School Education Act

2002 by inserting Rule 8A, which mandates School Heads to regulate weight of school bags and More on P6

Schools Warned Against 'Uniform Trade'

SHORT

he Jammu and Kashmir administration has directed private recognised schools that they should desist from compelling parents of students to purchase textbooks, stationery and uniforms from any particular shop. It also asked the private schools to not charge any fee other than approved by the fee fixation and regulation committee. Director, School Education Jammu (DSEJ), Ravi Shankar has issued a circular following complaints against private schools for allegedly asking parents to purchase textbooks, stationery and uniforms from a particular shop here. "Such practices have More on P6

Srinagar Airport To Spruce Up Amenities For Higher Footfall

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Setting up more baggage checking machines and introducing electric vehicles to ferry passengers are among the key measures to be undertaken to handle increased footfall at the international airport here ahead of G20 events and the tourist season, officials said on Friday.

Besides these, a police unit to cater to complaints and grievances of tourists and a police facilitation counter would also be setup, they said.

measures were announced on Thursday at a meeting to review the security aspects and functioning of the Srinagar international airport. the officials said.

It was conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh and Director General Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) Zulfiquar Hasan, and attended by top officers of the civil administration and police, the Central Reserve Police Force, the tourism department and the airport.

During the meeting, measures to ease congestion such as increasing the number of baggage checking More on P6



Avalanche Alert In Kupwara

he Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Friday issued an avalanche warning over higher reaches of Kupwara district in next 24 hours. In an advisory issued Friday, the JKDMA said that a low danger level avalanche is likely to occur above 3000 metres above sea level in Kupwara district. The advisory advised people living in these areas to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Accidental Fire Kills Policeman

Jammu and Kashmir policeman died on Friday afternoon after his service rifle went off accidentally in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the cop, who was posted at the residence of Bhartiya Janta Party district president Kupwara, Abdul Rehman Lone, died when his service rifle went off accidentally. He said soon after the incident he was taken to a nearby hospital, however, he was declared dead on arrival. More on P6

LG Remembers Guru Nabha Dass

ieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday greeted the people on the eve of Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Javanti. In a message, the Lt Governor said that Guru Nabha Dass Ji was one of the greatest saints of the Bhakti movement whose teachings for an honest, truthful and virtuous life continue to guide humanity. "His message inspires us to embrace equality and compassion. May Guru Nabha Dass ji's teachings guide us to build a just and humane society," the Lt Governor said.

T A K E S **Govt Orders Posting Of 2 Police Officers**

TRANSFER

he Union Territory government on Friday ordered posting of two police officers. According to an order, Deepika, IPS. has been posted as Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Anantnag, against an available vacancy. Gh. Jeelani Wani has been posted as Commandant IR-5th Bn against an available vacancy.

5 Drug Peddlers Arrested In Jammu

ive persons have been arrested with heroin here, police officials said on Friday. A police team intercepted a vehicle in the Janipur area and seized 100

grams of heroin from Tariq Hussain Shah, Tasadiq Hussain and Maqsood Hussain Shah, they said. Two other persons were arrested from Bahu Plaza and Arnia after heroin was seized from them, police said. Cases under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act have been registered against the accused More on P6

One More Held In 70-Crore Heroin Recovery Case

olice on Friday arrested a third accused in connection with recovery of a huge haul of heroin worth 70 crores in Srinagar district. Police have already arrested two persons including a CRPF trooper in connection with the recovery of over 11 kilograms of heroin and recovery of cash 11,82500 at Rajbagh area of Srinagar, A senior police officer told a local news agency GNS that the third arrest culminated in connection with the case on Friday. He identified the accused as Rashid Kohli of Amdohi village of Karnah More on P6

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER O Srinagar | Saturday | 08-04-2023

New Low Cost Camera To Help With Monitoring Long Term Volcanic Emissions

Press Trust Of India

cientists have developed a sulphur-dioxide (SO2) camera, which makes use of a modified smartphone camera sensor sensitised to ultraviolet light to enable SO2 detection, for better long-term monitoring of rates of volcanic emis-

Continual measuring of volcanic emissions lets researchers see what cannot be seen from the surface, the knowledge of which is vital for hazard monitoring and the prediction of future eruptions, the scientists from University of Sheffield, UK, said.

Since the mid-2000s, ultraviolet SO2 cameras have become important tools to measure gas emissions, which

are a reflection of the activity occurring beneath a volcano's surface.

However, the series of measurements made using these cameras need to be accompanied by a user, the scientists said, making SO2 cameras unsuitable for acquiring long-term datasets in addition to expensive building and operation costs.

The result is that very few cameras are being installed permanently, they said.

"Our instrument uses a sensor not dissimilar to smartphone camera sensors. It is modified to make it sensitive to ultraviolet light, therefore enabling SO2 detection," said Thomas Wilkes, lead author of the study.

The scientists' SO2 camera, the design of which along with a couple of



initial datasets is published in the journal Frontiers in Earth Science, is significantly cheaper and uses less power relative to previous models, they said.

"Wherever possible we 3D print parts too, to keep costs as low as we can," Wilkes explained. "We also introduce a user-friendly, freely available software for controlling the instrument and processing the acquired data in a robust manner.

He said that the affordability and user-friendliness makes the camera accessible to more volcanologists, who otherwise might not have access to datasets containing accurate gas emis-

Further, the camera's power consumption being low at an average of 3.75 Watts, is half of what was needed

to power previous models, they said.

The use of their camera, running on fewer or smaller solar panels or batteries, could be beneficial on sites where there is little solar power to be harnessed.

Even as there are other such emissions measuring instruments, "the SO2 camera can provide higher timeand spatial-resolution data which could facilitate new volcanological research when installed permanently," said Wilkes.

Their camera, they said, is in continuous operation at the Lascar stratovolcano in Chile and at a shield volcano on Hawaii's Big Island Kilauea. Wilkes and his team have published their datasets from these locations.

Link Between Obstructive Sleep Apnea And Early Cognitive Decline Found

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have shown obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) to cause early cognitive decline in middleaged men, even in patients otherwise healthy and not obese.

The international study led by King's College London, UK, studied a group of 27 men between ages 35 and 70, newly diagnosed with mild to severe OSA but without any co-morbidities. The researchers have published their findings in the journal Frontiers in Sleep.

These patients formed a rare cohort for study because men and women with OSA have co-morbidities such as cardiovascular and metabolic disease, stroke, diabetes, chronic systemic inflammation, or depression.

"We show poorer executive functioning and visuospatial memory and deficits in vigilance, sustained attention, and psychomotor and impulse control in men with OSA. Most of these deficits had previously been ascribed



to co-morbidities," said Ivana Rosenzweig, lead researcher and a neuropsychiatrist at King's College London.

"We also demonstrated for the first time that OSA can cause significant deficits in social cogni-

tion," said Rosenzweig. CANTAB or 'Cambridge Neu-

e-Auction on the basis of "As it is where it is" at different location as per the details given below.

ropsychological Test Automated Battery' of tests were used to investigate the cognitive function of

"The most significant deficitswere demonstrated in the tests that assess both simultaneous visual matching ability and shortterm visual recognition memory

for non-verbalizable patterns, tests of executive functioning and cued attentional set shifting, in vigilance and psychomotor functioning, and lastly, in social cognition and emotion recognition,' wrote the authors.

The authors conclude that OSA is sufficient to cause these cognitive deficits, which previous studies had attributed to the most common co-morbidities of OSA such as systemic hypertension, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, and type 2 diabetes.

The men were currently neither smokers nor alcohol abusers, and were not obese (body mass index or BMI under 30). The researchers studied a group of seven age-, BMI-, and education-matched men without OSA as controls. The scientists also confirmed the OSA diagnosis of patients using WatchPAT test and video-polysomnography.

WatchPAT test is a sleep apnea diagnostic tool that utilizes the peripheral arterial signal (PAT) for diagnosis and measures up to 7 channels (PAT signal, heart rate, oximetry, actigraphy, body position, snoring, and chest motion) via three points of contact.

However, the scientists said that the mechanism through which this happens is unclear yet.

The authors speculated that the cognitive deficits are due to intermittent low oxygen and high carbon dioxide in the blood, changes in blood flow to the brain, sleep fragmentation, and neuroinflammation in OSA patients.

OSA is a condition whereby during sleep, the throat muscles of people with OSA relax and block the airflow into the lungs, so that they repeatedly stop breathing.

Common symptoms include restless sleep, loud snoring, daytime sleepiness, and prolonged headaches in the morning.

Major risk factors for OSA include middle or old age, being obese, smoking, chronic nasal blockage, high blood pressure, and being male.

ASF ENTERPRISES

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Office of the Assistant Regional **Transport Officer Shopian**

Sub: Issuance of Bid Number JK22C-0008 This office has received an application from namely Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Paul S/o Mohd Khalil Paul R/o Losedanow Shopian for issuance of Bid No. JK223-0008 for his Vehicle Breeza. If anybody having any objection regarding same can approach to this office within four days from the publication of this notice in Newspaper Kashmir Observer dated 7-04-2023

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopian

ایس_ایم پیگر درخواست بمراداندراج كرنے تاریخ فوتگی آزاں غلام نبي عالى كدلى تاريخ فوتكى 1991-1-5 اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندجة عنوان الصدر مين سائل اسائله نے عدالت بذامين ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض

اندارج کرنے تاریخ فوتکی دائر کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کو بذر لیداشتہار مطلع کیاجا تا ہے کہ ت درخواست سائل اسائلہ منطورہونے میں کوئی عذریااعتراضہونے کی صورت یں عدالت میںآ کر مورخ2023-04-15 تک پیش کرے۔بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذر نح ريالصد2023-04-07

01 1C & 1D Sangrama to Delina 168 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

Total No of Quantity Minimum Reserve Amount of C.D.R Time for Completion Cost of Bid Docu-

@2% (in Rs) (Evacuation)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.

E-AUCTION NOTICE NO. 03 OF 2023-24 DATED 05.04.2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (UT), It is hereby notified for the information of General Public and the timber traders/extraction contractor

in particular that e-Auction Notice/sale of the marked Poplar Trees coming under the alignment from Narbal to Baramulla National Highway through

bid (In Lacs)

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	05.04.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05.04.2023 to 10.04.2023 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	05.04.2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	10.04.2023 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	11.04.2023 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B
		Division Baramulla

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the Package No/Location/ Auction Notice Number in favoru of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document & Earnest money in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (Tender receiving authority) in the shape of CDR/FDR.

Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

2.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids Valid Registration Card duly renewed.

Valid GST No. along with latest clearance certificate FORM GST- 3B/ GSTR-3B of the preceding month/quarter (as the case may be) i.e. Month (February)/ Quarter (October-December).

Pan Card. e.

Earnest money/bid security (CRD) Tender document fee (Treasury Challan).

Affidavit

2.2 Bidders shall quote their rates per Cft.

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in.

The Bids uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on date mentioned above, in the office of the Bid Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla.

The original instruments in respect of EMD and relevant Technical Bid Documents etc must be uploaded by the contractors. However, the

bidder who is declared H-1 after opening of Financial Bids shall submit hard copies of original instruments in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla CDR means 'Call Deposit Receipt' and FDR means 'Fixed Deposit Receipt' issued by any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla.

Financial Bids of those bidders who have technically qualified will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla immediately after the evaluation of technical bid is completed by the committee. In case of some un-foreseen circumstances, holiday or otherwise. the date of opening of the bids as specified shall be the next working day, or else notified separately.

(a) The bidders shall be required to submit a sum as Earnest Money Deposit specified in the tender document for due performance of contract. The bid for work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder withdraws his/her bid before the said period or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid, the Earnest Money shall be liable to be forfeited in favour of R&B Division Baramulla.

(b) If the tender is accepted, the Earnest Money will be retained as part of security for due fulfillment of the contract. The Earnest Money of other contractors shall be released to them but the R&B Department for any loss or depreciation that may occur as hither-to-fore while in its possession, nor be liable to pay any interest thereof.

(c) Tenders uploaded without details of Earnest Money Deposit of requisite amount shall be summarily rejected. (d) In case it is found that the contractor(s) has/have furnished misleading/wrong or fraudulent information/documents, the Earnest Money Deposit of the contractor(s) will be forfeited or otherwise the contractor(s) shall be liable for cancellation.

Member Secretary (Poplar Auction Committee) Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

No: 147-60 DIPK-164/23 Dated: 07.04.2023

Public Notice

I have lost the school leaving certificate of my son namely Taalish Waseem Dar issued by Welkin Educational trust Sopore In this regard may contact Welkin Educational Trust Sopore within two days from the issuance of this notice. Waseem Ahmad Dar

S/o Ab. Khali Dar R/o Nowpora Kalan Sopore.

Before the Hon'ble Court of Principal **District And Sessions Judge at Srinagar** From the office of

Adv Raashid Ashraf Pir and Associates. license No: 314/20

In the case of: Agib Bashir Baba S/o Bashir Ahmad Baba R/o Gulshanabad Charari Sharief Budgam Kashmir

> Versus Public at large

(NON-CAVEATOS)

(Caveator)

In the matter of Caveat Application May it please your lordships.

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

Sd/advocate

Before the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar

From the office of Adv Raashid Ashraf Pir and Associates. license No: 314/20 In the case of:

R/o Gulshanabad Charari Sharief Budgam Kashmir Versus Public at large

Aqib Bashir Baba S/o Bashir Ahmad Baba

In the matter of Caveat Application

(NON-CAVEATOS)

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

Sd/advocate

Taj -u-Din Bhat پام ورخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش اوفات نام: Mohd Aamir Bhat / پيراكش: 15-12-2004 معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر مين سائل سائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی لغرض Mohd Aamir Bhat S/o Tai -u-Din Bhat ہے۔ ہیں۔ R/o Gousia Colony مورخہ 03-04-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لبذا محوام الناس کو Bagh-i-Mehtab Sgr پذر ابعدا شتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ کسبت درخواست کو کی عذریا اعتراض ہوئے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندروس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت ہذامیں ۔ 08-04-2023 کومقررہے۔

ازعدالت سب جج ميونيل مجسٹريث سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق رجيڑار برھس اینڈ ڈیتھس Farooq Ahmad Dar ورخواست بغرج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش /وفات تاريخ / پيدائش: 2019-02-09 معامله مندجيعنوان الصدر مين سائل سائله نے عدالت بنراميں ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی لغرض اندارج تاریخ پیدائش/وفات Ahleen Qasim S/o Mohd Qasim Sofi R/o Chakloo Baramulla مورخه 2023-04-04 پیش کی ہے۔لبذاعوام الناس کو بذربعداشتہارمطلع کیاجا تاہے کنسبت درخواست سکوئی عذر بااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندردس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت مذامیں 💎 2023-04-11 کو مقررہے۔

Traffic Police Identifying Stunt Bikers Through Social Media

Observer News Service

stunt biking on tape and posting them on social media has made it easy for traffic police to catch hold of bikers involved in the acts.

A senior traffic police official said the department has started a massive drive to curb stunt biking by expanding their graft in all districts of the valley. "In a recent drive, we seized more than 10 bikes," he said.

Not just Srinagar, we have identified a good number of bikers from other districts who come to Srinagar for bike stunts and reckless riding and driving, the official said.

In a surprising revelation, Srinagar traffic police authorities said they identified some bikers who come to Srinagar from north and south Kashmir for

stunts. He said these boys travel a long distance for the purpose of filming the stunts on the picturesque Dal Lake.

"So far, social media handles have been a big tool for us to catch hold of them as after doing these stunts, they upload it on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc. And upon questioning them, we also reached out to other members involved in bike stunts," the official said.

He added that with the support of district police across Kashmir, they are summoning these boys through their concerned police stations, and the concerned Station House Officers (SHOs) are sharing the information with them.

Notably, the drive by traffic police follows a horrific road accident on Boulevard near SKICC last week, which resulted in the on-spot death of a 20-vear-old Srinagar boy.



Observer News Service

Continuing Srinagar: with her surprise visit to the varsity's teaching departments, the Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Friday inspected the status of teaching and research work in several departments functioning under the ambit of School of Arts, Languages and Literature.

The Vice-Chancellor visited the departments of Kashmiri, English, Sanskrit, Arabic, Hindi, Electron-Linguistics. ics and Instrumentation Technology, Persian, among others, and interacted with students about the conduct of class-work, completion of syllabus as well as the status of im-

pending examinations. She was accompanied by the Dean of Academic Affairs Prof F A Masoodi and Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir.

Departments Continues

Notably, the Vice-Chancellor, ever since assuming her charge in May 2022, has been frequently inspecting departments teaching functioning under various Schools to reiterate her directions for timely conduct of class-work. research activities and examinations.

Urging the Heads of Departments to ensure punctuality of research scholars and maintenance of attendance register in this regard, the Vice-Chancellor said any delay in completing the research programs in time will lead to delay in award of degrees to the research scholars which has to be completely done away with.

از نیابت کنزر مضمون: درخواست منجانب شبيراحمه بإباولد سناوالله بإباسا كنه موضوع يندلت يوره يايين نسبت Unemployment سر تفكيك بحق خود اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائل کے کاغذات زیر بحث دفتر مذامیر ز ریکاروائی ہے۔ بیان رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ ونمبر دارسائل مذکور دھ مذامیں ابائش یذیرینجاور مجھی ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے۔ نیز سائل فدکورتا عال کسی بھی سرکاری یاغیرسرکاری محکمہ میں کامنہیں کررہی ہے۔ قبل اس کے کہ سائل کی درخواست پر نہ بدکار وائی کی جائے۔اول ہرخاص وعوام لوبذر بعداشتهار مطلع كياجا تاہے كه اگراس بارے میں سنسی مخص يا شخاص كوكوئي . عذر يااعتراض ہوتوا كيك ہفتہ كے اندر دفترى اوقات ميں اسالتاً ياد كالتاً اپنے عذريا عتراض پیش کریں۔بعد گذرنے عیاد کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا تح ریالصدر



SMC sprinkles water in city center Lal Chowk on Friday to keep dust grounded amid ongoing work under Srinagar Smart City Project, KO Photo Abid Bhat.

All Developmental Works In Srinagar To Be Completed On Time: CS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government on Friday said that all ongoing developmental works in Srinagar City will be completed on a given timeline as J&K has witnessed a massive change from 2018-19 till date in terms of completion of

Talking to the reporters here, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, said ongoing developmental projects will be completed on time in Srinagar City.

"Srinagar had never looked better. Watch what Srinagar will look like in May," he added in response to a question

'We understand that in the real world all timelines are not adhered to on the particular day. The project gets completed day before or day after. But, in 2018-19, only 9200 works were

completed and this year around 90,000 works are being completed. That's the kind of change J&K has witnessed," he said.

Pertinently, the Srinagar city, especially the commercial Hub Lal Chowk is witnessing several developmental works and the government has claimed that all the projects will be completed on April 15.

The developmental works are being carried out under the muchhyped Smart City project.

Progress Of Infrastructure Reviewed At Parimpora Bus Terminal, Transport Nagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the progress of upgradation of facilities at Parimpora Bus Terminal. Transport Nagar and Fruit Mandi, a meeting of concerned Officers and Stakeholders was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex here on Friday.

The meeting also discussed the ion plan regarding shifting of automobile workshops from Batamaloo-Mominabad axis to Parimpora Transport Yard.

SSP Traffic, Muzafar Ahmad Shah, Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority, SDM West, General Manager SRTC, Deputy Director HP&M, Area Marketing Manager HP&M, Tehsildar Shalteng, ARTO and other Officers, besides representatives of Automobile Workshop Association and Bazar Committee Batamaloo.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal about the measures taken for development and upgradation of facilities Parimpora Bus Stand, Transport Nagar and Fruit Mandi.

The DC was informed that for Development of Transport Nagar Parimpora which is spread over 200 kanals of land comprising of Goods and Forwarding Agencies, the Srinagar Development Authority has forwarded a DPR to the tune of 34.4 crores for development of infrastructure like roads, drainage system, footpaths, central verge, green spaces, electrification to the Administrative Department

dination and ensure that physical works on the projects are started at the earliest soon after approval



for approval.

for upgradation Similarly, of the infrastructure for macadamization, drainage system, development of green spaces, etc at Parimpora Bus Terminal which is presently operational over a land of 60 kanals with basic facilities, a project at cost of Rs. 9.00 crores is in progress.

While different nature of works for infrastructure upgradation and face-lifting of Fruit Mandi Parimpora and SRTC Yard have already been taken up with completion of most of the works.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on the Officers of all line Departments to work in close coor-

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner held a detailed consultation with the members of Automobile Workshop Association and Bazar Committee Batamaloo regarding the shifting/relocating of automobile workshops on Batamaloo-Momin Abaad corridor.

The representatives of Automobile Workshop Association submitted a memorandum related to shifting of Automobile Workshops from Batamaloo SDA allotted shops. They apprised the DC that since Batmaloo Bus Stand has been shifted to Parimpora their livelihood has been affected a lot and want relocation to Parimpora Bus stand.

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



This Day In History

ISHA

FAJR

ZUHR

ASR

Magrib

PRAYERS

4:43

12:34

5:06

6:59

8:21

1848 - 1st battle at Gioto: Sardinia-Piemonte beats

Austrians 1848 - Battle at Xaquixaguana, Peru: Pedro de la

Gasca beats Gonzalo Pizarro 1866 - Italy and Prussia ally against Austria-Hungary. 1898 - Battle of Atbara River, Anglo-Egyptian forces

crush 6,000 Sudanese 1902 - Russia and China sign the Convention of Evacuation under which Russia agrees to evacuate

Manchuria within 18 months 1902 - Demonstration organised by socialists in Belgium as people demand better education, living

conditions, the right to strike and universal male suffrage result in a riot and some deaths 1904 - Great Britain and France establish their Entente Cordiale, a technical treaty settling longstanding disagreements over Morocco, Egypt, Africa,

and the Pacific 1908 - H. H. Asquith succeeds Henry Campbell-Bannerman as British Prime Minister

1913 - Opening of China's 1st parliament takes place in Peking (now Beijing)

1914 - US & Colombia sign a treaty concerning Panama Canal Zone

1916 - Norway approves active & passive female suffrage

From KO Archives

Leisure A No Longer A Pleasure For Kashmir Youth

Observer News Service

RINAGAR: The youth in Kashmir are today severely handicapped when it comes to spending leisure time in an enriching and meaningful way, a Kashmir Observer report has

The older generation had a better time in its youth than today's younger lot, who despite the myriad diversions are disposal, feels anxious and impatient at what it describes as severely shrinking space for recreation.

Evidently television, internet cafes and snooker clubs are no match for the colourful fairs at Badamwari, the acrobatics of an Afsar khan at Edges or the antics of magicians in open grounds of which only memories exist in the minds of elders.

What the youth of today seem to be missing is the kind of active participation their [parents and grandparents had by being associated with dramatic clubs, literary societies or sports bodies.

The first ingredients of living satisfying life – the manner of spending leisure time- appears to be a gift that youth in Kashmir today have lost or never acquired in first place.

(Kashmir Observer, 08 April, 2005)



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Saudi-Iran: Towards a Pragmatic Beginning

Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi

scenario, the pragmatic relations between the Islamic Republic and the Kingdom should benefit the two countries and the region. The prolonged political instability and sectarian tension in the region have a broader impact

n the aftermath of the loggerhead between these two countries, OPEC and OIC organisations have lost their decisiveness. In recent years, Saudi-Iran relations have undergone a change, and their current phase is characterized by pragmatism. The establishment of the two countries was generally considered fundamentally antagonistic from the start. However, the regional role that Riyadh and Tehran play has always brought the two into the spotlight. It substantiates that the two countries have more interest in a shared future than a cold war. In the post-COVID world, global politics is witnessing realignments, and more such changes are expected in the coming years. Saudi-Iran have learnt the lesson and as such, a stable thaw is also expected and desirable.

The Kingdom was established in 1932 after the Ottoman Caliphate collapsed. The establishment was a treaty between the Al-Saud family and the Wahabbi ideology propounded by Ibn Abd al-Wahab. The Kingdom sits on a volcano of Shia rebellion. The Shias of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, and of course, Lebanon and Houthis are a reality and a question mark for Riyadh.

On the other hand, the Islamic Republic is predominantly a Twelver Shi'i country, a sizable Sunni minority that is mostly not Wahabbi. The Islamic Republic was established in 1979 after the Islamic Revolution overtook power in Tehran. Iran is a Shia nation with a revolutionary force with an immense Pan-Islamic tendency. On various occasions, Iran has challenged the jurisprudence of the Kingdom over the holy cities present in the countries.

The COVID pandemic has changed the world to a large extent. The Post-Pandemic world will see a changed



global economy, a power shift, and non-conventional questions. The developing economies are becoming the focus, and the failure of addressing the pandemic by the world powers has established multilateralism for the coming years. The question of biological terrorism is replacing the hard and military measures, and concepts like food security and health and hygiene are taking the lead for most of the regimes. The COVID situation has also alleviated the repulsion of Beijing as a leader who has dealt with the situation internally on a large scale. COVID has shattered the neo-liberal dream of a borderless world and a fantasy of living in a global village. The situation has underlined the importance of regional coordination and cooperation. Ideological differences are taking a

The West Asian region is also changing in the given situation. The rebellion of ordinary people on issues like life and livelihood is becoming rampant. The Saudi-Iran relations are flexing for realignment and change. There are fundamental differences, but more attention should be given to their common ground—ideas like Pan-Islamism, OPEC and consideration of the two giants' regional roles. The two countries are considered the leaders of the two Muslim sects across the region and beyond. However, the emergence of Turkey has challenged the Saudi role, but still, Saudi has a considerable say among the Sunni sections that comprise the majority of the region. The second important avenue is that the two countries are major petroleum producers, and their friendship can control the energy needs. Hence, they will have a significant say in International Relations. This alignment has excellent potential to revive the glory of Muslims and touch Muslim lives by voicing local concerns.

Saudi-Iran relations have another dimension that affects the global South, especially South Asia. The Muslim communities in South Asia are too divided along Shia-Sunni lines, and we need to start a new dialogue between the two groups. Secondly, a rise in OIC and OPEC will de-hegemonise international organizations. The phenomenon can be utilized in strengthening the South-South dialogue, and giant players like India will have a direct impact without compromising its nonalignment stance. The vitality of Indo-Iran and Indo-Saudi connections in this scheme can be seen as an emerging alliance and play a crucial role in bringing dialogue between Beijing and New Delhi. Consequently, transforming pathways can establish negotiation politics elsewhere.

In the changing scenario, the pragmatic relations between the Islamic Republic and the Kingdom should benefit the two countries and the region. The prolonged political instability and sectarian tension in the region have a broader impact. The US exit from Iraq and the Syria question suggests that comprehensive peace negotiations and economic engagement can show a stable future. Saudi-Iran relations and cooperation can end many conflicts and bring negotiating power towards regional organizations like OIC and OPEC.

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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Halal Consumption And Our Spiritual Health

back seat, and readiness and leader-

ship for such situations are becoming

new politics.

The following article is a transcript of a talk delivered by Shaykh Mohammed Amin Kholwadia, founder of Darul Qasim College, regarding the impact of halal consumption on our spiritual health

Shaykh Mohammed Amin

n the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

Peace and Blessings be upon the

Peace and Blessings be upon the One whom after him there is no other prophet, Prophet Muhammad .

Allah has given us everything for our salvation, our needs in this world, and our needs in the other world. Allah provides for us, He is Al-Razzaq. He gives us rizq, food, sustenance, clothing, shelter, security, health, and everything else. Allah , by sending His messengers, shows us how we, as human beings, should relate to this aq dah (creedal belief) that Allah is Al-Razzaq. He has informed us in the Qur'an and the Sunnah that rizq is something that He offers to all of His creation.

The Prophet said:

If you were to rely upon Allah with the reliance He is due, you would be given provision like the birds: They go out hungry in the morning and come back with full bellies in the evening.

(Sunan Ibn Majah 4164)

If you were to trust Allah the way you should trust him, you would not fear hunger, you would be fed the way a bird feeds its young ones. This is a rich analogy, if you look into nature, especially wildlife in this part of the country where everything is barren, dry and cold in winter, you see how these species survive — even those that do not hibernate. Somehow, these species that live on land survive the harsh winters, Allah feeds them and takes care of them. This is the system of Razzaqiya.

No government can attest the same because as rich as, for example, America is, there are [hundreds of thousands of homeless people in the US]. That is because human beings took on the task to provide for other human beings assuming that they can monopolize and dictate the resources that Allah has created. We are not going to get into any government policy but as Allah says:

There's no creature on the Earth that Allah does not provide for...

[Surah H d - 11:06]
As I mentioned previously, when you look at these animals, Allah provides for them in abundance and every species survives. So how does Islam come into

this picture of Allah's sustenance and

providing His rizq. What does Islam say

about this?

The answer contains several layers, but first and foremost — the means of earning must be halal.

The way we earn our money, which is then used to buy food and sustenance, must be halal. If it is not halal then Allah will not accept. Not our deeds, actions, duas, dhikr, Qur'an, hajj, umrah, tarawih, sadaqah — nothing! So the means of earning must be regulated by the rules of Islam and Shari'ah. Haram means of earning include deceit, lying, cheating, and swindling. These are Haram. Categorically!

The Qur'an condemns people who lie and cheat in terms of their business, therefore honesty and integrity go a long way in halal earnings. It is not just the job that must be halal, but also the manner in which you behave at your job that has to be halal. In fact, it must be more than the baseline of halal. It must be much better: virtuous!

The second is that the food we consume must be halal, in the strictest sense of the word.

Any piece of flesh that has been nurtured by haram, the fire is much better for that piece of flesh.

. (Jami Al-Tirmidhi 614)

We must be scrupulous with what we eat by identifying whether its consumption is halal. If not, there is no difference between us and others. It is not only the case that our earnings are halal but is also the case that the food we eat must be halal and it is here that I believe the community needs to improve.

In Muslim countries, Alhamdulillah, you have access to halal food. In this country, the United States, options

are more limited, although nowadays, through the efforts of some Muslim businessmen and other facilities, we do have plenty of access to what is labeled halal.

However, I am not referring to that, I am talking about eating in restaurants that are dubious. You know an owner is not very scrupulous with his habits and you still eat or cater food from there. And [for example] you are catering food for an Ameen party, where somebody is reading the Quran and saying Bismillah and you are bringing haram food! Other than the fact that there is no barakah (blessings), it is totally haram! You cannot do that as a Muslim! Why? Because the Prophet said if you do that your duas will not be accepted, your salat will not be accepted, your sawm will not be accepted, and your zakat will not be accepted. Your hajj will not be accepted.

Nothing will be accepted!

It is not a matter of taqwa; We are not talking about pious people. You want to find out about the pious people? Abu Hanifa, Allah have mercy on him, had a flock of sheep and he found something suspect about a particular sheep in the herd. So he did not eat sheep for several months, just in case it was from that one animal that was suspect. This is Abu Hanifa. That is why he is al-Imam al-Azam, the greatest imam, not only because of his knowledge

but because of his taqwa.

So we are not talking about taqwa.

Those ranks of taqwa are far beyond our imagination in this country. We have to work on the premise of what is basic halal. Allah, being the Razzaq, has provided enough genuine halal food places that we have no need to resort to ambiguous and dubious places.

People say: "Oh, but the meat is so good there! It's so tender! It's so delicious!"

Remember that the Prophet said hellfire is better for the body which consumes haram meat. Do you want to take that chance? Just for entertainment? Just to keep up with the Joneses in the community? Just to say "Yeah, we eat here also!"

Unscrupulous consumption of haram food is what destroys the ummah.

Because the ummah will pray Jumu'ah, they will perform tarawih, they will go for umrah and for hajj. But their duas will not be accepted! Is this the way forward for the ummah? That you are going to establish every dubious place to eat because you can? Because you have money? That is not the way forward for this ummah. It may be the way forward for others, but this ummah's nutrition and basic food must be halal if there is to be hope for this ummah to do some good work. And how is that?

Allah says:

Oh messengers! Eat from what is good and lawful, and act righteously. Indeed, I fully know what you do. [Qur'an 23:51]

[Qur'an 23:51] This is a command to the Messengers. Oh Messengers, eat what is pure (the Arabic word in the ayah is tayyib). This means consuming not just what is halal, but ensuring that there is no semblance of anything disliked in the animal. You eat that which is tayyib, then do good deeds. So Allah has joined and coupled eating good with good deeds, meaning: eat halal, and you will have halal thoughts.

Haram food will generate haram thoughts. That is the connection between eating pure and doing good deeds. What you consume is what you become. You are what you eat, as they say.

We must be scrupulous in what we eat because the rest of human civilization depends on us. The actions of non-Muslims are not as important as the actions of Muslims — it is the actions of Muslims that govern the welfare of the entire planet. We are responsible for what happens in the world. Our good deeds have a good impact and our bad deeds have a bad impact — not only on the physical environment but on people.

And thus We have made you a middle nation to be witnesses over mankind, and (for) the Messenger to be a witness over you...

[Surah Baqarah – 2:143]

We must reform our actions by following the basic principle of verifying that the meat we consume is halal. This means not only is the restaurant we patronize halal and pure but the other items that we consume are also halal.

It is not just meat, but other items as well which may be suspect and doubtful. You are not going to go hungry if you stay away from a few dubious items. This is total carelessness, negligence, and ghaflah that the Muslims of this country intentionally endure. And this is why you get haram ideas and haram thoughts in the community all the time—it stems from the food we consume.

If you want good in the community, give people halal and pure food, and eat halal and pure food. If you want a bad community, then be my guest and do whatever you want, it is a free country. But if it is the case that you are going to be of service to yourself, your family, and the Muslim ummah, then you must do what Allah wants you to do and that is to take only from the halal rizq He provides. There is haram rizq also, but He does not want you to take that, because it is a test! There are halal options, and there are not-so-halal options, and there are haram options. Stay away from those dubious acts! You are not going to die! You are not going to starve the way the homeless are starving.

Just pay a little bit of attention to what Allah wants. Because at the end of the day, it is Allah who is feeding you. It is Allah who is giving you the job, money, shelter, peace and security. Allah is the one! So do things for Allah, not for your nafs. If you do not care whether the food is halal or haram then obviously you will get the ummah you get. Therefore, we must be very careful as to where we go to eat and what we eat.

We make dua that Allah gives us the tawfiq to eat at least what is halal and then give us tawfiq to eat what is tayyib also. Ameen, ya Rabb Al-Alamin.

Traversing Tradition



Parents Should Appreciate Child's Hard Work, Not Just Success: RISE

Focus and discipline are essential to crack the IIT JEE, says co-founder Mubeen Masudi

&&Cracking the IIT JEE (Indian Institutes of Technology Joint Entrance Examination) requires a high level of academic preparation, as well as mental and emotional fortitude," says Mubeen Masudi, co-founder, RISE Coaching Cenre, Srinagar.

Along with these, he says, "focus and discipline" are two of the most important qualities a student must possess to succeed in this highly competitive exam.

"With the IIT JEE being one of the toughest entrance exams in the world, possessing focus and discipline can give a student a significant edge in achieving their goal of securing admission into one of the premier engineering institutes in India," Masudi stresses.

Parents, he said, play a crucial role in shaping the overall personality and success of their children

"While it's important for parents to encourage their children to strive for success, they should not become a source of stress or pressure. Instead, they should appreciate their child's hard work and efforts, regardless of the outcome," Masudi, in a tête-à-tête with Kashmir Observer's Farooq Shah, said.

Excerpts of the interview:
What motivated you, as a civil engineering graduate from IIT Bombay, to forego a career in engineering and instead start a coaching centre in Kashmir? What factors influenced your

After realizing the advantages of growing up in multiple cities and attending an IIT, I noticed the lack of awareness and support for students in Kashmir to pursue similar opportunities. Many students settle for mediocre or terrible colleges due to lack of information or guidance. In 2012, I decided to return to Kashmir and address this issue by writing about it in local newspapers, counselling students, and eventually starting my own institute with a focus on sending more Kashmiri students to top institutes like IIT.

How would you refute the claims or allegations from your critics that opening a coaching centre in Kashmir was a shortcut to make a quick buck?

Opening a coaching centre in Kashmir was not a shortcut to make a quick fortune. It required using all of my savings from my first job and teaching only five students in the first year. While some coaching institutes may make money, most do not. Additionally, coaching institutes are often disliked because they symbolize the failure of school education systems. Ideally, schools should provide all the necessary education, but since they often fail to do so, coaching institutes exist to fill the gaps. Until education systems improve, coaching institutes will continue to exist and be disliked.

Looking back a decade, how closely have you followed your goal of launching RISE coaching institute as a social enterprise to level the playing field for high school students in Kashmir in terms of educational opportunities?

RISE coaching institute has made significant progress towards its goal of

providing equal educational opportunities for high school students in Kashmir. While only 1-2 Kashmiris would make it to premier IITs every 2-3 years in 2012, last year 10 students from RISE made it to IITs, and the aim is to have 100 students by 2025. This success is attributed to increased awareness and support systems, not just at RISE but across Kashmir. Many students from remote areas of Kashmir are now studying at IITs due to RISE's efforts. RISE has also changed the trend of students starting to prepare for entrance exams post-class 12th, with students now beginning preparation in class 11th. Other coaching institutes across the valley have also adopted this approach, which RISE

To what do you attribute RISE's rapid success in making inroads and carving out a niche for itself in the highly competitive coaching sector within a short period of time?

From the very beginning, our sole focus at Rise has been on preparing students for competitive exams. We made it a point to hire faculty members who were topnotch and graduates from IITs. We were upfront with our students about our approach and made it clear that if their goal was to excel in board exams, we were not the right fit for them. While this approach created some initial friction, our results spoke for themselves and we gained the trust of many aspirational and dedicated students, which eventually led to Rise becoming a well-known brand. Despite minimal advertising, our brand name has become synonymous with excellence in the coaching industry, to the extent that people who are not directly associated with Rise are often surprised to learn that our enrolment numbers are lower than what they assumed. Our popularity is mainly cantered around serious aspirants of JEE & NEET, while we are not as well-known among students and parents who still place a higher value on board examinations. However, as more Kashmiri students and parents come to understand the importance of competitive exams in securing a spot at a top college, we anticipate a growth in Rise's popularity.

How challenging was it for RISE to assemble a team of IIT pass-outs as faculty members, considering that faculty is the key unique selling proposition (USP) for a successful coaching institute?

The most difficult aspect of running Rise is finding suitable faculty members, particularly those who are graduates from IITs and are willing to work in Kashmir despite the challenges posed by situations of sorts. It's a constant struggle to locate individuals who share our values and are committed to our cause while also being willing to work in Kashmir. Moreover, the task of ensuring that we have a competent team of IITians providing the best possible guidance to our students has become even more challenging in recent times, following the unfortunate incidents that occurred in late 2021.

Can you provide evidence or data to support your assertion that RISE has

played a significant role in increasing the number of Kashmiri students who have gained admission to prestigious institutions such as IVY leagues and IITs?

As I said earlier, 10 students from Rise made it to IITs in 2021. This is an unprecedented number not just for Rise but also for our region. We never had so many students making it to IITs from Kashmir in a single year. What makes this even more impressive is the backdrop of 2019 and Covid. Since 2016, numerous students from Rise have made it to IITs. Our students have also made it to top IVY league schools. The trend started with Moazin making it to the University of Washington. Since then we started guiding students for US college admissions as well. In 2018, Rise students, Adeeba Tak from Shopian made it to University of Pennsylvania (Almuni include: Elon Musk, Warren Buffet, etc) and Moin Mir from Srinagar made it to Princeton University (Alumni: Jeff Bezos, Michelle Obama, etc), both on scholarships worth crores. We imbibe a sense of responsibility towards the society among our students as well. Adeeba and Moin created "Wath" to guide Kashmiri students aspiring to study in the US. Three students from their most recent cohort made it to top colleges in the US. I am sure, as our students start graduating from IVY leagues, IITs and other top colleges, we will see a strong ripple effect of their success in Kashmir. Something that swells my heart with happiness and pride.

Even though there are several renowned coaching institutes like Allen in Kashmir, only a few students are able to clear the HT JEE exam. What could be the reason behind this low success rate?

The reason behind the low success rate of Kashmiri students in cracking IIT JEE can be attributed to various factors such as lack of awareness and access to proper guidance from an early age. Most students and their parents prioritize board exams in class 11th and 12th over IIT JEE, and they only start preparing seriously after completing class 12th, which results in limited time and effort

compared to the aspirants who start preparing from class 8th. This skewed focus on board exams is inversely proportional to success in IIT JEE. It's not just about joining a branded coaching institute but being taught by teachers who are qualified and understand the cultural nuances and realities of the students. The difference in the teaching level is evident when guest faculty from top institutes in Delhi or Kota take lectures at Kashmir-based coaching institutes. Many students from Kashmir go to Kota for JEE preparation but return within six months due to the lack of guidance they need to cope with the curriculum. To address these issues, teachers need to start from the basics and ensure that students are getting the guidance they need. Despite the success of many institutes outside of Kashmir, new institutes often struggle to do well

In your opinion, what are the essential qualities and skills that a student should possess to be able to successfully clear the HT JEE?

In order to crack the IIT JEE, a student must possess focus and discipline. This means having a clear goal in mind and creating a routine that aligns with this goal. It can be challenging to remain focused on JEE preparation when friends and family members are focused on board exams or other events, such as weddings and parties. The ability to resist these distractions and stay disciplined is crucial for success. For example, during my own JEE preparation, I attended a coaching institute for two years while also dealing with school exams, farewells, birthdays, and weddings. Despite these distractions, I only missed one lecture and did not miss

"Catch them young," is the key phrase with many coaching institutes outside Kashmir with regard to the cracking IIT JEE, some even start by training students from grade six. Does it make any sense or is it some market tactic?

The idea of starting early with coaching for various skills can be seen as both

a market tactic and a sensible approach. With the current limitations of school education, it can be beneficial for parents to consider additional educational opportunities for their children at an early stage. This can extend beyond IIT JEE coaching and include various other skills such as English speaking, Design, Mathematics, Coding, etc. Moreover, the emergence of online learning has expanded the range of options available for early skill development.

for the JEE to experience high levels of stress and pressure? If yes, how can RISE assist them in managing stress and maintaining focus on their studies?

Is it common for students preparing

Parents play a crucial role in helping their children manage stress when facing difficult tasks. Rather than solely focusing on their child's success, parents should recognize and commend their hard work. Students who become too obsessed with success are more likely to experience stress, while those who prioritize the process of learning and growing through struggle tend to cope better. Parents can create a supportive environment at home by emphasizing the value of hard work and resilience, rather than solely congratulating their child for good exam results. Instead, they should praise their child's dedication and commitment to studying, even if the results are not perfect.

What guidance would you offer to students who don't succeed in the JEE to help them make informed decisions about their future careers?

Additionally, it's important to keep in mind that success is subjective and can be achieved through different paths. It's essential to explore one's interests, strengths, and passions to find a career that aligns with them. Pursuing a profession solely for its societal prestige or financial gains can lead to dissatisfaction in the long run. Students should also consider alternate pathways such as vocational training, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, and pursuing higher education abroad. It's crucial to have an open mind and not limit

oneself to a single career path.

What alternatives are available for students who score low on the JEE but are academically strong? What could be their next most suitable option?

Traditionally, getting admission into a good college can be beneficial in kick-starting one's career. Students who do not make it to IITs can consider applying to other renowned universities like Delhi University or Mumbai University for science courses. These colleges offer a diverse range of opportunities for students to explore.

Can the shift to e-learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic be considered a positive or negative change for students' careers, or a combination of both?

The long-term effects of e-learning on students' careers are yet to be seen, so it is important to wait and observe. However, there are some potential benefits to e-learning, particularly for students in places like Kashmir, as they now have access to a wider range of educational resources from teachers around the world. This is similar to how previous generations have had access to a greater variety of entertainment and art thanks to the internet and streaming services. As a result, this generation of students may have more diverse and exciting career options available to them due to the opportunities offered by online

Given the incredible success of RISE in Kashmir, are you conscious of your Corporate Social Responsibility, and does RISE provide assistance to underprivileged individuals?

Rise has been providing scholarships up to 100% to underprivileged students since its inception, and its admission policy is based solely on performance in the admission test. The coaching institute also utilizes its network of successful IITians to sponsor the fees of students who make it to good colleges but cannot afford them. Despite being required to pay 18% GST and income tax, coaching institutes in J&K are obligated to teach 10% of their students free of cost, a policy that is not followed elsewhere in India. These coaching institutes in Kashmir are among the most affordable and accessible in the country, even for the poorest students. More information on this policy can be obtained from DSEK, and the media should shed light on it.

What sets RISE apart from other institutions, and why should a student choose to enroll at RISE over other options available to them?

RISE is not a suitable choice for everyone. Only students who are specifically
targeting JEE or NEET should consider
joining Rise, as they will receive the best
faculty and support to achieve their goals.
However, if you are mainly focused on
board exams, Rise may not be the ideal
place for you. While some Rise students
do perform well in board exams, this is
not due to the institution's efforts but
rather in spite of them.



'Amrit Kaal Budget'

Development Of Industrial Estates, Promotion Of Ease Of Doing Business, Export Hubs Creation To Get Focus In 2023-24 Budget

Observer News Service

Srinagar: "Development, expansion of new industrial estates, promotion of ease of doing business and creation of export hubs will receive a significant push in the budget earmarked for 2023-24 fiscal".

This year's budget elaborates that the Jammu and Kashmir government has identified 29 projects for development of new Industrial

Estates during 2023-24.
The investment proposals for setting up of Medicities in Jammu and Srinagar had been received for creation of health infrastructure in private sector. In this regard, Medicities at Sempora, Srinagar and Meeran Sahib, Jammu are being established to provide better healthcare facilities to the ailing.

The main aim of "One

District One Product" is to promote local product for export. In this regard, Jammu and Srinagar districts have been selected among the 75 districts across India for export of local products.

Similarly, 1500 units under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) are being targeted to be established in 2023-24 involving a margin money of Rs 30 crore with employment to 9000 persons.

The Budget has a provision of conducting exhibitions for showcasing industrial potential of the region besides organizing workshops on capacity building and start-up promotion. The budget has also earmarked funds for providing of Turnover Incentives to boost industrial development for entailing increase in employment.

in the region.

characteristics.

community.

stakeholders.

Tanveer Jeelani.

Usman.

Introduction of quality certification with branding under Handloom and Handicraft sector will also be done in 2023-24 and steps will be taken for popularization of local products.

Significantly, Jammu and Kashmir government has already taken a slew of measures towards promotion of ease of doing business in the UT which has received tremendous response from various potential investors. Besides, further steps are being taken up for reducing compliances on "Ease of Living"

and "Ease of Doing Business". The Budget will also facilitate conduct of mock drills to be carried out across the Union Territory. Besides, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) development policy would also be notified.

in connecting with local businesses and organi-

zations and raising awareness of the benefits of

public relations. Additionally, the chapter has

actively invited industry people to join hands with PRSI Jammu and Kashmir and support

their mission of promoting the PR profession

This people-to-people approach has been

instrumental in building strong relationships

with local businesses and organizations and

fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual

support. We value engaging in dialogue with

stakeholders in the community to ensure that

our activities align with the greater good and

Share with us the chapter's plans and initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion within

As part of our efforts to promote diversity

and inclusion, we plan to organize workshops

and training sessions to raise awareness about

the importance of embracing diversity within

the PR industry. Our aim is to create an environment where all members feel valued

and supported, regardless of their personal

We believe that promoting diversity and

inclusion is not only the right thing to do, but

also contributes to a more vibrant and dynamic

PR industry in the region. We look forward to

welcoming members from all backgrounds and

working together to create a more inclusive

Can you discuss any measures that the

chapter will be implementing to ensure

transparency and accountability in its opera-

We will conduct regular meetings of PRSI

officials, with agendas and minutes circulated

beforehand to ensure transparency in discus-

sions and actions taken. Additionally, we will

invite all members to attend important activi-

ties and events to ensure that they are apprised

We are also planning to launch a newslet-

ter to share information about all the chapter's

activities with our members. This will ensure

that our members are informed and engaged in

the PRSI national council, where our actions

and decisions are reviewed and evaluated.

This ensures that our chapter operates in ac-

cordance with the principles and values of the

national body and remains accountable to our

Overall, we are committed to maintaining

Dy.SP H r s Kupwara, has been transferred

Mohammad Usman, Dy.SP Hrs Samba, has

Hamid Ail Banday, Dy.SP Anti Corruption

Bureau, upon his repatriation from ACB, has

been posted as Dy.SP, PC, Surankote vice

Headquarters, has been transferred and post-

ed as Dy.SP (Hqrs.) Samba vice Mohammad

Mohd. Amen Bhat, Dy.SP Pahalgam, has

been transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-3'

Bn., against an available vacancy. Dy.SP Hars.

Anantnag shall hold the additional charge of

the post of Dy.SP Pahalgam, till further orders.

been transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-24th

been transferred and shall await orders of post-

ing in Police Headquarters, J&K.
DherajSingh Katoch, Dy.SP CID CI Jammu, has

been transferred and posted as SDPO Border,

has been transferred and posted as SDPO R.S.

been transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-22"

Nikhil Gogna, Dy.SP Anti-Hijacking, Jammu,

Tanveer Jeelani, Dy.SP PC, Surankote, has

Mudassar Hussain, Dy.SP Civil Secretariat,

Zohaib Hassan, DY.SP PC, Rafiabad has been

Sunil Singh, SDPO Domana, has been trans-

ferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-1st Bn., against

transferred and posted as SDPO Panthachowk,

Jammu, has been transferred and posted as

Dy.SP (Hgrs.) Rajouri, vice Chanchal Singh.

Bn., against available vacancy.

Kathua vice Pankaj Soodan.

Pura vice Surinder Singh.

Bn., against an available vacancy.

against an available vacancy.

Pankaj Soodan, SDPO Border Kathua has

Faraz Hussain Shah, SDPO PC Handwara, has

Sourabh Prashar, Dy.SP (Prov.) Police

been transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-22nd

and posted as Dy.SP IR-8th Bn., against an avail-

transparency and accountability in all our ac-

tivities and decision-making processes.

31 Police Officers

Bn. against an available vacancy.

Furthermore, our chapter is accountable to

of the work being done by the chapt

our operations and decision-making.

tions and decision making?

serve the best interests of all.

the PR industry in the region.

Kashmir's PR Industry

But despite these challenges, there're positive signs of growth and development in the PR industry in Jammu and Kashmir. As the region continues to evolve and adapt to changing circumstances, there is a growing recognition of the importance of effective communication and stakeholder engagement. With the right support and resources, the PR industry has the potential to become an important contributor to the growth and development of the region.

What inspired the establishment of a chapter of the Public Relations Society of India in Jammu and Kashmir, and what do you believe this will bring to the region?

One of the main inspirations is the recognition of the unique needs and challenges facing the region. The PRSI Jammu and Kashmir seeks to provide a platform for mutual discussion and constructive ideas towards the growth and development of the union territory.

By bringing together professionals in the field of public relations, the PRSI Jammu and Kashmir can help to facilitate better communication between the government and citizens, as well as among various communities within the region. This can help to promote greater understanding and cooperation, which is essential for the success and stability of any democratic society.

Tell us about the initiatives or programs that the PRSI is planning to implement in the near future in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PRSI is planning to organize workshops and seminars to enhance the skills of PR professionals in the region. Additionally, it's planning to collaborate with other professional organizations to bring in guest speakers and experts to provide insights and perspectives on the industry. It's also exploring opportunities to partner with academic institutions to offer training and certification programs to help professionals stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.

But what plans does the chapter have in place to grow its membership and retain new members in the future?

Firstly, we plan to increase our outreach and engagement with PR professionals in the region by organizing regular events, workshops, and seminars that provide valuable insights into the industry. We will also use social media and other digital platforms to promote our events and activities and to engage with a wider audience.

Secondly, we plan to collaborate with other professional organizations and institutions in the region to create a larger platform for knowledge sharing and networking. This will provide opportunities for our members to interact with professionals from different industries and gain new perspectives on PR and communication.

Lastly, we believe that our existing members are our best advocates, and we will leverage their support to attract new members. We will encourage our members to participate actively in our events and activities and to invite their colleagues and contacts to join us.

How do you plan to involve and engage young professionals and students in the field

To involve and engage young professionals and students in the field of PR, our society has established a student forum named Nalanda. This forum is very active, and we have students from various prestigious institutions such as Central University of Jammu, IIMC Jammu, and

Jammu University as members. We believe that grooming students from a nascent stage and providing them with opportunities to learn and grow in the field of PR is essential to ensure a steady flow of fresh ideas and perspectives.

But how does the PRSI plan to bridge the gap between PR professionals and the local businesses?

The PRSI Jammu and Kashmir chapter has established two types of connecting points. Firstly, local business and industry people themselves are members of the chapter, providing a direct point of contact between PR professionals and local stakeholders. Secondly, the chapter has received support from the local

media in bridging the gap. The support of the media has been invaluable

an available vacancy.
Surinder Singh, SDPO RS Pora, has been transferred and posted as Dy.SP I R - 5 Bn.,

against an available vacancy.

Adil Mushtaq, attached with the Crime Branch, has been posted as Dy.SP IR-17th'Bn., against an available vacancy.

Javaid Ahmad, SDPO, Tangmarg, has been transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR 11th Branchersed and Dy.SP IR 11th Branchersed

transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-11th Bn.,

against an available vacancy.
Syed Sleet Shah, Dy.SP PC, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as SDPO PC Handwara vice Faraz Hussain Shah.

Mohammad Rafee Rather, Dy.SP Traffic Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Hrs.) Kupwara vice Rashid Younis.

Priyanka Kumari, SDPO, Vijaypur, has been transferred and posted as Dy.SP 15 Women Bn.,

against an available vacancy. Shammi Kumar, Dy.SP Hrs Kathua, has been transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-24th B., against an available vacancy.

Akash Kohli, SDPO Basohli has been transferred and posted as SDPO Nagrota vice Sultan Rohit Kumar, Dy.SP PC Srinagar, has been

transferred and shall await orders of posting in Police Headquarters, J8K. Manjit Singh, Dy.SP IR-14th B., has been

transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Hqrs.) Kathua, vice Shammi Kumar. Chanchal Singh, Dy.SP Hqrs Rajouri, has been

transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-16' Bn., against an available vacancy.

Sultan Mirza, SDPO, Nagrota, has been trans-ferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-5th'Bn., against an available vacancy.

Vishal Shoor, Dy.SP, awaiting adjustment after promotion, has been posted as SDPO Domana, vice Sunil Singh

DAK Seeks Death

to them till they become addicts.

"There is a strong network of drug peddlers who make these drugs available with fruit sellers to tea shops and gyms and they enjoy the patronage of certain forces behind the curtain," ĥe said.

The DAK President said the menace of drug addiction has engulfed a vast majority of our

A recent report by the National Drug Dependence Treatment centre of AIIMS New Delhi has revealed that JK has 10 lac drug

According to a survey from Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences 90 percent of drug abusers in Kashmir are using heroin.

"Young people are dying because of heroin abuse in Kashmir," he said adding "more heroin addicts are dying now because they have moved from snorting (inhaling through the nose) to injectables making the drug even

Dr Nisar said every day we see young persons coming to hospitals with heart attack and strokes and drug abuse is a big factor.

"Drug abuse is responsible for hepatitis epidemic in Kashmir. Drug addicts are at a higher risk of contracting hepatitis B, C and HIV and have the potential to spread these deadly infections to others," he said.

LG Orders Probe

of minorities of Kashmir. Despite repeated court orders, temple properties have been illegally given on lease," he said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration/ revenue department has failed to protect the temple properties and has been unable to vacate the temple properties /premises, which have been leased out by the respective managements illegally for personnel fayours," he added

The JK Peace Forum Chairman alleged that despite repeated court orders, temple properties have been illegally given on lease.

Taking potshots at the successive governments, Mahaldar in the absence of Kashmiri Pandit community in the Valley, a few selective people in connivance with the J&K government officials operated defunct temple Trusts in between 1989 till 2022 and sold out or leased out temple properties.

He also demanded identification of the government employees involved in selling temple properties for a long time. He also alleged that the money collected illegally by the defunct societies/ temple trust was being used towards illegal activities which can harm the national interests.

"The defunct temples trust have not submitted any audited balance sheets, minutes of meetings nor have conducted any elections in the presence of the election officers deputed by registrar of societies from time to time," Mahaldar said.

"We request the I&K administration to immediately take action against all non-residents who are not living in Kashmir since the last 32 years and have created a self-created Management trust of temples/ societies in various districts of Kashmir valley and are collecting money from the public," he added.

The JK Peace Forum Chairman said that there were around 100 defunct temple trusts / societies operating illegally within the valley of Kashmir & outside Kashmir.

"The List of defunct temples trusts whose properties/ sold / encroached/ leased out are not even registered with the registrar of societies the Govt of J&K. The defunct Societies / temples trust had not submitted any audit report since 1990 till 2023," he said.

He further added that among the offenders are several government departments. He said that nearly 25 kanal of temple land at Kohni-Khan, Dalgate, Srinagar, under custody of the Deputy Commissioner office, had been sold illegally and houses constructed

"Similarly, the shrine at Gundo Nowroze, Anantnag, has been illegally occupied by the Education Department. The Shiv Temple on the premises of the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution office, Srinagar, has been encroached upon and a shop constructed near

the gate," Mahaldar added. He also said that land has also been leased, rented or sold in Durga Nag, Barbershah, Lal Chowk and Hariparbat.

Iltija Mufti

passport that is valid from April 5, 2023 to

April 4, 2025, according to a letter by the RPO to the additional solicitor general.

"The Regional Passport Officer, Kashmir, Davinder Kumar, and the CID have misled the judiciary," she told a press conference at the PDP headquarters here.

"The passport issued to me is a two-year passport and it is mentioned clearly that it is valid only for the UAE," Iltija said and described the document issued to her as a "conditional

She said she was an "Indian citizen and a law abiding citizen" and has not broken any law. "But, even to issue the two-year passport, the Official Secrets Act has been invoked against me. This Act is usually invoked for espionage," Iltija claimed.

"Am I a fugitive? Am I Nirav Modi, am I a terrorist, anti-national that I am being punished? If I talk about the central government, is it like talking against the country? What is my fault?" she asked.

"I am not a fugitive or a conman like Kiran Patel who was treated as a VVIP," Iltiia said. Patel was arrested in Kashmir last month for allegedly posing as an official of the Prime Minister's Office.

The PDP chief's daughter alleged that she was being treated like a hardened criminal and "like I have taken thousands of crore of rupees as loans from banks and have become a defaulter"

She asserted that she would continue to fight her case in the court despite "pressure to withdraw her petition".

"The Deputy Solicitor General (of India) (Tahir Majid) Shamsi has asked the court to dismiss my petition as a passport has been issued to me. But, what passport is this?" Iltija asked.

She claimed that the CID told the court that it was not stopping her passport and "not violating any of my fundamental rights". "The right to travel abroad is a fundamental right and I am being deprived of that right," Iltija said.

"This is happening to me because I am the daughter of a former chief minister. I am not entitled to a passport because Mehbooba Mufti is my mother. I am entitled to a passport because I am a law abiding citizen," she said.

Iltija asked if there was any FIR registered against her or if there were any charges against her that she was being "deprived of this right". "What is my fault? If this is happening to me, you can imagine what is happening to common Kashmiris," she said.

Accusing the CID of "playing a very bad role and criminalising basic things such as passport issuance" in Kashmir at the "behest" of the Centre, Iltija said Kashmir is on "auto-pilot mode, silent mode" after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 as people "do not have the freedom to raise their voice and they are jailed if they say something".

"It is a conditional passport, which is not given even to fugitives. The regional passport officer is flouting the Passport Act and violating his duties because if you are giving a conditional passport to me then they have to tell me," she said.

"Legally, you have to let me know, you are answerable to me as to why a conditional passport was issued to me. Am I involved in some Hawala scam, or money laundering?" Iltija said.

She also asked "why has the CID submitted an adverse report in a sealed cover?". "If you are so confident about your report, then why did you have to invoke the Official Secrets Act? Why do you not want the document to come out in public domain?" Iltija asked.

"Because there is nothing substantial in that, there are no solid grounds (against me). So, you are misleading the court. So, I request the court to see that it is being misled.

Iltija said the government wants to make an example out of her family "so as to stop people from raising their voice". She said she believes that some officers of

the CID were bringing "disgrace and disrepute" to the department. "They are lying to the court, harassing the people like the Nazi Germany. The CID here has only job that is to harass and persecute the Kashmiris," Iltija alleged.

Asked if she would continue to pursue the matter in the court, Iltija alleged that there is pressure on her lawyer to "withdraw the

"But, I will not withdraw my petition because this is not my fight only but of others who have been deprived of such rights. There is tremendous pressure on us to withdraw this petition, but I will continue to fight it in the court and I have full faith in the honourable judiciary that they will issue this passport," she said.

Govt Lifts Burden

mandated Government to cancel affiliation and recognition of the school violating provisions of Rule 8A.

The government said that it has been brought to their knowledge that the implementation of orders is not seen on ground level as most of the schools flout norms as envisaged in Rule 8A of J&K School Education Act 2002.

...the Department of School Education & Literacy GOI has rolled down School Bag Policy, 2020 in consonance with the judgment of Madras High Court dated: 19.05.2018 in WP No. 25680 of 2017 titled "M. Purushothanan Vs Union of India "wherein Union of India interalia was directed to frame a policy on children school bag as on the lines of "Children School Bags (Limitation on weight) Bill, 2016," reads the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The order says that the School Bag Policy 2020 is a comprehensive guideline on School Bag Weight and includes following advisory:

"The school bag is a common cause of backache in school-going children. A heavy bag may cause a child to compensate by leaning his body forward and this can strain muscles in his neck, shoulders and back," reads the guideline. Adding "The child may also find it difficult to put the bag on and take it off, or he falls frequently in school while carrying his schoolbag"

The government now directed all the School Heads (Government as well as Private) to strictly adhere to the S.O 126 issued by School Education Department on 15 April, 2020 enforcing Rule 8A of J&K School Education Rules, 2010 and revised guidelines of School Bag Policy, 2020 issued by Department of School

Education and Literacy Ministry of Education, Government of India for reducing of School bag weight and recommendations of books thereof.

"Any dereliction on part of any Government or Private School shall be viewed seriously and shall invite the action as envisaged in Rule 8A clause(3)," reads the circular.

The Government had made the following amendments in J&K School Education Rules,

1. No homework is assigned to students of classes up to 2nd standard.

2. No formal books are prescribed at Preprimary (Nursery, LKG, UKG) levels.

However, student of these classes may be provided maximum two notebooks/work books to be kept in the teacher's custody in the school itself; Students of Pre-primary level are not asked to carry any bag except light carrier for Lunch box;

No Schools should prescribe any other subjects except;

(a) Language and Arithmetic for class 1st &

(b) Language, Environmental Science (EVS) &

Arithmetic for class 3rd to 5th; and (c) Language, Social Science, Mathematics and Science for class 6th and 7th, or as pre-

scribed by the affiliating authority.
Students shall not be asked to bring additional books and extra material to school.

According to the defined rules, no bag was required for preschool children while for classes I-II it was 1.5 Kg, III-IV it was 3Kg, from fifth to seventh standard it was 4 Kg, from 8th to 9th it was 5KG and for 10th standard students it was 5.5 Kg.

The order directs the School Education Department to issue detailed guidelines and direction from time to time regulating the weight of the school bags.

Schools Warned

been observed to be financially burdening for parents, particularly when purchasing books that are not prescribed by the Board to which the school is affiliated," the circular said.

Such practices also go against the ethical guidelines issued by the government, it said, adding private schools must notify through their websites the list of subjects and prescribed books by the affiliated Board.

"Private schools are not allowed to make any subject or book mandatory and cannot ask parents to buy books from a particular book shop," the circular read.

"It is once again enjoined upon all the private recognised schools that they desist from compelling the parents for purchasing books and uniforms from any particular shops and change of books thereof."

It said that further in order to have a wider choice for the parents for purchase of books and uniforms, the same should be made available in the open market.

"Any deviation from these instructions, if noticed, shall be viewed seriously and action will be taken as per the provisions of law which inter-alia includes the-recognition of schools and withdrawal of NOC as well." the circular said.

The DSEJ directed all chief education officers to constitute special monitoring teams headed by deputy chief education officers and zonal education officers to verify complaints regarding the sale of books, uniforms by private schools, or pressing parents for purchases from any particular shop.

In a separate circular, the Director of DSEJ, while addressing complaints regarding private schools demanding annual and admission fees, as well as other charges besides tuition fees, from parents of students enrolled in their institutions, said, "Such schools have also increased their annual and tuition fees without the approval of the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC).

The DSEJ said all private schools should strictly abide by the J-K School Education Act 2002 and desist from charging any fee other than approved by the fee fixation and regulation committee.

Any deviation will invite action as envisaged under Section 27 (2) of the Act, the circular added.

Srinagar Airport

machines at the main gate and introducing electric vehicles to ferry passengers from the main gate to the terminal were discussed threadbare, the officials said.

To help tourists, a police facilitation counter will be opened at the airport, besides a police unit will be established to cater to requirements of passengers and their grievances and complaints, they said.

The officials said a proposal for an extended baggage-cum-check-in counter in Srinagar city, preferably at the Tourist Reception Centre, will also be considered to reduce congestion at the airport.

These measures will help the airport handle more air traffic, especially in view of the upcoming G20 visits, tourist season and the Amarnath yatra, they said.

It will be ensured that no passenger is overcharged for any service, including taxi services, the officials said

The security audit of the airport and its surrounding premises will be conducted to neutralise any threat, they said.

Accidental Fire

He has been identified as Bikram Sharma and was posted at the residence of BJP district president in Awoora area. **5 Drug Peddlers**

at different police stations, they added.

One More Held

in Kupwara.

Preliminary investigations, he said, suggest that paramilitary trooper Sajad Ahmad Badana hailing from Karnah & posted with 160 BN of CRPF in Chatha, Satwari Jammu, is the main kingpin in the case. "Further investigations are underway and

the entire nexus behind this will be unraveled,"

Pertinently, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar had said that it was part of cross-border smuggling. 'Drugs have come from Pakistan'

Azad's Comments On KPs Displacement Is To Bail Out' Real Culprits: BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Friday targeted Democratic Progressive Azad party (DPAP) chairman Gulam Nabi Azad for allegedly hurting the sentiments of Kashmiri Pandits in his autobiography "Azaad".

It said reasons identified by Azad as being responsible for the displacement of the minority community members from the Valley is to "to bail out the real culprits".

"We condemn Azad for abusing and hurting the sentiments of Kashmiri Pandit community in his autobiography as reported by the media. We blame Azad for being equally responsible for the forced displacement of a religious minority of Kashmiri Hindus from the Kashmir Valley in 1989-90," BJP spokesperson and former legislator Girdhari Lal Raina told reporters here.

Blaming Azad for being one of the persons at helm "responsible for the death and destruction" in Jammu Kashmir, Raina said that his studied silence over gathering storm from 1980 onwards and infiltration and exfiltration of terrorists and unilateral attacks on the minority community in Kashmir is "well known".

"Azad was always at important decision-making positions of the Congress party and also in its government. He can in no way escape responsibility for happenings in Jammu Kashmir",

Raina said that Azad's description of events leading to the displacement of the Hindu community is a "ploy to shift blame for narrow electoral benefits".

"Azad was in Union government continuously from 1980-1989, the period that saw targeted isolation -- othering of religious minorities in Kashmir including violent communal attacks in Anantnag Kashmir in 1986 and also selective killings

of minority community of Kashmiri Pandits in 1988-89 much before even elections to the 9th Lok Sabha were held," he added.

The targeted killing of Keshav Nath Mahant of Vicharnag Srinagar in December 9, 1988, Prabhawati of Chadoora Budgam, D N Raina of Drabyar Srinagar, Sheela Tikoo of Srinagar and Tika Lal Taploo, Neel Kanth Ganjoo in 1989 was much before the Congress Party was voted out in New Delhi, Raina said.

"Azad was there when the Rajiv Gandhi-Farooq accord happened and when 70 terrorists were released in 1989 by the Farooq Abdullah government in J-K. How can he ignore the environment of terror and targeted stone pelting of minority community homes during Lok Sabha elections of 1989?" he said.

"Reasons identified by Azad responsible for the displacement are to bail out real culprits and if he thinks this undermining of truth will endear him to voters of a particular section, he is grossly mistaken. Let Azad recall how he was rejected even as the chief minister," the former MLC him.

Blaming then governor Jagmohan is a sponsored conspiracy to destabilise India and sabotage Indian democracy, Raina said.

Raina asserted that the minority community was not targeted for being Congress supporters or because of supposed high positions in central offices.

"The only reason for their besiegement was their nationalism and religious identity. The killing of a lift operator, staff nurse, laboratory assistant, driver, farmers, pujaris, mahants or housewives explains the objective explicitly,"

Panun Kashmir chairman Ajay Chrungoo also hit out at Azad for his comments on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits

"Azad is also a communal leader in the grab of secularism,"

Dry Weather Likely In J&K Till April 10



Agencies

SRINAGAR: After a few days of intermittent rainfall, weather improved in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and is likely to stay "mainly dry" till April 10.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that light rain at isolated places towards late afternoon/evening was expected on April 11.

Regarding the temperature, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 4.4°C against 6.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.5°C below normal for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded

a low of 3.0°C against 4.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.7°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of minus 1.8°C against 2.4°C on the previous night and it was 4.0°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of

3.6°C against 3.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.6°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 2.1°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 1.7°C against 3.6°C on the previous night and it was 3.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 13.7°C against 14.7°C on the previous night. It was 4.1°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 7.1°C (below normal by 0.3°C), Batote 1.4°C (below normal by 1.4°C), Katra 12.6°C (2.5°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 4.3°C (1.7°C belownormal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 6.0°C and minus 0.6°C respectively,



DEVOTEES OFFERING CONGREGATIONAL FRIDAY PRAYERS on the 16th day of the holy month of Ramazan in Maisuma area of the capital city. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Transparent, Accountable **Governance Benefiting All: LG**

Observer News Service

IAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that transparent & accountable governance was ensuring that the benefit of growth reaches all sections, especially last man in queue in Jammu and Kashmir.

'We have embarked on several major initiatives in developing efficient public service delivery mechanisms & it has improved the ease of living of common man," Sinha said.

He made these remarks while interacting with the citizens, who had submitted their grievances on JKIGRAMS portal during "LG's Mulaqaat" today.

The LG said that it is our firm resolve to address public complaints in a time-bound manner and speedily bring about change for all round

"Transparent & accountable governance is ensuring that the benefit of growth reaches all sections, especially last man in queue," Sinha added.

While interacting with the citizens, the LG took appraisal of their grievances and action taken by the concerned Deputy Commissioners. He also sought details of the action taken on the directions passed in the previous meeting.
On the grievance of a per-



son from Srinagar regarding environment protection and sanitation at the foothills of Shankaracharaya top, the LG directed Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation to look into the issue on priority for appropriate action.

Responding to a complaint regarding wards and bathrooms of the District Maternity & Child care Hospital Sheerbagh, Anantnag, the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag apprised the chair that the renovation and facelifting work of the bathrooms of the hospitals has already been done and the grievance was resolved.

Addressing the grievance of Irfan Rasool from Baramulla regarding dumping of solid waste in Nignli Nallah and its harmful impact on environment, Sinha asked the Deputy Commissioner to formulate a comprehensive strategy through the local PRIs for a robust waste management.

Farooq Ahmad from Pulwama had submitted a complaint regarding illegal sand extraction in Hajibal, on which the LG directed the Deputy Commissioner to take strict and immediate action. Responding to the griev-

ance of non-availability of Gynaecologist specialist at CHC Bani, Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department apprised the chair that the specialist will be arranged immediately on rotation basis.

On the sidelines of the LG's Mulaqaat, discussion was also held on successful implementation of training programme for holistic development of agriculture and allied sector.

The training programme is being executed by the Agriculture Production Department for farmers in all 20

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department gave the detailed presentation of the training programme scheduled to be held between 24th

Launches Two Initiatives Of Cooperative Dept

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoi Sinha launched two major initiatives of Cooperative department- Diploma in Cooperative Management and MoU between Cooperatives and Department of Tribal Affairs, at Raj Bhawan here on Friday.

He said that the initiatives will strengthen the cooperative spirit in the UT and transform the lives of the tribal community.

"Prime Minister's vision of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi' will guide the social and economic transformation and provide vital support for growth of agriculture sector. The new initiatives also aimed at improving cooperatives efficiency and to meet the requirements of rural economy," Sinha said.

Emphasizing on promoting cooperative education and training, the LG said the introduction of Diploma in Cooperative Management will provide opportunities to Junior Officers, members of Cooperative Societies, FPOs and officials of other allied departments to acquire requisite skills to manage cooperative business and facilitate the process of human resource development in J&K.

He also highlighted the positive impact of convergence of schemes of Cooperative Department & Tribal Affairs Department to achieve the twin objectives of equitable and sustainable rural development.

"The Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Cooperatives and Department of Tribal Affairs will ensure that tribal cooperatives, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras avail benefits of different schemes and enable economic development and prosperity of tribal population," said the Lt Governor.

The LG shared the Union Territory administration's efforts to strengthen the cooperative sector to accelerate the grassroot development and capacity building.

"We have taken several steps to ensure effective on-ground implementation of rural development schemes and to empower the targeted sections. Resource availability for growth of cooperatives is another area where steps have been taken to ensure credit access to people and support services for equitable distribution of benefits," he said.

"More than 1000 cooperatives have been established in various sectors. An amount of Rs 366 crore was allocated for the revival of Jammu, Baramulla and Anantnag Central Cooperative Banks, besides Apex Level Dairy Federation has been established in Jammu Kashmir after 27 years." he added.

The LG further stressed on expansion of the cooperative sector and connecting more farmers with Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society. Establishment of PACS in every panchayat should be our prime obiective, the Lt Governor added.

On the occasion, Sinha also unveiled the logo of the Cooperative Department. He also enquired about the training modules of the diploma course.

It was informed that 50 candidates have been enrolled for the 40 weeks Diploma course in Cooperative Management through the Centre for Cooperative Management Jammu.

BANIHAL-KATRA RAILWAY LINK

Digging Work Completed On T-14 Tunnel

Press Trust Of India

IAMMU: The Northern Railway on Friday achieved yet another major milestone by breaking through T-14 tunnel between Sangaldan and Sawalkote stations on the 111-km underconstruction Banihal-Katra railway link in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

cated in two districts of Reasi and Ramban," he said.

The tunnel portals are located in remotest villages of Reasi and Ramban with no road connectivity prior to the start of tunnel construction, Chaudhuri said.

The south portal of tunnel T-14 is located in Sawalkote village in Arnas tehsil, at a distance of 100 kilometre from the



Engineers and workers faced several challenges in the course of construction in such a shear zone, encountering flammable gases (methane), perched aquifer, highly jointed rock mass and high ingress of water, they said.

The officials said the digging work has been completed on the 6.284-kilometer tunnel between Sangaldan and Sawalkote station.

The breakthrough ceremony was done by a woman employee, Indu Paul Kaur of Awantipora in Kashmir, an engineer in ÎRCON, they said.

Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway, said a major milestone was achieved by execution of breakthrough of T-14 main tunnel between Sawalkote and Sangaldan stations on the under-construction Katra-Banihal section.

"T-14 is a tunnel of length 6.284 km and the ends are lodistrict headquarters of Reasi, at an altitude of 1,070 meters, while the north portal of the tunnel is located in Ind village of Gool tehsil in Ramban, at an altitude of 1,150 meters, the official said.

He said the T-14 tunnel has two tubes -- the main tunnel and the escape tunnel. The tunnel has been constructed using NATM (New Austrian Tunneling Method) methodology, which is an observational and sequential construction

method, Chaudhuri added. Out of 272-km length of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, 161km has already been commissioned and operationalized, the officials said. The work on 111-km stretch between the Katra-Banihal section traverses through hilly terrain of lower Himalayas, in which geology is a major challenge, they said.

NIT Students Develop Kashmir's First Racing Model 'Go-Kart'



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Students at the National Institute of Technology first racing model, Go-Kart, which will be participating in a national-level competition in Tamil Nadu next week.

A group of 25 students from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar developed Go-Kart (G-01). It will be participating in the All India Go Karting Competition to be held in Coimbatore next week, a spokesman of the institute said here. He said the Department of

Mechanical Engineering Team Garuda's first racing model, G-01, was flagged off on Thursday by In-charge, Director, NIT, Srinagar M F Wani and registrar Syed Kaiser Bukhari. "The team of 25 students was

formed by Head of the Department, Adnan Qayoum, and they worked under the mentorship of HS Pali and Dinesh Kumar Rajendran for the past several months on the campus," the spokesman said. Go-Kart has been designed from various equipment and a 150-cc bike engine has been used in the vehicle, he said.

It runs on diesel and goes to an extreme speed of 150 kilometers per hour.

The trial run was conducted

successfully and it passed all tests before going on the road, the spokesman said.

"It is the first time that stuents have developed sometl like the G-Kart model. It is just beginning and there is more to come. Our students are working day and night on innovations and we are also upgrading our infrastructure on the campus," Wani

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Rakesh Sehgal said Go-Kart is a new edition in Kashmir, but it is more popular in south Indian states.

"The trend of innovations in the Valley is evolving with advanced technology in every field and our students are performing well," he said.

Coordinator Garuda Team, H S Pali said it is the biggest milestone in the history of NIT Srinagar. "The G-01 model is the culmination of months of hard work, dedication and collaboration by the team members of Garuda." he said.

"We have pushed the boundaries of what is possible from students of Kashmir. The launch and demonstration of G-01 is an opportunity to showcase the capabilities of our Karting model.' faculty coordinator of Team Garuda, Dinesh Kumar Rajendran

Rahul's Disqualification

Cong Stages Jai Bharat Satyagraha In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Congress on Friday held a 'Jai Bharat Satyagraha' against Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Led by Pawan Raina, the Pradesh Congress Committee secretary, the party also demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue.

Gandhi was disqualified as an MP following his conviction and twoyear sentencing by a Surat court in a 2019 criminal defamation case.

Addressing a gathering of Congress workers, Raina launched an attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "criminal silence on the Adani issue", raised by Gandhi, and not acceding to the demand for a JPC probe. He also criticised the BJP for "de-

mosphere of fear" among the common people. Raina alleged that an atmo-

stroying the democratic culture" in

the country and "unleashing an at-

sphere of undeclared emergency is prevailing in the country, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

3rd Edition Of Jammu Film Festival To Begin From Apr 8 rector of the Tourism include film makers Raahul

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The third edition of the Jammu film festival will be held here from April 8 with films from 11 countries slated to be screened over two days of the

event, officials said on Friday. Over 50 feature films, short films, and documentaries from 11 countries, including India, Iran, France, Russia and Italy. Renowned theatre and film personality M K Raina will be a guest at the festival, said Rakesh Roshan Bhat, the director of the festival.

"The third edition of the International film festival at Jammu will be held over two days from April 8 to April 9 in Jammu city," he informed.

Bollywood actor Rahul Roy and television actress Deepika Singh will also attend the two-day festival to promote their film.

'The festival has also attracted delegates from many other states in India like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Karnataka and Northeast," said Mushtaq Kak, the festival jury head.

Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and the Jammu Tourism Department have partnered in organising the festival, he said

"It's heartening to see the response we've received, and we hope that this festival continues to grow and become a platform for filmmakers to showcase their work," the director said.

festival's co-director, The



Rohit Bhat, said, "We received around 100 entries from 16 countries this year, and the quality of films was exceptional."

JKAACL secretary Bharat Singh Manhas praised the festival for providing a platform for artists from Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talent and interact with filmmakers

from other parts of the world. Abdul Jabbar, the deputy di-

department, highlighted the potential of the festival in promoting tourism in the region and enhancing the image of Jammu as a cultural hub. "As a jury head, it

was a challenging task to select the best films from the entries received. But it was a great opportunity to be part of this festival, which is promoting local talent and cre-

ers to showcase their work," Kak said. The first-ever international film festival was held in September 2019 in Jammu, the winter

ating a platform for filmmak-

capital of the Union Territory. The other jury members

featured in the festival, he said. The festival has gained popularity in festival circuits and is considered a major event in the region's cultural calendar. IAS veteran Wing Comm

Sharma, Kapil Mattoo, Ali Mo-

hammad from Iran, actor Lalit

Parimoo and film critic Amit

Kashmir have been particularly

well-received, with a number of

films by local filmmakers being

Entries from Jammu and

Singh, Kak said.

Ashok Saraf, the advisor to the festival, said, "It's great to see the support that the festival has received from sponsors and others and I hope it continues to grow and become a significant platform for filmmakers in the region."

Downtown Heroes Win 2-0 In I-League 2



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC registered a thumping 2-0 win against Techtro Swades United FC on Friday at Minerva Academy Ground, Chnadigarh in the ongoing 2nd Division I-

Continuing their efforts to boost local talent, Downtown Heores fielded a playing eleven that Group A points table, taking included nine local players. The club's trust in Kashmir's local talent has started reaping fruits.

Ateeb Ahmed Dar scored the first goal in the 25th minute of first half while Sufiyan Shaikh doubled the Downtown Heroes' lead in 73rd minute of second half. Techtro was reduced to 10 men after one of their players received a red card in the 71st

With this win, Downtown Heores have risen to second in seven points from five games. They next face Mumbai City FC in Mumbai on April 12.

Sports Council Reaches Out To Senior Citizens In J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Many senior citizens both men and women assembled at Polo Ground Sports Complex Srinagar and K. K Hakhu Astro Turf Jammu under the 'Sports for All' initiative of J&K Sports Council to celebrate the spirit of "golden age".

Appreciating the motivation and enthusiasm of the participants towards the sports event organized by J&K Sports Council for elderly, Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Department of Youth Services and Sports said that the response of veterans is very praiseworthy and that sport has no age barrier and a little spark and motivation is enough to keep the passion going.

Nuzhat Gull, Secretary J&K Sports Council said that the events like these are a great stress buster and she was sure that each participant after going back to their respective homes will be all fresh and rejuvenated. team Red.

She also said that the Sports the government's special initia-

tive for senior citizens and in future similar events under "Har Din Khel, Har Ek Ke Liye Khel ' vertical shall be held across J&K, she added.

Bashir Ahmad Bhat Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council presided over the function in Kashmir as chief guest and interacted with participants including people from all walks of life besides employees of Sports Council, YSS and some prominent businessmen.

In the events held in Kashmir division Farooq Ahmad, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Abdul Rasheed bagged first three positions in 400 Meter race for above 50 years while as in similar race in 600 Meter Mohammad Iqbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar and Mohammad Altaf Chopan clinched first three positions respectively.

In the Tug of War category for women team Red led by Nuzhat Farooq triumphed over team Blue and similarly in men category team Blue prevailed over

The chief attraction of the Council in its pursuit to encour- event in Srinagar was the traage healthy lifestyle shall follow ditional Hopscotch (Saz Loung) with more such events in future. which was very nostalgic as ex-The event is being held under pressed by many participants especially females

Will BCCI Get Tax Exemption For 2023 World Cup?

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI will set the ball rolling for the sale of the media rights for bilateral cricket at home and commence the process to appoint the head coach of Indian women's cricket team at its Apex Council meeting on Sunday.

After the Rs 48,390 crore windfall from the IPL media rights, the BCCI will have high expectations for the home season rights for 2023-2027 cycle. With the entry of Viacom in Indian cricket's ecosystem, it will be a three-way battle between them, Star and Sony.

The BCCI reaped huge benefits from selling the broadcast and digital rights separately for the IPL and it is expected to follow that for the international games at home. Star had paid Rs 6,138.1 crore for the previous cycle

which ended on March 31. The Indian women's cricket team played the recent T20 World Cup in South Africa without a head coach. Batting coach the 2023 ODI World Cup. Hrishikesh Kanitkar had taken charge of the team following the sacking of head coach Ramesh Powar in December.



on the Apex Council agenda, the BCCI will soon invite applications for the support staff including the head coach position. India had yet again come up short in a knockout game at the ICC event in February, losing to eventual champions Australia in the semi-finals.

The host nation is required to get tax exemption from the government for hosting tournaments organised by the International Cricket Council. However, India's tax rules don't allow such exemptions though the BCCI is pushing for a win win solution in its talks with the government.

The board could lose as much as Rs 955 crore if the government sticks to its decision to levy 21.84 percent tax surcharge on ICC's broadcast revenue from

The other items on agenda include ratification of player contracts, revised travel policy of BCCI officials and domestic As the subject finds a mention schedule for 2023-2024 season.

IPL 2023: DC Aim For Improved Batting Show Against RR



GUWAHATI: Battered and bruised by raw pace in back-toback matches, Delhi Capitals' batting unit is likely to find some breathing space on a featherbed when the side takes on Rajasthan Royals in an afternoon IPL match, here on Saturday.

Mark Wood and Alzarri Joseph have scarred the likes of Prithvi Shaw and Sarfaraz Khan in DC's line-up in the first two games. And when these talented but low on confidence willow wielders face an attack comprising Trent Boult, KM Asif and Jason Holder, they would have to negotiate speed in mid 130 kmph, which is right up their alley.

However, the guile and artistry of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal on a hot late afternoon and early evening in Guwahati won't be a pleasant proposition either.

But the pattern of scores at the Barsapara Stadium suggests that batters get value for their shots and one can plonk his front-foot and hit through the line.

Another aspect that might give some relief to DC could be the absence of dangerous Jos Buttler, who has got stitches on the little finger of his left hand after sustaining a bruise while taking a catch in the last game. The bruised area with stitches is likely to remain sore and soft and it will be difficult to field even though batting with extra padding inside the gloves remain an option. In case Buttler is unable to play, Joe Root could be an option.

DC, on paper, despite Rishabh Pant's absence, looked good but frailties of Shaw and Sarfaraz while facing international bowlers, who are 10 miles quicker than their Indian counterparts, has created a lot of problems, which the side

wouldn't have initially comprehended.

There hasn't been too many silver-linings for DC in the two defeats so far and the main drawback of the team is poor bench-strength in terms of Indian talent, which doesn't inspire confidence.

Even if the coaching staff wants to try other options in place of Sarfaraz, DC, in its Indian batting roster only has Yash Dhull, Ripal Patel and Lalit Yadav to fall back upon and none of them are players who would perhaps score at a strike-rate of 150.

At Guwahati, any total less than 190 will be easy pickings for the team chasing but afternoon match will certainly negate the dew factor to some extent unlike the earlier game when Punjab Kings' bowlers were finding it difficult to grip the ball seam up.

Match Starts at 3:30 pm.

Arsenal's Trust In Arteta Paying Off, Says Klopp

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: In a season of so many coaching changes in the Premier League, Jurgen Klopp says Arsenal is a good example of what can happen when a club practices patience.

place team to Liverpool on Sun- the outcome is pretty impresday as the Gunners try to move a step closer to capturing what would be their first Premier League title since 2004.

"I know people are always asking for time for managers. I really think Mikel deserved each minute he got there when it was not going perfectly well," Liverpool coach Klopp said Friday at a news conference. "In the beginning, maybe the steps were not big enough for some people and stuff like this and now they are (in first place).

Chelsea's firing of Graham Potter on Sunday was the 13th managerial departure this season — the most in league history. All but one — Potter's resignational break on the back of a 5-0 loss at Manchester City before

bouncing back to finish fifth. Now, Arsenal holds an eightpoint lead over City, which plays at bottom club Southampton on

'Mikel is building this team Mikel Arteta takes his first- for a few years now. Obviously sive," said Klopp, who in his seventh season is currently the league's longest-serving manager. "The way they play is fun to watch. It's super lively, really good football, top players on the pitch, good match plans.

> "It's not exactly what you can say about us at the moment."

> A three-game winless run in league play has left Liverpool eighth, and 10 points back from the last Champions League spot.

> Klopp might have midfielder Thiago Alcantara back from a hip problem, but winger Luis Diaz's return from a knee injury is targeted for the trip to Leeds on April 17.

> "He looks good, everything was fine but it was a long, long



tion from Brighton - were related to underperformance.

Arteta took charge of Arsenal in December 2019 and guided the team to back-to-back eighthplace finishes.

The start of last season was rough, however. For the first time in club history, Arsenal started a campaign with three losses and no goals scored. The

injury and so we have to be careful and we will probably not involve him for Sunday," Klopp said of Diaz.

He confirmed defender Virgil van Dijk will be back after having missed Tuesday's 0-0 draw at Chelsea because of illness.

Liverpool plans to mark the 34th anniversary of the Hillsborough Stadium disaster with a Gunners went into an interna- minute's silence before kick-off.

Moeen Ali Likens MI-CSK To Man United Vs Liverpool



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Moeen Ali on Friday likened the intense battles between his team and record IPL champions Mumbai Indians to the storied footballing rivalry of Manchester United and

Mumbai Indians have indeed been the most successful team in IPL history with five titles and Chennai Super Kings are a close second with four trophies. However, both the teams have struggled post the mega auction in 2022 having lost core of their players and their rivalry - also termed as the El Clasico of the IPL - is tilted in favour of Mumbai Indians who have 20 wins to show in 34 meetings with CSK.

This is a game I really look forward to. These are the two most successful franchises and the fan-following is huge and this is one of the biggest games you can play as a cricketer outside of international cricket.

"In football's point of view it is like Manchester United playing Liverpool. These are huge games," Moeen told the media here during CSK's training session on Friday evening at the Wankhede Stadium. Moeen backed CSK's strike bowler Deepak Chahar, who struggled in the opening two matches against Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants, saying he needs more game time.

"I think the only thing he is lacking is game time. He had a bad injury and is coming back after a long time. Unless you can bowl in a proper game which you need as a bowler, he will get better as the tournament goes on.

'He is a big bowler for us and when he gets it right he gets three or four wickets in the powerplay," Moeen said.

Suryakumar Can Win You World Cup: Ponting

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Australian great the recent three-Ponting Suryakumar Yadav has the ability to "win" the ODI he became the World Cup for India and first Indian batter the selectors should stick to to register a hathim despite his woeful run trick of golden ducks.

in the 50-over format, and in feels match ODI series against Australia

"Everyone around the The T20 batting sensation world knows what Surya you a World Cup," Ponting 2007 World Cups under is yet to recreate his magic can do in white-ball crick- added.



et," Ponting said on ICC Review.

"His previous average of just 12.28 since his 12 or 18 months have been absolutely outstand-

last fifty in February last year. with him because he's the sort of player that can win

But the former Australia skipper firmly backed ing. I feel they the Indian batter, and should stick said he could do what the late Andrew Symonds did in winning the 2003 and his captaincy.

Suryakumar has scored

172 runs in the format at an



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