

Once Hub Of Genuine Handicrafts, Kashmir Haat Now Lies In Shambles

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Once popular Numayesh Gah, renamed later as Kashmir Haat, which was built in Srinagar nearly six decades ago to provide a marketing platform to the people associated with handicrafts including artisans today lies in shambles with most of the shopkeepers ruing lack of customer footfall.

The shopkeepers claim the all-time high number of tourists that visited Kashmir last year did not benefit them as Kashmir Haat is not being promoted by the government

on the tourist circuit as was done before the eruption of militancy.

"This market was established by the then chief minister to provide a platform for the Kashmiri handicraft artisans and people associated with handicrafts. Tourists across the country visited here as they used to get original handmade products without any fear of cheating and at fixed prices," Nisar Ahmad Kitab, president of Government Central Market at Kashmir Haat said.

Kitab said the government would extend support to the market in terms of



advertisements which ensure good footfall of tourists.

"But the eruption of insurgency adversely impacted

this market. Our livelihood was also hit because tourists stopped visiting Kashmir. Most of the shop owners left

the place and established their businesses outside the valley," he added.

The shops reopened with the return of tourists in 1999 but the support was missing, he said.

"Government is not paying any attention towards this market. Last year, Kashmir witnessed a huge footfall of tourists but unfortunately that didn't benefit us at all. Now we have requested the handicrafts department to include this market in the tourist map, which can bring in tourists again," Kitab said.

Nazir Hussain, one of the

shop owners, recalls the good days witnessed at this market when the hustle and bustle would go on till midnight.

"This market used to open at 8 am and remain open till late night 10 pm to midnight. This market was the backbone of handicrafts," he said.

Hussain said the market was famous for Kashmiri handmade products.

"We would sell shawls, paper machie, jewellery, namda, carpets, etc here at a fixed price. The garden of Kashmir Haat was more famous than Mughal gardens, but this is now devastated. **More on P6**

Gujarat Police To Probe Conman's IIM, MBA Claims

Press Trust Of India

Gujarat: The Ahmedabad Crime Branch will probe the educational qualifications of alleged conman Kiran Patel who was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir last month for posing as a PMO official and brought to Gujarat in the early hours of Saturday.

Patel claims to be a computer engineer who has worked in an advertisement agency as well as abroad, Ahmedabad Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Chaitanya Mandlik said.

"We will probe his claims. We will lodge a fresh FIR against him if his educational degrees are found to be fake," Mandlik added.

As per the Crime Branch, Patel claimed to have completed his diploma in computer engineering from a polytechnic here before completing a diploma-to-degree engineering course from a prominent government engineering college in Ahmedabad.

He has also **More on P6**

J&K Has Become The Most Preferred Tourist Destination: LG

Inaugurates First Tulip Garden In Jammu Spread Over 40 Kanal Land



Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated Jammu's first Tulip garden aimed to provide major impetus to tourism and trade activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today, J&K has become the most preferred tourist destination. Caravan tourism as well as development of unexplored destinations will give new momentum to J&K's tourism growth," Sinha said, after inaugurating the Tulip garden spread over 40 kanal land amid lush green forest in Sanasar area of Ramban district.

The garden has 2.75lakh Tulip bulbs of 25 different varieties.

Observing that the tourism potential of Jammu is unique in many ways, the LG said with breathtaking natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, magnificent cuisine and warm hospitality, it can create a niche for itself on the global tourism map and administration is committed to ensure all the necessary infrastructure & resources.

"As a 'Tourism Mission' initiative 75 new destinations, 75 Sufi/religious sites, 75 new cultural, heritage sites and 75 new tracks are being developed in J&K UT to open up new economic avenues for fulfilling the aspirations of the people," he said.

"Development of water parks at twin cities of **More on P6**



ASIA'S LARGEST TULIP GARDEN, located on the foothills of Zabarwan mountain range is in full bloom, drawing thousands of visitors every day from the country and abroad. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Police Rubbish Iltija's Allegation On Passport Plea

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has dismissed as "completely false" the allegations of PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija that she was being "pressured to withdraw her petition" in the high court after she was issued a "country-specific passport" for two years.

Without naming Iltija in its response to her allegations, police on Friday said security verifications preceding the issue of passports is a high-value public service and the alertness of the force has detected as many as 54 young boys who were wrongly given passport service during 2017-18.

In a statement, the police said a quick internal audit was conducted following the allegation of pressure on **More on P6**

New Era Of Development In J&K Post Art-370: Rijiju



Observer News Service

Udhampur: Asserting that abrogation of Article 370 has heralded a new era of unprecedented growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju said on Saturday that the present dispensation was trying its best to bring the Union Territory on the glorious path of development.

"Abrogation of Article 370 has heralded a new era of unprecedented growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir. The rapid growth and development taking place in the UT is clearly visible which is being appreciated by one and all," Rijiju said while addressing the gathering at the camp here on Saturday.

"These changes are visible in the field of development like completion **More on P6**

Escapes Unhurt In Minor Accident

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju's car grazed a truck on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district on Saturday evening, officials said. He was not hurt in the accident. The truck had suffered a breakdown and the minister's car grazed it before coming to a halt, they said.

The accident took place near Sita Ram Pass in the Maroog area around 6 pm when he was on his way to Srinagar after attending two functions in Jammu and Udhampur, the officials said. Security personnel in accompanying cars rushed and escorted the minister out of his vehicle, they said. Rijiju later left for Srinagar and crossed **More on P6**

COVID RESURGENCE

Prepared To Meet Any Eventuality: Secy Health

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is fully prepared to meet any eventuality amidst a slight spike in daily coronavirus cases in the Union Territory, a senior official said Saturday.

Secretary Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar said the majority of patients undergoing genome sequencing are tested with the highly contagious XBB1.16 sub-variant of the Omicron virus.

He said the Covid-19

cases have steadily increased in Jammu and Kashmir for the last one month and that the administration is fully prepared to tackle any eventuality that might arise in the future.

Secretary H&ME urged people to adopt Covid-19 appropriate behavior meticulously to avoid contracting the virus.

He said genome sequencing labs have been set up in Jammu and SKIMS Soura in Srinagar for enabling the high-speed analysis of multiple genes simultaneously.

"A sudden rise has been witnessed **More on P6**

J&K Logs 77 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported 77 fresh covid-19 cases, even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Saturday. They said that 26 cases were reported from Jammu division and 51 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 480109. Among the cases, 174248 **More on P6**

Mughal History Cannot Be Erased: Dr Farooq Says Opposition Has To Unite To Win 2024 Lok Sabha Elections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Former Chief Minister and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said that Mughal history cannot be erased and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led

government was hitting their own feet with an axe with such actions.

"How will they forget Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb, Akbar, Babar, Humayun and Jahangir? They ruled for 800 years. No Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Christian felt threatened. **More on P6**

'Emperor's New Clothes'

The PDP on Saturday said the BJP's Kashmir policy and its "naya Kashmir" rhetoric are like the emperor's new clothes that the judiciary and civil society have no option but to praise. In its monthly newsletter, the Peoples **More on P6**

6 JUSTICE IS THE FIRST DELIVERABLE to be secured for the citizens as envisaged in the preamble of the constitution, which can only be accomplished by providing the legal aid to the weaker sections of the society,"

SHORT TAKES

Burglars Decamp With ATM In Pulwama

Burglars decamped with an ATM of Jammu and Kashmir Bank in the main town area of Pulwama district, officials said on Saturday.

Quoting officials, news agency KNO reported that burglars took away the ATM along with cash near Government Degree College Pulwama last night.

They said that the ATM contained around Rs 24 lakh when it was stolen. They said police have registered a case and started investigations into the matter.

Two Arrested For Court Burglary

Two persons were arrested for stealing seized articles including four kilograms of heroin from a high-security court complex in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a senior police officer said on Saturday. The theft inside the Malkhana of the court complex had taken place on the intervening night of April 3 and 4, prompting the authorities to suspend five police personnel including an officer. Senior Superintendent of Police (Rajouri) Amritpal Singh said **More on P6**

Man Gets 2-Yr Jail For Cheque Bounce

A local court on Saturday sentenced a man to two years imprisonment in a cheque bounce case and imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on him.

The Court of Special Magistrate (PT&E) sentenced the accused, who was identified as Altaf Hussain Rather, to two years simple imprisonment after finding him guilty for the commission of offense under section 138 of the Negotiable Instrument Act.

"A fine of Rs 1000000 (Rupees ten lacs) which is **More on P6**

Police Arrests Fraudster In Baramulla

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a fraudster involved in selling fake Gondola Tickets in the tourist resort of Gulmarg in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that Police Station Gulmarg received a written complaint from Manager Gulmarg Gondola Project stating that 2 tourists with a fake gondola ticket were caught by the ticket checker. On enquiry, he said, the tourists stated that a tourist **More on P6**

LG Grets People On Easter

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday extended his greetings to the people on the eve of Easter. In his message, the Lt Governor said: Heartiest greetings to the people, especially to Christian brothers and sisters, on the joyous occasion of Easter.

"Easter Sunday is a day of hope and a new beginning. The auspicious occasion signifies the triumph of goodness over evil. The teachings of Lord Jesus Christ inspire us to lead a life filled with **More on P6**

Drunk Man Tries To Open Emergency Exit

A 30-year old passenger from Kanpur who was travelling from Delhi to Bengaluru on an Indigo flight has been arrested for attempting to open the emergency exit mid-air, police said on Saturday. The accused, Pratheek, was travelling by flight number 6E-308 on Friday. He was in an inebriated state and was seated in 18F, a police officer told PTI.

"The drunk passenger tried to create trouble for others seated in the plane and attempted to open the flap of the emergency exit," the police official said. A case was **More on P6**

Strong Link Found Between Lithium In Drinking Water And Risk Of Autism Diagnosis

Press Trust Of India

Higher levels of lithium in household tap water used for drinking by pregnant mothers could affect an important molecular pathway involved in neurodevelopment and autism, increasing the chances of offspring developing autism spectrum disorder, according to scientists.

In the future, they said, human activities such as growing use of lithium battery and disposal in landfills potentially causing ground-water contamination could step up lithium levels in water.

The scientists from University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Health, US, also said that the results of their study, based on data from Denmark, need to be replicated in other populations and areas of the world.

They have published their results in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics.

"Any drinking water contaminants that may affect the developing human brain deserve intense scrutiny," said lead study author Beate Ritz, professor of neurology, UCLA Health.

Owing to lithium's mood stabilising effects, lithium compounds have long been used in the treatment of depression and bipolar disorders.

However, there is debate about the safety of lithium intake by pregnant mothers, amidst increasing evi-



Owing to lithium's mood stabilising effects, lithium compounds have long been used in the treatment of depression and bipolar disorders.

dence of its association with a higher risk of miscarriage and cardiac anomalies or defects in newborns.

Ritz found experimental research that found that lithium, one of the several naturally occurring metals

often found in water, could affect an important molecular pathway involved in neurodevelopment and autism.

This study built on previous findings from Denmark's high-quality medical registry data that ingestion of chronic and low-dose lithium from drinking can influence the occurrence of adult onset neuropsychiatric disorders, said Zeyan Liew, first author of the study and assistant professor at Yale University School of Public Health, US.

Working with Danish researchers, who analysed lithium levels in 151 public waterworks in Denmark and using a nationwide database of patients with psychiatric disorders, the researchers identified children who were born in 1997-2013. They

then compared 12,799 diagnosed with autism against 63,681 children who did not have an autism diagnosis.

The researchers reported that the risk of an autism diagnosis varied directly with lithium levels.

Dividing the lithium levels into quartiles, or four parts with each having a quarter of the values, they found that the second and third quartiles were associated with a 24-26 per cent higher risk of autism.

In the highest quartile, the risk was found to be 46 per cent higher compared to the lowest quartile.

They further found the association to be slightly stronger for those living in urban areas compared to those living in smaller towns and rural areas.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship 2023-24

Description: Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship 2023-24 is an initiative of the Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, Government of Jharkhand for SC, ST, Minority and Other Backward communities students. This scheme aims to equip the next generation of leaders, decision-makers and opinion-makers with the skills and knowledge to drive change and contribute to economic and social development.

Eligibility: Open for residents of Jharkhand who are belonging to SC, ST, Minority and Other Backward communities. The applicants must be willing to pursue master's and M.Phil. programmes at participating universities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Prizes & Rewards: Annual Maintenance allowance and other benefits
Last Date to Apply: 15-05-2023
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/MGJS4

Scholarship Name 2: NITI Internship Scheme 2023

Description: NITI Internship Scheme 2023 is an initiative of the Government of India (NITI Aayog) for undergraduate/graduate/post-graduate degree students or research scholars enrolled in recognized universities/Institutions within India or abroad. The objective of the internship is to allow young academic talent to be associated with the NITI Aayog's work for mutual benefit.

Eligibility: Open for bonafide stu-

dents of any recognized university/institution within India or abroad. The applicants must be graduate students having completed/appeared in the term-end exams and secured up to 85% marks in the previous qualifying examination.

to outstanding engineers to recognize, encourage and support their translational research for achieving excellence in engineering, innovation, and technology development.

Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals/Overseas Citizens of India



Prizes & Rewards: Experience certificate

Last Date to Apply: 10-05-2023
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/NIPS4

Scholarship Name 3: Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship 2023-24

Description: Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship 2023-24 is a research opportunity offered by the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE)

(OCI) with adequate professional qualifications. The applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree and have a minimum of five (5) years of service left in the parent organization as on the date of the award. The candidates must not hold any other fellowship in the event of selection.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 25,000 per month and other benefits

Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2023
Application mode: via email only at - inaehq@inae.in
Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/AKTINF2

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Kupwara.

Subject: Auction of Parking Slot near HDFC Bank for the year 2023-24.

AUCTION NOTICE
E - NIT No: MC/Kup/Tax/2023-24/38-43
Dated:- 08-04-2023.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons/parties for Auction of Parking Slot near HDFC Bank Municipal Council Kupwara, for the year 2023-24 w.e.f. 15-04-2023 to 31-03-2024. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed as Rs. 2,61,000/- Lacs (Rupees Two lacs and sixty one thousand only). The successful/highest bidder is bound to recover fee of Rs. 5/- both for urine & stool.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) 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 schedule of dates given below:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Date of issue of Tender Notice | 08.04.2023 |
| 2. Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 08-04-2023 to 14-04-2023 |
| 3. Bid submission Start Date | 08-04-2023 from 04.00 PM |
| 4. Bid submission End Date | 14-04-2023 up to 2.00 PM |
| 5. Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online) | 14-04-2023 at 04.00 PM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kupwara. |
| 6. Submission of CDR. | The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bids offers with Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs. 5220/- (Rupees Five thousand two hundred & twenty only) @ 2% of the Minimum Reserve Bid drawn from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the Accounts Officer, Municipal Council Kupwara, (without which offers shall be liable for rejection). 10% token money at the time Opening of the Bid and 60% of bid amount at the time of taking over the possession of Latrine and rest 30% of bid amount within three months for which irrevocable bank guarantee from a nationalized/scheduled bank shall be deposited by highest bidder/Allottee. |
| 7. Mode of Payment | |

1. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Bank Challan/Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 122504050000073 maintained at Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch: DC Complex Kupwara in favour of Accounts Officer, Municipal Council Kupwara amounting to Rs. 2610/- (Two Thousand Six Hundred & Ten Only) and Bid security declaration as per format Annexure-1, below on stamp paper duly attested by Notary in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kupwara, failing which tender will be rejected.

2. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kupwara.

3. The bids for the tender shall remain valid up to 31-03-2024 from the date of receipt of formal allotment order.

4. BID SECURITY.

a) Bid Security Declaration: The bid security declaration shall be submitted as per the Format Annexure - 2 (format for the bid security declaration).

b) Any bid not accompanied by the Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) and Bid security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non responsive.

5. The contract of collection of Fee shall be for the year 2023-24 w.e.f. 15-04-2023 to 31-03-2024 and no claim for extension on any pretext will be entertained beyond the allotted period.

6. That, the successful bidder shall execute an agreement duly registered in the Hon'ble court of law with the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kupwara before issuance of allotment and taking over the possession of Parking Slot and no permission shall be granted for recovery of fee dues until agreement/allotment is made in favour of successful bidder/contractor.

7. The successful Bidder shall be bound to effect recovery of Fee as per approved rates, shown below. In case of any violation to the approved rates, legal action against the contractor/Allottee will be initiated.

8. That, the successful bidder shall have to bear/provide/arrange Manpower, Stationary, furniture, Sanitation, etc without claiming any compensation thereof, from the office of the undersigned.

9. The Highest Bid offered shall be exclusive of all applicable taxes (Income Tax etc) as such the successful bidder shall be bound to bear all kinds of taxes which shall be payable by the bidder in addition to bid amount.

10. After expiry of the contract i.e. on 31-03-2024, the successful bidder shall hand over the possession of the Parking Slot to the Municipal Council Kupwara in its original position without any damage.

11. That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Fee in a public friendly manner without causing any inconvenience to visitors, and also to display the rate schedule.

12. The contractor shall be responsible to maintain Parking Slot with special care to sanitation/hygiene of the environment and surroundings.

13. That, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof;

14. In case of any dispute arising between the parties with respect to any of the conditions as laid down herein above or any ambiguity will be referred to arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator, Director Urban Local Bodies shall be final and binding upon the parties.

15. Instructions to the Bidders regarding E- Tendering process:

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

DIPK-NB-102/23 DATED: 08-04-2023

Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Kupwara.

eomctangmarg@gmail.com Fax @ 01954-254630 Phone No: 01954-254630

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office Of The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg

NOTIFICATION

As you are aware that Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg under Swachh Bharat Mission Programmes (2014-19) has attained ODF Status and while attaining this fate became the first Committee from Kashmir to achieve this and is presently striving hard to attain ODF Plus (ODF+) status. As per the records this institution has so far converted insanitary lavatory blocks to Sanitary ones and constructed three fresh flush type latrines under SBM (U). Further this institution has constructed 03 No of Community type latrines out of overall latrines some more CT/PT proposed within the limits of Town Tangmarg/Gulmarg. Therefore, in order to become totally Sanitized Town, to ensure good public health and environmental outcomes, for all its citizens with a special focus on hygienic and affordable sanitation. We are all aware that the impacts of poor sanitation on human health is due to unsafe disposal of human excreta, which is responsible for the transmission of oral faecal diseases in order to sustain ODF status, this institution have enforced strict by laws to stop and eradicate this menace.

It is notified for information of general Public that the defecating in an open/urinating on Public places falling within the domain and jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg is an offence and in case a person is found defecating in an open despite available facilities in the shape of CT/PT within a domain of 1 Km of this institution, he/ she shall be charged/ imposed a fine of Rs. 100/- which shall be enhanced up to Rs. 500/- if a same person found repeating this offence more than once and shall be therefore challenged for violating SBM norms.

No -MC/TG/2022-23/2063-64
DIPK-NB-85/23 Dated:-08-04-2023

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee Tangmarg Gulmarg

Govt of Jammu and Kashmir (UT)
Office of the Assistant Director,
Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan Pattan (193121)
E-mail: arfwussan101@gmail.com****arfwussan@jk.gov.in

AUCTION NOTICE

This office intends to put Fruits for public auction at Fodder Farm Tapper Pattan with the following terms and conditions:

- The auction will be held at Fodder Farm Tapper on 13/04/2023 at 1:00 PM in presence of the committee.
- The starting bid value for auction of fruits is Rs.22500=00 (Rupees Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred only).
- The interest bidders have to deposit a CDR of Rs. 2000/= by or before 13/04/2023 upto 12:00 Noon as an earnest money pledged to Assistant Director Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan.
- The bidders ready to offer the bid from the starting amount shall only be allowed to participate in the bidding process and the violators if any shall be liable to forfeit the CDR.
- The successful bidder has to deposit 100% of the final bid amount on spot.
- In case of holiday or any unavoidable situation the auction will be held on next working day at the same time and venue.
- The auction committee reserves the right to accept/reject any bid without assigning any reason.
- All interested parties /persons can inspect/visit the site at Fodder Farm Tapper Pattan.
- Further terms and conditions if deemed necessary shall be communicated on spot.

Sd/-
(Dr. Waseem Muzaffar Malik)
Assistant Director
Angora Rabbit Farm
Wussan

DIPK-230/23 DATED 08-04-2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of School Education, Kashmir

Subject: Approval of Management Committee in favour of Classic Public High School Goom Ahmadpora District Baramulla

Order No: 00001 DSEK 2022
DATED: 11-Mar-2022

Management Committee comprising of the following is hereby approved for conducting the affairs of Classic Public High School Goom Ahmadpora District Baramulla in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down from the government by time to time

| Sr No | Member Name | Parentage | Residence | Occupation | Designation/Member Type | Qualification |
|-------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Asif Ali Mir | Mohd Ibrahim mir | Watamagam | Private Em | Principal/Principal | M.Sc |
| 2 | Bashir Ahmad Malik | Gh Hussain Malik | Goom Ahmadpora | Business | Chairman/Other | 12th |
| 3 | Firdous Ahmad Bhat | Ab Rahman Bhat | Kanterbugh | Private Em | Member/Parent | BA |
| 4 | Gh Mohammad Baba | Gh Mustafa Baba | Goom Ahmadpora | Private Em | Parent/Parent | 8th |
| 5 | Mohd Ibrahim Baba | Gh Hussain Baba | Goom Ahmadpora | Private Em | Member/Other | BA |
| 6 | Syed Ahmad Shah | Syed Hassan Shah | Goom Ahmadpora | Business | Secretary/Other | 8th |
| 7 | Syed Maqbool Hussain | Syed Assadullah Shah | Goom Ahmadpora | Private Em | Treasurer/Teacher | MA |
| 8 | Syed Mudasar | Syed Mehdi | Goom Ahmadpora | Private Em | Parent/Parent | 12th |

Principal HSS Ahmadpora (Departmental Representative)

The tenure of managing committee shall be three years from 11-Mar-2022 to 11-Mar-2025 unless otherwise modified by the competent authority.

The departmental representative shall work as Nodal Officer of the department who will monitor the implementation of departmental instructions issued from time to time and shall-

- Maintain close co-ordination with the school management and the department.
- Convene/attend monthly meetings of the school management and furnish details of the functioning of the school.
- Ensure that the functioning of the school is in accordance with the rules governing them and shall update the department about any contravention/violation in this regard.

The Management Committee shall perform inter-alia the following duties/functions:-

- Monitor the working of the school monthly basis and management shall furnish report to CEO concerned on quarterly basis.
- The Committee shall be responsible for the Management of the School in accordance with the provisions of the act.
- The Management of the school shall consult the Parents Association in matters of academic importance and co-curricular activities.
- The Managing Committee shall apprise the Parents Association about the performance and various activities of the school.
- The Management of the School shall take the parents Association into confidence while taking important decisions offering students . The management Committee shall remain co-terminus with permission accorded by the Competent Authority or three years whichever is earlier.
- This is issued subject to the outcome of the case(s) if any pending before the competent court of Law

By orders DSEK
Director / Joint Director
NO: DSEK/PVT.MC/00001
dated: 11 march 2022



1248 Foreigners Among 2.50L Tourists Visit Tulip Garden In 20 days

Observe News Service

Srinagar: Asia's second largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar has received nearly 2.50 lakh tourists including domestic as well as the foreigners in the last 20 days.

Pertinently, Tulip garden, wherein a huge rush of tourists was recorded in the first week, was thrown open for the general public on March 20 this year.

Floriculture officer Shayiq Rasool said 2,49,433 tourists have visited the garden since its opening on March 20.

He said the rush of both domestic and foreign tourists was witnessed this year, adding that compared to 150 foreign tourists last year, a total of 1248 foreigners visited the garden this year so far.

The officers also in-

formed that the number of locals who visited the garden so far has crossed the 50,000 mark, saying that a total of 51008 persons visited the Tulip garden this year so far.

He also added that 1,97,177 tourists from different parts of the country visited the garden in the last 20 days.

Pertinently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet a few days ago said that Jammu and Kashmir is beautiful, and even more so during the Tulip season.

In reply to the tweet threads by Srinagar District Administration about blooming of Tulip garden located in the foothills of Zabarwan Range, adjacent to Dal Lake in Srinagar, the Prime Minister tweeted: "Jammu and Kashmir is beautiful, and even more so during the Tulip season."

Prominent Artist Arshad Sauleh Felicitated

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A literary event was held to honor Arshad Sauleh, an artist and an expert in Calligraphy and landscape on Saturday.

The event was held on behalf of Aura Planet (New Delhi) which awarded "Ratan-e-Hind Award" to Arshad Sauleh. Writers, journalists and students participated in the event.

Pertinently, this was the 4th International Annual Award edition which was awarded to the prominent artist.

Speaking on the occasion, Arshad said that he has been involved in Art since his childhood.

"My father had high degree of aesthetic taste and aesthetic sensibility. He had realized that I had the talent to sketch and draw and he gave me freedom as I desired. I think there were instinctual forces within me which always forced me to paint and draw."

As a self-taught art-

ist in the beginning, he would draw landscape, portraits, figurative art, and symbolic landscape. His father did not leave any stone unturned and provided him with everything he needed to pursue his career.

The award is presented in different fields of Arts. Sauleh was awarded for his prominent and valuable services in the art of calligraphy and landscape.

Arshad has played a key role in keeping the ancient art of Kashmir alive and passing it on to the younger generation.

Senior journalists Imdad Saqi, Raashid Rahil and fiction writer Shakeel ur Rehman presented him the award.

Among other personalities who participated in the event include Ashraf Adil, Ashraf Nisar, Hameed Nasir, Muhammad Saqlain, Ali Hasnain and Masarat Ali.

At present, Arshad is serving as the Head of Department, faculty of Arts, Government College of Education (IASE)



Historic Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower) undergoes major facelift under Srinagar Smart City Project, KO Photo Abid Bhat

Bagh-e-Mehtab Sex Racket: Police Books Main Accused Under PSA

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police on Saturday booked two main accused of Chanapora sex scandal case under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

The accused were identified as Mohamad Shafi Hajam son of Abdul Khaliq Hajam resident of Karimabad Pulwama and Arshad Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Shaban Bhat R/O Pampore Pulwama.

Ahmad Bhat son of Mohamad Shaban resident of Pampore, Pulwama.

"Both the main accused of the Chanapora sex scandal case booked under PSA as well. They are: 1) Mohd Shafi Hajam S/O Abdul Khaliq Hajam R/O Karimabad Pulwama and 2) Arshad Ahmad Bhat S/O Mohd Shaban Bhat R/O Pampore Pulwama" tweets Srinagar police.

Police had on April 3, busted a prostitution racket in Bagh-e-Mehtab area in uptown Srinagar. Two persons were arrested on spot, while further 4 sex workers and 2 customers were also detained.

The whole racket was run from a rented house owned by one Altaf Husain Afaki son of Asadullah Afaki of Chanapora. He was arrested under section 3 of Immoral traf-

ficking prevention act 1956 (ITPA).

"Owner of the house used for immoral activities namely: Altaf Husain Afaki S/o Asadullah Afaki R/o Chanapora arrested under section 3 of Immoral trafficking prevention act 1956 (ITPA). Proceedings started for formal attachment/sealing of house as per section 18 of ITPA," police said in a tweet.

Execute Developmental, Beautification Works Of Srinagar At Industrial Scale: Div Com

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Saturday emphasized on the need to execute all the ongoing projects at the pace of industrial scale by employing a large number of laborers in multiple shifts.

Direction comes during an urgent meeting, chaired by Div Com Kashmir to take stock of the physical progress on developmental and beautification works of Srinagar under Smart City projects & G-20.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Budgam, Commissioner SMC/CEO Srinagar Smart City Ltd, Director Floriculture, SSP Traffic, SP

Headquarters, ASP Budgam, Chief Engineer R&B, Chief Engineer I&FC, Chief Engineer, SSCL and officers of PDD & PHE.

He also instructed officers to carry out work during the night hours too. Besides, he directed for provision of security at the working sites to ensure safety of workers.

He asked CE, R&B to compile and submit the list along with Aadhar details of laborers working at different sites in the city. The Div Com directed executing agencies to conduct a cleanliness drive of the roads where work has been completed and asked them to remove all the debris within a couple of days to give finishing touches to sites.

Besides, he advised them not to

spread the construction material on the roads which block the roads leading to traffic congestion.

Meanwhile, Div Com issued directions to all the departments whose services are required on the occasion of G-20 Summit to send the list of their staff to the office of District Magistrate Srinagar for further necessary action.

Regarding the replacement of old plastic road dividers, Div Com directed SSP Traffic to change the old dividers with new ones of uniform design.

The Director Floriculture informed the meeting that all the 12 works under the domain of the department have been already completed while officers of PHE informed that its projects at Dachigam and Hazratbal are also complete.

Defunct Streetlights Irks Worshippers In Parts Of Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People from various areas of Srinagar have complained that they face inconvenience due to the non-availability of streetlights, especially during the pre-dawn and evening prayers during the ongoing holy month of Ramadan. In many areas, the streetlights are defunct.

Arif Ahmad from HMT said that the people face inconvenience while reaching the mosques during Fajr (pre-dawn) and Isha/Taraweeh (night) prayers as the area is without streetlights.

He said a large number of street dogs on streets pose a threat to people's lives. "Even young people are scared of dog attacks," he said.

Another elderly person from the Shalatang area said the authorities, despite being aware of the holy month, failed to install streetlights. "We use mobile torches to reach the mosques," he said.

People from downtown areas and Srinagar outskirts including Hazratbal and Zakura also complained that only a few streetlights are working while most of them have stopped working soon after installation.

"There is always an imminent threat of dog attacks in darkness. How can elderly people go to the mosque? Most people are left with no option but to offer prayers at home," another person from Habbakadal said.

A senior official at the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) said they are looking into the issue and will start working on streetlights.

NHM Celebrates World Health Day In Collaboration With WHO

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, APRIL 08: National Health Mission (NHM), J&K in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) Friday celebrated World Health Day here at Government Dental College, Srinagar.

The occasion also saw the felicitation of Best Performers under Ayushman Bharat Comprehensive Primary Health Care and Kayakalp Awards. Today, the day was celebrated as the 75th anniversary year with the theme "Health for All" which aims at attaining good health for all for a fulfilling life in a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.

Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta who presided over the func-

tion said the day is being celebrated to raise awareness about health issues and ensure that healthcare facilities are accessible to all.

Dr Mehta maintained that our collective endeavor should be to keep the interests of patients paramount over all other concerns. He urged the medical professionals to adopt 'Patient first policy' for extending best medical care up to the satisfaction of all visiting the hospitals for their treatment.

He assured that turning UT into the hub of medical tourism in future is the primary goal of LG administration. He revealed that with the promising prospects of the New Industrial Policy J&K has received dozens of proposals from medical entrepreneurs.

MP Information Com Calls On Raja Muzaffar

Srinagar: The Madhya Pradesh State Information Commissioner Vijay Manohar Tiwari on Saturday called on Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat RTI activist and writer in Srinagar and discussed issues related to governance and implementation of the Right to Information Act.

Dr Raja Muzaffar who is also Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement appreciated the work done by Vijay Manohar Tiwari as Information Commissioner in MP State Information Commission. He told the information commissioner of MP that many progressive Central laws had been extended to JK post 370 but some laws related to governance, especially RTI Act 2005 were not being properly implemented.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Bashir Ahmad Kambay S/o Habib Ullah Kambay R/o Chundina Ganderbal J&K have changed the name of my Minor son aged 17 years and 9 months (D.O.B) 26/06/2005) from Abdul Hadie to Abdul Hadie Kambay for all the purposes vide an affidavit dated 06/04/2023. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Spectrum

Office Of The Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

BOQ CORRIGENDUM

Due to Technical error in the BOQ the previous BOQ ID No: 2023 PHE 208999 2 stands replaced on the portal vide a fresh tender ID No: 2023_PHE_208999_3 under e-NIT No: 99/EE/PHED/BIJBEHARA/2022-23 Dated 29.03.2023 issued under No/PHB/19260-80 Dated: 29.03.2023. accordingly the critical dates are hereby extended as per follows:

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Bid submission end date | 11.04.2023 11.00 AM |
| 2 | Date and time of Bid opening | 11.04.2023 12.00 AM |

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the said NIT Shall remain unchanged. NO/PHB/110-130 DPK-226/23 DATED: 08. 04.2023

Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 4:42
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5:07
Magrib 7:00
ISHA 8:24

HIJRI CALENDAR
18 RAMAZAN
1444

This Day In History

- 1691 - French troops occupy Mons
- 1772 - Philosopher and mathematician Jean-Baptiste Le Rond d'Alembert becomes permanent secretary of the French Academy of Sciences
- 1864 - Battle of Pleasant Hill LA, 2870 casualties
- 1869 - Hudson Bay Company cedes its territory to Canada
- 1917 - Battle of Arras begins
- 1928 - Turkey passes separation of church & state
- 1942 - Battle of Bataan; US-Filipino forces overwhelmed by Japanese at Bataan
- 1945 - Battleship Admiral Scheer sunk by RAF bombing in Kiel
- 1945 - Liberty ship at Bari Italy carrying aerial bombs explodes, kills 360
- 1947 - Atomic Energy Commission confirmed
- 1947 - Tornados striking West Texas & Oklahoma kill 169, injuring 1,300
- 1948 - Massacre at Deir Yassin.
- 1949 - UN International Court of Justice holds Albania responsible for incidents in Corfu Channel and awards Britain damages
- 1955 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1959 - NASA names 1st 7 astronauts for Project Mercury
- 1960 - South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd survives an assassination attempt by David Pratt despite being twice shot in the face
- 1963 - Winston Churchill becomes 1st honorary US citizen
- 1967 - 1st Boeing 737 (a 100 series) makes its maiden flight
- 1972 - USSR & Iraq sign friendship treaty
- 1975 - 24 OECD members sign an agreement to establish a \$25 billion lending facility to provide assistance to industrial nations hurt by high oil prices
- 1976 - US & Russia agreed on size of nuclear tests for peaceful use
- 1977 - Communist party in Spain allowed legally after 40 years

From KO Archives

War Of A Different Kind Breaks Out On LoC

Observer News Service

KAMAN POST, (LOC) -India and Pakistan for a change engaged in a different game other than cricket on Thursday when the passengers from both the parts of divided Kashmir crossed sides at the Aman Sethu (Peace Bridge) here. Besides the 49 passengers from - 19 from India and 30 km Pakistani part of Kashmir- a large number of media persons gathered from across the globe, leaders of some political parties and of course the soldiers saw the two countries lock horns -in a poster and banner battle.

"Pakistan se rishta kya...la-ilaha-illallah" read a huge hoarding erected just across LoC "Mazhab nahin Sikahat Aapas Mein Bair Rakhna" countered a banner from India. Then there was one from j Pakistan which read, "We welcome our Kashmiri brethren". "Every Step on April 7 will strengthen the bonds between India and Pakistan," was the Indian reply.

However Pakistan gavel an edge over India in display of flags. While the tri-colour was not at all seen at the last Indian military outpost, the green and white dominated the entire area: across the border. Hundreds of Pakistani and 'Azzad Kashmiri flags were seen on the other side.

The other count where Pakistanis seem to have scored over India was the erection of a signboard indicating direction and distance to various cities. While the Indian sign showed the distance to Srinagar, the Pakistani one indicated direction to Islamabad, Tehran and Makkah.

The Jammu and Kashmir government presented a memento to the passengers on board the "karvaan-e-aman (Caravan of Peace)" from India and also to those from Muzaffarabad. "The wooden memento had carvings of two Kashmiris embracing each other. Bouquets were also presented to them.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 April, 2005)

Make Mosques Inclusive Again

Amir Suhail Wani

It is very much antithetical to the spirit of Islam to engage in "moral profiling" and ignore those who do not fit into these profiles. The need is instead to open hearts for those who stand in need of support and guidance, those who want to turn to their creator, mend their ways and rebuild themselves but are not shown acceptance at the mosques or by religious clerics

THE life and teachings of the Prophet of Islam and the Quran demonstrate the inclusive, merciful and compassionate nature of Islam. Within the holy life of the Prophet himself, we come across incidents where the Prophet embraced not only marginalised and oppressed but his enemies and the enemies of Islam too, with the spirit of extending the canopy of mercy to all. This tradition has lately waned away and what we see is stark and ugly growth of ideology in the guise of Islam that is interested in exclusion more than inclusion – a circle under implosion. When one talks of Islam, one is inadvertently driven to the institution of the mosque and the overt and covert manifestations of exclusion in this Islamic institution of primary social importance. Mosques in Islam, aren't simply sacred spaces devoted to worship, but importantly, they function as indispensable social institutions within Islamic society with diverse social functions attached to them. But what has been tragically happening for quite some time now is that Mosques are turning more and more exclusive, closing their doors, literally as well as symbolically to those who otherwise need these spaces the most. A halo of hollow piety and misplaced religiosity has turned spaces of inclusion into spaces of exclusion, thereby violating the very essence of Mosques and demeaning their role and importance in Muslim societies.

Quran described the Prophet as one who cleanses people's hearts of filth, removing the unwanted substances from their souls and teaching them the book (The Quran). This explicitly translates into the fact that the responsibility of the men of the pulpit (Maulanas) isn't only to dispense, like a machine, the subtleties of religion to people. They are expected and supposed to act as models as well as sculptures of moral sublimity and ethical perfection. But this is possible only when our preachers are ready to accept humans as humans with all their fallacies and shortcomings. It is very much antithetical to the spirit of Islam to engage in "moral profiling" and ignore those who do not fit into these profiles. The need is instead to open hearts for those who stand in need of support and guidance, those who want to turn to their creator, mend their ways and rebuild themselves but are not shown acceptance at the Mosques or by religious clerics. This has had a regressive impact on how our youth engage with religion and in turn with society and ultimately themselves. The exclusion and rejection they endure stiffens them in their behavioural patterns and having been deprived of their right to mercy, participation and inclusion, they end up messing their lives, the lives of people around them and the society at large. This is not merely a hypothetical construct, but a real life issue which plays out in society now and then. It is not the prerogative of fallible humans to enumerate the criteria for inclusion/exclusion and then classify people into either of these classes. The realistic and only acceptable attitude for a preacher (Da'ee) is to leave open all portals of mercy and all avenues of inclusion. The transformation that the Prophet ushered by embracing those who were



otherwise apparently not eligible for the same initiated one of the greatest revolutions in human history. A historian has described the companions of the Prophet as "nursery of heroes", but when one looks at their pre-Islamic careers, they appear to be no more than ordinary tribesmen, at perpetual war with one another. Thus Islam is an alchemy of transformation, transforming the baser humans into paragons of humanity. It is not intelligible to Islam to pre-classify people into pious and wicked and prefer former over latter in an attempt of social Reformation and moral upliftment. It is an eye-opener to those religious men of our times who behave otherwise and in so doing tamper the spirit and essence of religion and scripture.

The last century has seen the sprouting of various religious movements in Islam emphasising inclusion and participation of one and all in the marathon of salvation. In the wake of these movements, the Mosques turned more inclusive, participatory and liberating, extending themselves to socially marginalised, religiously oppressed and underprivileged. In this way, the Mosques to some extent restored their social functionalism and cultural dynamism. But a crass misgiving characterising these movements was that like their predecessors, they paid little or no attention to gender inclusion and left out of the religious sentiments and issues of half of the population unaddressed. The fact was glossed over and forgotten that Islam rose to the occasion as an emancipatory and inclusive movement, including within the horizons of its messages all diversi-

ties of Cast, Creed, Gender, Geography and Ethnicity. But the passage of time blinded Muslims to these brighter of their religion and Muslim obsession with issues of little importance blinded them to the compassionate and ever embracing aspects of religion.

It is no impossibility that the religion which harbours inclusion, equality, social dynamism and the cultural compatibility will rise and reassert these liberating values again. But this path to liberating praxis is beset with ignorance of the fundamental and essential teachings of religion both on part of scholars and the youth. Our scholars, well versed in the traditional sciences as they are, are equally unaware of the challenges that modern world has thrown open at the religion. The young generation, raised up in modern academia as they are, are condescending about religion, despite their poorer understanding of the same. This bilateral ignorance has widened the gulf between the youth and the scholars, bringing them at loggerheads with one another. The way out to bridge this gap lies in revisiting the schemes – both of religious and secular education. The path to reconciliation and inclusion has to pass through the meadows of learning and understanding.

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

The author is a Srinagar-based columnist

A few weeks ago, a friend who works in the Silicon Valley gave me a demo of the latest AI language model, GPT-4. I had played around with its predecessor, GPT-3 but I was blown away by the advanced capabilities of the new model. According to OpenAI, GPT-4 exhibits "human-level performance" on various professional and academic benchmarks, passing a simulated bar exam with a score in the top 10 per cent of test takers.

What makes this especially mindblowing is the pace of change: Just months ago, the older version, ChatGPT-3, cleared the same exam with a score in the bottom 10 per cent of all scores. As my friend showed me how GPT-4 could automate tasks like writing code, testing, debugging, drafting emails and notes, I felt a sense of alarm. It became clear to me that almost any job which doesn't require physical presence, could soon be substantially automated and done through generative AI. In fact, a recent report by Goldman Sachs estimates that as many as 300 million full-time jobs around the world could be automated in some way by the newest wave of artificial intelligence.

This has troubling implications for India. Sixty-five per cent of the population is below the age of 35 and India is already struggling with unemployment. It has been widely reported that the country must create at least 10 million jobs annually until 2030 to reduce its rate of unemployment and underemployment. However, this job creation goal which was ambitious to begin with is now further at risk. Entire categories of jobs that India would have hoped to create are now in danger of being lost due to automation. These include offshored jobs like entry-level programming, customer service, documentation, and more, which gave India's tech industry its initial headstart and made India the world's largest back office.

It's not clear if our decision-makers in India – whether it is our political class or industry leaders – are fully cognisant of the implications of these developments and are thinking of how best to respond to them. In the tech industry, there can be an airy casualness around "innovation", as if all tech industry developments will necessarily lead to societal progress because they increase "productivity". While it's true that these developments will increase productivity of the smaller number of individuals who will survive the coming waves

AI And The Future Of Employment

The possibility of AI leading to large-scale loss of jobs is no longer faraway

Ruchi Gupta



of automation, it is likely that this will also lead to jobs getting eliminated and people becoming unemployed. Past experience tells us that individuals who become unemployed due to automation aren't necessarily absorbed into other more productive jobs. In fact, they usually just stay unemployed. This is due to both our inability to retrain individuals at scale for higher-order jobs and the

lack of enough higher-order jobs to absorb everyone who has been rendered unemployed or unemployable in the first place.

On the political front, the discourse around unemployment is also limited. In election after election, there are rhetorical announcements of lakhs of new jobs in the future and the promise of a paltry unemployment allowance for India's youth.

However, this framework barely scratches the surface: The job creation numbers lack credibility in the face of mounting job losses; the amount of unemployment allowance is pitifully meagre at an individual level but even then unsustainable at the level of state finances, lacks the dignity of gainful employment, and leaves our youth restless.

There has been some discussion on the need to put guardrails around AI to limit the harm it can cause. However, these conversations often focus on the impact of AI on disinformation and sci-fi scenarios of AI developing "independent goals" which work against human interest. While these conversations are certainly important, the possibility of AI leading to large-scale unemployment is no longer just a theoretical construct in the future. The last decade has shown that development in the tech industry has mostly outpaced the regulatory ability of policymakers globally and we need to initiate an urgent national debate on this issue if we are to manage this transition in a smooth manner. This is especially urgent because, on this particular issue, India does not have a lot of regulatory room – these developments are happening outside its shores (mostly in the US and China) and a significant chunk of the impact at first will be in jobs that do not get offshored to India. It is thus essential to think through the levers we have at our disposal and the social infrastructure we need to put in place today to manage what many are calling one of the most significant disruptions the world has seen. It is thus important to expand the national discussion beyond the usual rhetoric of innovation and productivity to larger questions of the impact of AI on employment and the role of government and industry in mitigating its effects. This includes fundamentally rearchitecting how we educate and skill our youth population, building supportive infrastructure, protecting workers' rights, and expanding the kind and nature of work we value. Finally, these developments and their impact will be global. There is already heated debate on the future of artificial intelligence in the developed world. India must make its voice heard.

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

Musing on Badam Weir



It has also been reported that to delay almond blossom, frozen snow ice blocks were brought through boats from nearby Zabervan forest to be placed under Almond tree canopies. This practice would delay blossom for the arrival of the Afghan Governor in the approaching spring



A S Qureshi

The historical "Badam Weir" is located at the foothills of ancient Kohi Maran hillock which houses Hari Parbat and Sharika Devi Temple(s). Badam Weir (almond orchard) is located at Baran Patheri upland surrounded by Nagin lake in the east, Lal bazaar plateau on the north by Ziyarat Makhdoom Sahib on the West and Malakha graveyard in the South.

The land area has been famous even during Hindu Raja Paravarsena who is reported to have built his capital at this elevated location as most of the surrounding areas would get submerged due to river Jehlum in rage. The Undrooni Kalai area was used as defense land

by Hindhu Rajas, Sultanate kings, Chaeks, Mughals, Afghans, Sikh and even Dogra army. During the Mughal period, a limestone fortification (high wall) was built around a hillock along with a moat having large gates at different locations viz, Kahteeh, MakhdoomSahib and Sangeen Drwaza. The moat was being fed for water supply by a Persian wheel system from Sadura Khun Nagin basin nearest point available.

It is narrated that most of the Almond plantations had been made during Mughal appointed Afghan Governor(s) or by Afghan / Pashtoun rulers when Kashmir came under the direct Afghan Durani ruler. The present fort at the hill top has also been raised during the Shah Shujah Durani period.

Maela Badam warei was introduced during Afghan rule when an Afghan governor ordered not to observe the almond blossom maela until he returned back to the valley the next spring. It has also been reported that to delay almond blossom, frozen snow ice blocks were brought through boats from nearby Zabervan forest to be placed under Almond tree canopies. This practice would delay blossom for the arrival of the Afghan Governor in the approaching spring.

The practice of enjoying bakad water nuts under blooming almond trees was also introduced by bolcal picnic goers which was gradually followed by the ruling class as well.

The Almond gardens inside the fortification were managed by the

State Agri / Horti Dept. At annual auctions, the bid amount for almond crop would even touch more than one lakh up to late sixties. Unfortunately, the almond gardens lost their sheen when most of the gardens having sparse, scattered and old plantations were transferred to other departments like Bota Rajas of Baltistan, Tibatian refuji's, housing department, water works for storage of high dia big water pipes etc. Some local residents who would claim that "Kheem douz" bagh located within this area was taken over during Sikh / Dogra rule for preparation of tents for the State. Some claimants even went for prolonged litigation in the concerned court. They pursued the case till they got fa-

avorable orders from the court. It is only Bagi Waris Khan which remained with the parent Horticulture Department.

It is during recent past when Mufti Sayeed Sahib became the chief Minister of the State, that the management of Bagi Waris Khan (Badam Weir) was transferred to J&K Bank under Corporate fund for rejuvenation, renovation and some aesthetic archeological improvements for traditional "Badam Weir". The bank authorities took the new assignment seriously and achieved the final targets successfully. For this, the Bank received accolades from State and public as well. The number of visitors and local picnic goers has increased annually during the blossoming period. However, the

garden has been now transferred to the State Floriculture Dept. by authorities.

It was also during the mid seventies when (AIFIP) All India Fruit Improvement Project for Dry Fruits (Almond and Walnut) was introduced in the valley by ICAR at Shalimar station – present SKUAST. Under this project, some selections in almond and walnut were made after surveying, screening concerned growing regions after proper identification, elevation. These selections have been received well by concerned growers, traders during annual State / National fruit exhibitions.

The author has served as a Professor

Lessons For Ramazan And Beyond

Yasmin Elahi

The month of Ramazan gives us a natural change of heart, as the whole atmosphere seems to be charged with religious fervour. We feel positive vibes, have the natural urge to do good, reflect upon our deeds and resolve to improve in the areas we lag behind in.

Be it our daily prayers, our efforts to understand the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet (PBUH), attitude towards our elders, kindness to younger ones and empathy for those who are not as blessed as we are, we try to improve ourselves to be better human beings and, above all, be better Muslims in every aspect of life. We all know that Ramazan is the month in which Allah showers His blessings, forgives our sins and gives freedom from the hellfire to those who seek it and to the righteous.

My dear friends, first of all, let us try to understand what the word righteous means in general, and for Muslims in particular. The best synonym for righteous, in my opinion is virtuous, that is a person who has good ethical qualities and values.

For the followers of Islam, it encompasses every aspect of life, a clear guidance for the traits of a Muslim's character and deeds in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

Although we all become, or try to become, better Muslims during this blessed month, I feel sad to say this, but as soon as Ramazan ends, slowly but surely, we meander away from our good resolves and gradually go back to our pre-Ramazan way of life.

Allow me to explain my point with these two important examples.

NAMAZ IS OBLIGATORY FOR LIFE, NOT JUST RAMAZAN

Let us begin with Namaz, the five times daily prayers obligatory on every Muslim. With the sighting of the Ramazan moon, we witness boys dusting their prayer mats and

searching for their caps. Throughout the fasting month, they try to offer their prayers in the mosques as many times daily as possible. Girls make their own arrangements, choosing a peaceful corner to pray and keeping their praying scarves and mats handy.

It is a pity that offering regular prayers is considered only a requisite of Ramazan. As soon as the Eid moon is sighted, children excitedly start preparations for the Eid or are off for last moment shopping sprees on chand raat. Usually, they forget all about Namaz and the resolves they made during Ramazan.

This year, let's promise ourselves that even when the month of Ramazan is over, we shall make praying five times daily a regular habit and never be lazy or careless about our Namaz again.

COMPASSION TO ALL

Ramazan brings with a conspicuous change in our behaviour with people around us. We are more caring with our parents, patient and kind to our siblings, and emphatic for our helpers. In the same way, we avoid picking up arguments or a quarrel with our peers. We understand that Allah wants us to be compassionate to His beings. But as soon as the fasting month is over, most children go back to their careless ways. Instead of helping mum, they turn a blind eye to the chores in which they can help her. The same is true for their behaviour with elders, siblings and household helpers. They become indifferent towards these important people in their life and all the positive vibes seem to vanish into thin air.

My dear friends, please understand that Allah wants us not only to be obedient to Him, but compassionate towards everyone.

In many Quranic verses, after the mention of our duty towards Allah, the importance of the good conduct and interaction of a Muslim with his



fellow beings is stressed upon.

We must understand that helping the needy, keeping a promise and being patient during hard times and illness are some of the qualities of righteous Muslims. These are not requisites of any particular month, but the whole year around.

I hope most of my young friends will agree with me and wonder why they had not thought about these changes earlier. Let us discuss today where we all go wrong, what are the reasons which make our positive changes temporary, in fact only for a month?

As Ramazan begins, we make some promises to ourselves. Examples of some of them maybe,

1. I will perform Namaz five times daily during Ramazan.
2. I shall carve out time to read and ponder upon the Quran

and try to obey to its teachings. I will strive to follow Sunnah of Our Holy Prophet PBUH in my daily routine.

3. I will try to be patient when I am fasting and keep my temper under control.
4. I will help mum in her daily chores as she is also fasting. I will be kind to the household helpers and try to relieve their workload.
5. I will save from my pocket money to give charity to the poor.
6. I will be more generous this month and give away my extra clothes, shoes, books, toys etc. to the less privileged.

The list we can make of the good deeds we intend to do can go on and on. For fear of repetition, I have not written, "This Ramazan" in the begin-

ning of every resolve we make, but the hard fact is that majority of us set our goals only for one month. We know that Allah rewards all our deeds manifold in Ramazan, so we eagerly seek His pleasure by being as righteous as possible during this month.

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A WAY OF LIFE

If you carefully re-read the Quranic verse I have quoted and ponder upon it deeply, you will realise what Allah wants to teach us in this blessed month. Now that we have understood what the word righteous means, we will realise that it implies a total submission to the Will of Allah and obedience to the teachings of Quran and Sunnah without any questioning. The lessons that Allah wants us to learn are not for one month only, on the con-

trary these should be our guidelines for our whole lives.

RAMAZAN IS A MONTH OF TRAINING

The month of Ramazan should be considered a vigorous yearly drill where we are trained to be good Muslims. When we refrain from eating and drinking during a fast, we are submitting to what Allah has decreed. This is a lesson of obedience. We start and stop eating at a fixed time.

Have you realised that in this way Allah teaches us to be punctual in everything we do?

In the same manner, when we feel pangs of hunger and thirst, we realise the plight of the poor, who cannot provide their families even two meals daily. Next time, when you are fasting and your stomach growls for food, consider it a lesson in empathy.

When you help mum in any way you can, you are learning a lesson in caring and sharing responsibilities. When you do not leave your soiled dishes for the household helper, do not litter your things in the lounge and tidy up your room before going to school, you are practicing to be kind and emphatic.

THIS RAMAZAN LET US MAKE LONG-TERM GOALS

The question we should ask ourselves is, "Why do we make resolves for only the month of Ramazan?" Allah does not expect us to be righteous only for a month, but through fasting, He wants all of us to improve our qualities as virtuous Muslims.

My dear friends, this Ramazan instead of planning to seek Allah's pleasure and rewards by being more pious in the month of fasting, let us promise ourselves to practice good deeds each day of our life. Let us keep our goals high, so that with every passing year we emerge as better Muslims.

A very fruitful Ramazan and a happy Eid to all of you.

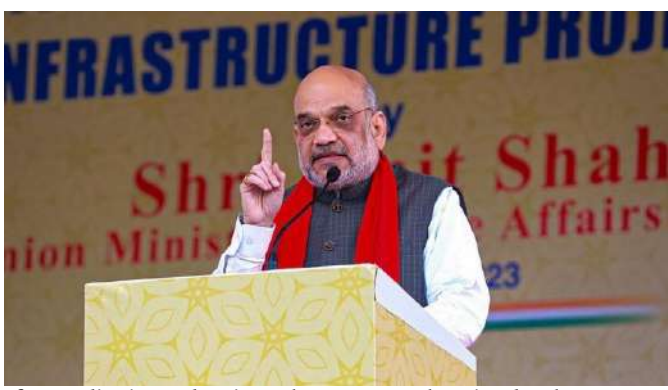
-Dawn

Home Minister Amit Shah to visit Arunachal village along China border on April 10-11

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Arunachal Pradesh on April 10 and 11 where he will launch the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' in Kibithoo, a village along the India-China border.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government of India has approved the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' (VVP) with central components of Rs 4,800 crore, including Rs 2,500 crore exclusively for road connectivity for the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26, a home ministry statement said on Saturday.

The VVP is a centrally sponsored scheme under which 2,967 villages in 46 blocks



of 19 districts abutting the northern border in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh have been identified for

comprehensive development. In the first phase, 662 villages, including 455 in Andhra Pradesh, have been identified for priority coverage. The VVP will help in

improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages and encourage people to stay at their native locations, thereby reversing the outmigration from these villages and adding to the security of the border, the statement said.

The district administration, with the help of appropriate mechanisms at block and panchayat levels, will prepare action plans for the identified villages to ensure 100 per cent saturation of central and state schemes. The focus areas of interventions identified for the development of villages include road connectivity, drinking water, electricity including solar and wind energy, mobile and internet connectivity, tourist

centres, multi-purpose centres and healthcare infrastructure and wellness centres.

Shah, in his first visit to Arunachal Pradesh as home minister, will on April 10 inaugurate nine micro hydel projects of the state government constructed under the "Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme" in Kibithoo. These electricity projects will empower people living in border villages, the statement said.

He will also inaugurate Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) projects to augment infrastructure at Likabali (Arunachal Pradesh), Chapra (Bihar), Nooranad (Kerala) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), it said.

US deploys guided-missile submarine amid tensions with Iran

Dubai: The US Navy has deployed a guided-missile submarine capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk missiles to the Middle East, a spokesman said on Saturday, in what appeared to be a show of force toward Iran following recent tensions.

The Navy rarely acknowledges the location or deployment of submarines. Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the 5th Fleet based in the Gulf nation of Bahrain, declined to comment on the submarine's mission or what had prompted the deployment.

He said the nuclear-powered submarine, based out of Kings Bay, Georgia, passed through the Suez Canal on Friday.

"It is capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and is deployed to US 5th Fleet to help ensure regional maritime security and stability," Hawkins said.

The 5th Fleet patrols the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20 per cent of all oil transits. Its region includes the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off Yemen and the Red Sea stretching up to the Suez Canal, the Egyptian waterway linking the Mideast to the Mediterranean Sea.

The US, the UK and Israel have accused Iran of targeting oil tankers and commercial ships in recent years, allegations denied by Tehran.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Once Hub Of Genuine

Only stray dogs can be seen here now," he said.

Jalal ul Din said he owns three shops at the Kashmir Haat but has not sold anything in the past six months.

"Not a single tourist is turning towards this market. No one is paying any attention towards us and we are suffering since years now. Sometimes flood hit us and sometimes this market was devastated in fire. I am myself an artisan and sell my own products here but machine-made products have hit us badly," he added.

Director, Handicrafts Kashmir, Mahmood Shah said the decline of Kashmir Haat was due to many reasons including new markets coming up in other places of the city and elsewhere in the Valley.

"Kashmir Haat was established 50 years ago. At that time it used to be the only handicraft shopping place. Over period of time, various tourist areas have developed and the handicraft spaces have also come up," he said.

Shah said the department has been making efforts every year to revive the market through various measures.

"We are mandated to revive the Kashmir Haat Every year, we hold events for three months at Kashmir Haat. We mix it with culture and cuisine as well to make it more attractive. And this year from mid of Ramadan onwards, you will find the place very festive for three months to make it more attractive," he said.

Shah said the department has been in consultations with other states and Union territories for holding a fair where handicrafts from these regions can be exhibited here.

"We want them to exhibit their handicrafts here and we want to make it a mix basket -- a fusion kind of thing between the artisans of this place and artisans of the rest of the country," he said.

Gujarat Police

claimed he pursued a one-year executive MBA from Indian Institute of Management at Trichy in Tamil Nadu during 2021-22, as per police.

Patel has told police he worked as a programmer at an advertising agency in Ahmedabad where he developed advertisements and websites for political parties and it was here that he collected information regarding office bearers of political parties and projects.

Patel was brought here and arrested at 3 am on Saturday in connection with a case related to grabbing a bungalow belonging to a senior citizen in a posh locality of the city. His wife Malini Patel was arrested in the case on March 28.

"Every aspect of these claims will be probed, including his social media posts, educational degrees, properties, etc. Patel attended various government programs where he identified himself as a political official to writers and artists and invited guests," the DCP said.

Police said Patel allegedly managed 'Chalo India' programme in Delhi in 2019 and organised an event at a five-star hotel to claim government benefit for G20 summit in 2022.

"We brought Kiran Patel from Srinagar in J-K to Ahmedabad via road. We took his custody at around 3 am on Saturday after a medical check-up. A total of five FIRs have been lodged against Patel. These comprise one in Srinagar as well as cases in Naroda police station in Ahmedabad, Raopura police station in Vadodara and Bayad in Aravalli district," he said.

These cases pertain to selling 16 four-wheelers taken on rent, not paying Rs 1.55 crore for decoration and lighting for a garba event organised in Vadodara, cheating a person of Rs 1.5 crore on the pretext of making an investment by claiming to be politically connected.

"Patel would falsely introduce himself as a senior-level government officer with political influence and would show off to cheat people. We are carrying out a 360 degree investigation. We will interrogate him regarding his social media, education degrees and properties," Mandlik said.

The crime branch had filed FIR against him on the complaint of one Jagdish Chavda who said Patel cheated him and took illegal possession of his bungalow on the pretext of renovating it.

Patel won the trust of the owners and started the renovation work on the bungalow. He also took Rs 35 lakh in instalments.

Later, however, he claimed ownership of the property and filed a civil suit in a local court. Patel and his wife Malini were booked under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 170 (pretending to hold office of public servant), and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

Patel was arrested by J-K police from a five-star hotel in Srinagar last month for allegedly posing as an 'additional secretary' in the Central government and enjoying security cover, besides other hospitality.

He was on his third visit to the Kashmir valley when he was nabbed by alert security officials on March 3. Patel had claimed to have been given a mandate by the government to identify buyers for apple orchards in south Kashmir.

Patel was handed over to Gujarat police late Thursday afternoon after its request for his custody was granted by the court of the chief judicial magistrate in Srinagar.

Police Rubbish

the litigant and dismissed it as "completely false".

It is "unfortunate" that a public person has apparently projected her "personal grievance" as also to be the grievance of the public in general in Kashmir, the police said.

A day after she was issued a "country-specific passport" for two years to allow her to study in the United Arab Emirates, Iltija asked on Friday, "Am I a terrorist or an anti-national?"

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.

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

In its statement, the police said, "On learning that accusations have been made that the CID of J&K Police has pressurised a litigant to refrain from litigating in the High Court in connection with her passport related grievances, a quick internal audit was carried out."

"J&K Police can affirm that the claim of such pressure is completely false. Nevertheless, officers are being detailed to approach the aggrieved person and ascertain details who pressurized, when, where and under what circumstances so that the quick internal inquiry if found inadequate can be expanded to take suitable disciplinary action against the delinquent," it said.

It said that her projection of her "personal grievance" as the grievance of the public in general in Kashmir was "very problematic."

"J&K Police and its affiliates are public institutions and designed to serve public interest. Denigrating the community's own institutions for grievances that are personal on the basis of false accusations is self-harm," the police said.

Giving a breakup of its passport verification works, the police said out of 77,686 passport verifications received in 2020, 77,644 (99.95 per cent) were cleared, while out of 75,714 passport verifications received in 2021, 75,176 (99.68 per cent) were cleared. Similarly, in 2022, out of 1,34,315 passport verifications received, 1,28,939 (99.61 per cent) were cleared.

It said the J&K Police is committed to speedy and hassle-free clearance for more than 99 per cent of the applicants who are "clean and green" and a professional filtering of those who should be prevented from availing the service -- some in their own interest and others in the interest of the public.

"Security verifications preceding the issue of passports is a high value public service. J&K Police has detected as many as 54 young boys who were wrongly given passport service during 2017-18," the statement said.

The police said all of them went to Pakistan, were taken to terrorist camps, trained in arms, ammunition and explosives, many of them pushed back into J&K through the Line of Control and 26 of them died while either crossing or during encounters in the hinterland.

"Lives of 12 of these young boys could be saved by the CID after their return from Pakistan by bringing them under preventive custody so that terrorist-separatist syndicates do not succeed in pressuring them to join terror ranks.

"Eventually all of the 12 have been handed over to their families. Today they are alive and happily live amidst their mothers, sisters, brothers, fathers and friends. Unfortunately, 16 of them are still across and trapped in camps under control of hostile agencies," the police said.

The statement said it is heartbreaking to know that in some cases even parents had no idea that passport services have been extended to these boys of tender age.

"Intelligence and investigation has confirmed that in each and every case the visa to Pakistan was arranged at the behest of one or the other leader of a constituent party of

(separatist) Hurriyat Conference," the police said, adding CID is committed to help the parents of vulnerable young persons in not falling prey to the death traps.

J&K Has Become

Jammu & Srinagar, establishment of cultural centres at Ramban, Udhampur, Kathua, Jammu, Rajouri & Poonch will help in building local capacities, boost employment & favourable climate to entrepreneurship," he added.

The LG said that today even small and remote villages are dreaming big and with ample opportunities, people-focused inclusive and sustainable development policies & availability of robust infrastructure, they are capitalizing on their immense resources to emerge stronger.

"There is no dearth of budget for development under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. All the citizens should work together for the progress of the society with a positive approach to build a modern, industrialised and prosperous J&K UT," he said.

His administration, the LG said, was working for the Aam Aadmi & inclusiveness was in the centre of our journey to high growth. He also underscored that PM's Mantra of 'Development as well as Heritage' is guiding us in this journey.

"With participatory governance approach & people's cooperation we will create a better future for the generations to come," the LG said.

Speaking about his government's plans to give fillip to the tourism sector, the LG said that Rs 447 crore has been allocated to the tourism sector this year to develop J&K as a modern and smart tourist destination.

"Samba Fort, Hari Parbat and General Zorawar Singh Palace will also be renovated to revive the ageless cultural legacy," he added.

Sinha urged the people, PRI representatives and the youth to actively participate in the Gram Sabha meetings, being organized in all Halka Panchayats of Jammu Kashmir on 10th April to prepare a development plan for the Gram Panchayats.

He also said that the construction of the 2.5 km long road from Sana Village to Sanasar will be approved in two months.

On the issue of playground, the LG said that the tender will be floated soon for developing Playground on the identified 50 kanal land in Ramban.

He further assured that the sports infrastructure will be developed on Railway ground for the youth.

Mughal History

When they will show Taj Mahal, what will they say who built it? What will they say about Fatehpur Sikri where the Mughal crown was before moving to Delhi? How will they hide Humayun's tomb and Red Fort?" Abdullah asked.

He was replying in response to a question about the issue of removal of certain portions related to Mughals from NCERT textbooks by reporters at Larnoo in Anantnag district.

"They are hitting their own feet with an axe. History won't change. We won't remain but history will remain," the NC leader said.

On China renaming some villages in Arunachal Pradesh, Abdullah said India is not ready to accept the claim which China had made earlier as well.

The Lok Sabha member from Srinagar also said that opposition parties will have to unite if they want to win elections against the BJP.

He said discussions are going on and "I can see good results coming on the unity front (at the national level)".

"Alliance is the only thing which will unite us. We cannot fight individually. That is why even the opposition parties at the national level are trying to find ways to unite so that we can win the elections," Abdullah said in response to a question by reporters at Larnoo in Anantnag district. (With PTI inputs)

'Emperor's New

Democratic Party (PDP) said in BJP's "naya Kashmir", a conman like Kiran Patel visits the valley flanked by security personnel while journalist Asif Sultan is jailed for doing his job. Patel was arrested by Jammu and Kashmir Police from a five-star hotel in Srinagar last month for allegedly posing as an additional secretary in the central government and enjoying security cover, besides other hospitality.

"Naya Kashmir and BJP's Kashmir policy are like the emperor's new clothes. The press, judiciary and civil society have no option but to praise them while Kashmiris can see all too well that the emperor is naked," the party said.

"Does it really surprise you that people like Kiran Patel get away scot-free at a time when Kashmiris are jailed for something as frivolous as anti-establishment tweets? Another

exemplary Kashmiri journalist is behind bars and this time it's Irfan Mehraj.

"But GOI (government of India) has gift wrapped and repackaged it as 'Naya Kashmir' so that any opposing narrative can be dismissed as people that don't want to see peace and progress in Kashmir," the party said.

The PDP said if the Centre is emulating North Korea "then the uncomfortable muffled silence of the Kashmiris can very well be interpreted as the unprecedented peace".

"Naya Kashmir is probably BJP's greatest achievement, it's how they gaslit us all into believing that the abrogation and everything that followed was imperative to peace and progress," it said.

The party said it's almost as though the abrogation was a "genius masterstroke, one that somehow managed to elude every single regime that preceded them".

New Era Of

of mega projects, progress on ongoing developmental works and implementation of different centrally sponsored schemes in J&K," he added.

Expressing satisfaction over implementation of several government schemes in the district, the Union Minister said that the present dispensation is trying its best to bring Jammu and Kashmir on the glorious path of development.

"After 2014 the path of development under the leadership of the Prime Minister of India has set new records. The present government is providing banking and mobile service connectivity in every village of the country," he said.

Referring to abundant natural assets and scenic splendor of the UT, the Union Minister said Jammu and Kashmir has huge tourism potential which can be exploited in numerous ways.

He also emphasized effective implementation of various developmental initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' and many more path breaking developmental projects undertaken by the Central Government to shape the developmental profile of J&K in a better direction.

Regarding Khelo India and Fit India initiatives, Rijju said that various activities are being organized across J&K to inculcate moral values and promote sportsmanship among the students besides focusing on sports infrastructure development.

He also called upon the officers to make dedicated efforts towards taking the benefits of all government schemes to the targeted sections of the society.

Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, N. Kotiswar Singh elaborately explained about the legal rights besides highlighting different schemes launched by the government for the benefit of the public.

He briefed the gathering about the functions of National, State, District and Tehsil legal Services Authorities and provisions as envisaged in the Legal Services Authorities Act.

"Justice is the first deliverable to be secured for the citizens as envisaged in the preamble of the constitution, which can only be accomplished by providing the legal aid to the weaker sections of the society," he added.

Escapes Unhurt

the Banihal tunnel -- the gateway to the Kashmir Valley -- around 7 pm, the officials said.

Prepared To Meet

in the country for the last one month; while there is an upward trend in Jammu and Kashmir as well. Majority of patients undergoing genome sequencing are tested with a highly contagious XBB 1.16 sub-variant of the Omicron virus," Kumar told the media on the sidelines of a function here.

He was, however, quick to add that though the number of cases have increased, people need not to panic as the hospitalization rate is low at the moment. Kumar said only 12 patients in Jammu and Srinagar hospitals have been admitted so far.

The senior official further said all the medical officers have been asked to increase Covid-19 testing rate amid a spike in the number of cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

"12 patients have been hospitalized in Jammu and Srinagar hospitals so far while the UT administration as per Centre's guidelines have increased testing rate amid a spike. No doubt cases are increasing but the hospitalization rate is low as of now," he added.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed different variants over the past two and half years and that following Standard Operating Procedure was the only weapon to defeat the virus.

"We have a well trained and well equipped

staff having capability to handle Covid-19. A mock drill is being conducted across India including J&K in the coming few days to review available infrastructure, including oxygen plants and other machinery in the hospitals in view of the surge in positive cases," Kumar said.

He appealed to the masses to go for immediate testing and get themselves isolated in case they develop any symptoms.

"We are in close contact with our teams, while our CMOs, Directors, Principals are constantly monitoring the situation on the ground. Covid-19 appropriate behavior is necessary, if symptoms develop consult a doctor immediately for quick treatment as early detection of cases makes it easy for the management to deal with the situation while late detection leads to emergency like situations," he added.

J&K Logs 77 New

are from Jammu division and 305861 from Kashmir Valley. Providing district wise details of the cases, they said, 10 cases were reported from Budgam, nine each from Srinagar, Jammu and Baramulla, eight from Pulwama, seven from Bandipora, five each from Udhampur and Samba, three each from Poonch, Ramban, and Kulgam, two each from Kulgam and Anantnag and one each from Rajouri and Ganderbal.

There was no death, either from Jammu or Kashmir Valley during the time. So far 4786 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2353 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 37 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours--five from Jammu division and 32 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 349 active cases-- 119 in Jammu and 230 in Kashmir.

Two Arrested

the accused have been identified as Mohd Showket Gujjar and Mohd Taj, both from Poonch district.

The stolen property including four packets of heroin worth crores of rupees in the international market, fake currency notes with a face value of Rs 1 lakh and a mobile phone were recovered from Showket, he said.

After registering a case, special teams were constituted who analysed CCTV footage at various locations and questioned suspected persons, leading to the arrest of the two main accused, the SSP said.

He said both the accused confessed their involvement in the crime and stolen items have been recovered.

The SSP said the involvement of the duo in other cases of theft is being looked into.

Man Gets 2-Yr Jail

double the cheque amount is also imposed upon the accused. The fine of Rs 1000000 (Rupees ten lacs) so imposed shall be paid as compensation to the complainant," the judge Fariqa Nazir said.

Police Arrests

guide has sold them these tickets at a cost of Rs. 2500/- per ticket.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case was registered under relevant sections of law in Police Station Gulmarg and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation and after strenuous efforts, he said, a tourist guide Aashiq Hussain Magray of Shrai Tangmarg involved in the commission of crime was arrested.

"During investigation, it was revealed by the fraudster that their modus operandi is to pre-book gondola tickets and then sell them to gullible tourists at exorbitant rates," the spokesperson added.

LG Greets People

compassion, love, truth, forgiveness and selfless service," Lt Governor said.

May this Easter strengthen the bond of brotherhood and bring peace, prosperity and joy in the lives of all, the Lt Governor added.

Drunk Man Tries

registered on a complaint by a crew member under section 290 and 336 of the IPC and 11(A) of the Aircraft Act.

Indigo Airlines too said in a statement that a passenger travelling on flight GE 308 from Delhi to Bengaluru tried opening the flap of the emergency exit in an inebriated state.

"On noticing this violation, the crew on board alerted the captain and the passenger was appropriately cautioned. There was no compromise on the safe operation of the said flight and the unruly passenger was handed over to CISF upon arrival in Bengaluru," Indigo said.

Minister Highlights Need To Develop Indigenous Solutions To India's Medical, Health Issues

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday stressed on the need for using diverse Indian data to develop indigenous solutions to the country's medical and health issues.

Addressing 'Thyrocon-2023' here, he also said in just a span of two years, India could produce two DNA vaccines and one nasal vaccine and provide them to 130 countries to fight the coronavirus.

"We thank Prime Minister Modi who for the first time brought preventive health care into focus in the country which was not taken care of for the last 70 years," Singh said at the event organised by the Jammu Doctor's Foundation in association with the Department of Endocrinology, Government Super Speciality Hospital, Jammu.

Flagging two issues, the minister of state in the prime minister's office said the first is the shift from clinical medicine teaching due to increasing diagnostic capabilities. "Now, the clinical details are inferred after obtaining the test reports," Singh said.

The second issue is of In-

dian research, Indian data and Indian solutions to Indian problems, he said, adding that "the need of the hour is using diverse Indian data to develop indigenous solutions to India's medical health issues".

The minister also stressed on the role and responsibility of the youth to be the architects of 'amrit kaal' and said that "the energy and potential of the youth has to be channelised into nation building".

"The updates in Thyrocon will reflect the progress in clinical management of patients with thyroid disorders which are a common health problem in Jammu and Kashmir, like in other parts of India," he said.

Quoting a study published in the Journal of Medical Science and Clinical Research in 2019, Singh said the prevalence of thyroid disorders in Jammu and Kashmir is around 12.3 per cent, with hypothyroidism being the most common type.

"Premier institutes should work on establishing state-of-the-art thyroid disease research and treatment centres. There is no dearth of resources and new India is an era of opportunities in health care," he said.

Jammu Film Festival Opens With Grand Ceremony

Features Films From 11 Countries



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The third edition of the Jammu Film Festival, sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, began with a grand opening at Abhinav Theatre.

The festival featured parallel screenings of 25 feature films, short films and documentaries from countries including Iran, India, France and the United States. The opening section of the festival showcased short films and a documentary from countries such as Iran, India, France and the United States. These included Nahid, Kav Kav, Fatih the Conqueror, Sandhanam and Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai. The festival attracted a diverse audience of students, artists and art lovers.

Vivekanand Rai praised the festival for promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and providing a platform for filmmakers to showcase their talent.

Joint Director Jammu Tourism, Sunaina Mehta, said that Jammu Tourism has been organising events at a grand scale to showcase places beyond Patnitop and Sanasar and promote tourism through innovative means such as film tourism.

MP Information Commissioner Meets Raja Muzaffar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Madhya Pradesh State Information Commissioner Vijay Manohar Tiwari on Saturday called on Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat RTI activist and writer in Srinagar and discussed issues related to governance and implementation Right to Information Act.

Dr Raja Muzaffar who is also Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement appreciated the work done by Vijay Manohar Tiwari as Information Commissioner in MP State Information Commission. He told information commissioner of MP that many progressive Central laws had been extended to JK post 370 but some laws related to governance especially RTI Act 2005 were not being properly implemented.

"It was great to meet Vijay Manohar Tiwari an acclaimed Journalist & intellectual from Bhopal at my office in Srinagar today after 13 yrs. Few yrs back



Mr Tiwari was appointed Information Commissioner in MP State Information Commission constituted under RTI Act 2005. He has issued some landmark judgements on RTI as Information Commissioner and his work during COVID 19 was appreciated as he would take up appeals via Whatsapp calls" said Dr Raja Muzaffar in a statement. Pertinently Vijay Manohar Tiwari along with Chief Information Commissioner of MP State Information Commission were on a personal visit to Kashmir.

Several members of RTI Movement including Badrul Duja Advocate, Mushtaq Ahmed Coordinator RTI Movement Budgam and Social Activist Malik Rouf were also present in the meeting.

Rijju Releases First Edition Of Dogri Version Of Indian Constitution

Terms Document Significant In Making Justice Dispensation For Common Man Easier, Accessible, Affordable

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Union Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijju, on Saturday released the first edition of Dogri version of the Constitution of India at University of Jammu here.

Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice Kotishwar Singh, Senior Judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Vice Chancellor, JU, Professor Umesh Rai, Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Avny Lavasa, faculty members of the University, senior functionaries from the Center and J&K government were present on the occasion.

Speaking during the event, the Union Minister termed this translated document very significant in dispensation of justice to common people. He maintained that understanding law is essential in accessing justice by a common person and it can't be done better than having it codified in one's mother tongue.

He remarked that although the task has been accomplished a bit late after enshrining Dogri language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution back in 2003 but the cause of furthering its impact among people should not be delayed any further. He applauded the varsity for providing necessary support to the translators for this noble work.

Regarding developments with respect to making the process of justice delivery easy and affordable, he revealed that the government is digitizing a whole array of about 65000 words of legal glossary to frame a core vocabulary for understanding of all the citizens.

He also informed that the Rs 9000 crore for upgradation of infrastructure at lower judiciary and Rs 7000 crore for e-Courts project is aimed at making the process of de-



livery of Justice easily accessible and freely available. He recalled that the time is not far when our courts would become totally paperless after completion of the 3rd phase of e-Court project. He said that the project has greatly aided in the working of courts during Covid-19 pandemic.

Rijju, in his remarks, described the technology as a solution to reduce pendency of cases in our courts. He stated that it pains him to see about 5 crore cases still pending for their final disposal. He made out that the technology can come to our rescue to even extend the benches of Supreme Court, High Courts or even Lower Courts beyond the four walls of their complexes.

Union Minister greatly admired the young lawyers who contribute in furthering the agenda of National Legal Services Authority in providing free justice to people. He pointed out that the concept of pro bono is a wonderful cause and the elite lawyers should also contribute in extending their services through this programme for the larger good of public. He asserted that the judiciary has vital function of striking balance between ensuring freedom of speech and safeguarding the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation simultaneously.

In his speech, Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh said that all the legal discourses whether academic or legal are meant to benefit public. He said that the purpose can only be served

better if such debates are also comprehensible to common masses. He gave out that the same is possible only when the law of the land is available to masses in the language they understand well.

He further said that our brightest minds were there to frame our Constitution. Those who say that the values of Justice, Liberty, Fraternity and Equality were borrowed are unaware about the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which enshrines in itself these higher principles much before than presented by the west.

Justice Kotishwar also stated that the democratization of justice is important in a way to make justice available to rich and poor alike. He maintained that an informed decision about any legal matter can be taken by having both facts and law at hand. He enunciated that the knowledge of law empowers people without any discrimination.

In his welcome address, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University, Professor Umesh Rai, said that the document is a joint accomplishment of Department of Law, Gol and the University that came to fruition after the hard work of 3 years. He observed that it would aid people in understanding and demanding their constitutionally enshrined rights. He also applauded those who contributed in making this translation work possible. He made out that the motive of 'Viksit Bharat' is incomplete without going back to our rich culture and heritage.

J&K Gets 1st Chapter Of IAPC In Major Boost To Palliative Care In UT

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has got its first chapter of the India Association of Palliative Care (IAPC) with specialist Rohit Lahori heading the 10-member team of doctors at this facility to provide specialised medical care for people living with a serious illness.

IAPC national president Sushma Bhatnagar, who is also the chief of the National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar, Haryana and head of the department, palliative care, at AIIMS, New Delhi, nominated the members of the J&K chapter.

Besides Lahori, who was nominated as president, the other office bearers include general secretary Nusrat Jehan, treasurer Mubasher Ahmad and joint secretaries Rajesh Mahajan and Arshi Taj.

Nazir Khan, Arif and Shabnum were nominated members of the advisory board, while Yousaf Tak and Naine were made the executive members.

Palliative care is an interdisciplinary medical care-giving approach aimed at optimising the quality of life and mitigating suffering among people

with serious, complex and often terminal illnesses.

"This is the first time that a chapter of the IAPC for Jammu and Kashmir has been formulated with the members from both the divisions who have contributed immensely for the upliftment of this speciality," Lahori, in-charge of palliative care at the Government Hospital, Gandhinagar here, said.

He said the chapter has been formulated for the upliftment of palliative care services and to spread awareness regarding palliative care.

"The main aim is to provide services at the doorsteps of patients so that they do not have to suffer or travel for these services outside J&K," the doctor said.

He said the IAPC has also confirmed to hold state conferences in Kashmir valley next year followed by an international conference of the IAPC in Jammu in 2025.

Earlier, the Government Hospital in Gandhinagar and the Government Medical College Jammu were nominated among the 10 hospitals of north India as research centres of the ICMR in collaboration with AIIMS New Delhi for hand-

holding of two divisions of J&K for palliative care services.

"This is a three-year research programme and will contribute towards providing these services in all district hospitals of J&K," Lahori said.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir administration has already dedicated a 10-bed ward for pain and palliative care services in all district hospitals that were inaugurated by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on March 31 last year at the Government Hospital in Gandhinagar.

Twenty doctors and as many nurses have been trained under the Certificate Course in Essentials of Palliative Care (CCEPC) programme at the Government Hospital Gandhinagar to amplify these services in collaboration with the IAPC.

The IAPC chapter has proposed the same level of training for Kashmir in collaboration with the health department.

Lahori said the IAPC chapter will work to train healthcare givers at district and sub-district levels so that care can be provided at the grass root level and people are made aware of the services to make society free from pain and suffering.

Youth Holds Key For Peace, Prosperity In J&K: Bukhari

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Saturday said that the young generation in Jammu and Kashmir holds the key to promoting peace, and prosperity in this region, where people have suffered tremendously —in terms of the loss of lives and loss to the economy—during past several decades due to the prolonged phase of violence, a press note said.

He was addressing a gathering of youngsters, who formally joined Apni Party during an event organised at the party headquarters in Srinagar today.

While addressing the occasion, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed gratitude towards the new entrants for joining hands with Apni Party.

He said, "I find it immensely gratifying to witness the participation of young individuals in our cause. I hold a strong belief that the young population of Jammu and Kashmir is a valuable asset that can unlock the potential for peace, prosperity, and development in the region, which has suffered hugely over the years."

He added, "The future belongs to the youth. You are the primary stakeholders in building a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. As you take on this important role, I assure you that the Apni Party

leadership will back you every step of the way. Our goal is to lead the region toward the path of peace, prosperity, and development. I welcome you wholeheartedly to the Apni Party."

On this occasion, party's Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir while addressing the gathering of new entrants said that Apni Party has emerged as an alternative political platform in Jammu and Kashmir, where traditional political parties have been exploiting people for the past seven decades in the name of unachievable goals and emotional slogans.

He said, "The traditional political parties have a history of exploiting people through emotional slogans. These parties, predominantly run by specific families, are accountable for the loss of life and destruction that has ravaged this region over the past several decades." "However," he added, "I further said, "Unlike the traditional political parties, Apni Party is dedicated to the welfare of the people and has a distinct and transparent agenda for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir. I am delighted to welcome you to the party, and I am confident that your presence will strengthen the Apni Party's cadre in the city. Together, we will continue to work towards peace, prosperity, and development for the people and the land."

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Crackdown Against Traffic Violators Held At Shopian

Rs. 43000 Fine Recovered For Violating Traffic Rules; Permits Of Several School Buses Suspended



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Assistant Regional Transport Office, (ARTO) Shopian Saturday initiated a crackdown on school buses violating Motor vehicle rules and Supreme Court guidelines.

As part of the special drive initiated in the whole valley on the directions of RTO Kashmir, ARTO Shopian along with his team checked school buses on different routes in the district.

Muazzam Ali, ARTO Shopian, said, "An advisory was issued in February this year wherein all schools were advised to get the documents of their school buses renewed and strictly adhere to the Supreme Court guidelines regarding safety of

children in school buses.

"As part of this exercise, safety-related things like window bars, footsteps, seating arrangements, first-aid boxes and other necessary safety measures were checked.

Also the vehicle's documents like fitness certificates, pollution certificates, and Insurance certificates were checked," Muazzam Ali said.

The permits of 7 school buses found overcrowded with school children were suspended on spot. Besides 35 other vehicles violating traffic rules were e-challaned during the drive and a fine of Rs 43000 was realised as well. ARTO said the drive will be continued in the coming days as well.

Dir. Information, DIPR Employees Condole Sad Demise Of Zahoor Guru's Mother

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Information Akshay Labroo has condoled the sad demise of mother of Zahoor Ahmad Guru, Assistant Editor, who passed away last evening after brief illness.

In his condolence message, Akshay Labroo expressed his deepest condolences with the bereaved officer and his family and prayed for

peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the employees of DIPR also condoled the sad demise of mother of Zahoor Ahmad Guru. The officers and employees of the department offered their deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

NHM Celebrates World Health Day In Collaboration With WHO

Our Policy 'Patient First'; Endeavor To Make J&K Amongst Best 5 In Health Care In The Country & Promoting Medical Tourism: CS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission (NHM), J&K in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) Friday celebrated World Health Day here at Government Dental College, Srinagar.

The occasion also saw the felicitation of Best Performers under Ayushman Bharat Comprehensive Primary Health Care and Kayakalp Awards. Today, the day was celebrated as the 75th anniversary year with the

theme "Health for All" which aims at attaining good health for all for a fulfilling life in a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.

Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta who presided over the function said the day is being celebrated to raise awareness about health issues and ensure that healthcare facilities are accessible to all.

Dr Mehta maintained that our collective endeavor should be to keep interests of patients paramount over all other con-

cerns. He urged the medical professionals to adopt 'Patient first policy' for extending best medical care up to the satisfaction of all visiting the hospitals for their treatment.

He assured that turning UT into the hub of medical tourism in future is the primary goal of LG administration. He revealed that with the promising prospects of the New Industrial Policy J&K has received dozens of proposals from medical entrepreneurs.

The Chief Secretary under-

scored the need for addressing gaps on Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms, which should be first priority for the administration this year. He made out that adoption of these guidelines would strengthening the Public Health Care Institutions. He said that we are going to put in best efforts to achieve high quality of health care across the UT by following scientific and evidence based approach to health care.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that our health infrastructure is

one of the best in the country. He stated that there should be no need for sending patients outside for any specialized treatment, except in rare cases.

In order to upgrade the services in our health care institutions continuously and keep up the spirit of competition among them, they should be evaluated every month on set parameters. He also asked for maintaining the health records of patients digitally for easy access and retrieval from anywhere in the world.



AIFF Prez To Visit Srinagar, JKFA Holds Meeting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran will visit Srinagar on Monday, April 10, and meet with the representatives of the newly elected DFAs-ZFAs, players, coaches, referees and sports promoters of J&K, the Jammu & Kashmir Football Federation announced on Saturday.

"The meeting will be followed by a football match at the Synthetic Turf TRC Ground," the FA added. "This meeting is an important step in strengthening the

relationship between the J&K Football Association and the All India Football Federation," the Association added.

In preparation for the AIFF president's visit, the JKFA officials organised a meeting on Saturday attended by Wasim Aslam, Chairman JKFA, B. A. Shah, Honorary General Secretary JKFA, Nazir Ahmad Bhat HOR JKFA, Bashir Malik President DFA Srinagar, Showkat Masoodi Secretary DFA Srinagar, Zahoor Teli Treasurer DFA Srinagar, Farooq Shaheen, Sajid Yusuf Dar International Coach, Mohammad Latief Bhat, Mohammad Shafi Nari, Rafiq Makdooimi, Naseemul Gani and Nazir Andrabi.

Inter-School Chess & Carom Competitions Begin In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ACHABAL: Zonal-Level Inter-School Chess and Carom competitions, organized by Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Aachabal, were inaugurated on Saturday by Manzoor Ahmed, Principal Model Higher Secondary, Brakpora, Anantnag, at HS Brakpora, in Anantnag.

"The competition is aimed at promoting the skills of young chess and carom players in the Aachabal zone and has attracted

a huge number of participants from various schools. The participants have been divided into different categories based on their age groups," YSS Office Anantnag said in a statement.

"We hope that this event will inspire more young players to take up chess and Carom and pursue it as a serious sport," the statement added.

The event witnessed a grand opening ceremony, which was followed by the commencement of the competition.

IPL: GT Eyes Hat-Trick Of Wins, Play KKR



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Defending champions Gujarat Titans would be eyeing a hat-trick of wins, while Kolkata Knight Riders, fresh from their decimation of Royal Challengers Bangalore, would be keen to show the win was not a flash in the pan when the two sides clash in the IPL here on Sunday.

The home advantage apart, Gujarat Titans have the players to achieve the goals, and it has been all too visible in the first two games of the season.

If their opening match against Chennai Super Kings gave an insight into young Shubman Gill's form with the bat -- he scored a 36-ball 63 in the thrilling five-wicket victory --, the tie against Delhi Capitals threw up an unlikely hero in Sai Sudarshan, who

clobbered a 48-ball 62 to make a mockery of the rival team's total.

With two young and in-form batters in the side, and a bowling department overflowing with the experience of pace bowlers Mohammed Shami, skipper Hardik Pandya and the craftiness of Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan, KKR could find the going tough in the away match.

KKR, on the other hand, have an interesting puzzle to solve before they take the field against Gujarat Titans. With Jason Roy being roped in to give the side a boost following injury to regular captain Shreyas Iyer and the pullout of Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, it remains to be seen how KKR fit the England opener after young Afghanistan wicket-keeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz's exploits at the top.

Gurbaz scored a quick 22 against Punjab Kings, which KKR lost by seven runs (DLS method). But the 21-year-old was a revelation against RCB, laying the foundation for a 200-plus total against RCB with a fighting fifty before Shardul Thakur's pyrotechnics took the team to a massive 204.

There is a likelihood that Roy will replace Gurbaz.

However the 81-run win against the star-studded RCB, aided by Shardul's all-round show, the dream debut by Delhi teenager Suyash Sharma -- who took 3/30 -- and the brilliance of slow bowlers Varun Chakravarthy (4/15) and Sunil Narine (2/16) will give enough confidence to skipper Nitish Rana to go into the game with a positive frame of mind. Match starts at 3:30 PM.



Rashford Injured In Man United's Win Over Everton

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Marcus Rashford hobbled off with an apparent groin injury late in Manchester United's 2-0 win over Everton in the Premier League on Saturday.

The England forward gestured to United's bench that he needed to come off and was feeling the groin area in his right leg as he left the field in the 81st at Old Trafford. "We have to wait -- doesn't look well," United manager Erik ten Hag said of Rashford, who has netted 28 goals in all competitions this season to be United's top scorer.

United is in the middle of a busy stretch of games, with the team fighting to finish in the league's top four and also still in the Europa League and FA Cup.

Ten Hag said Rashford's injury was "due to the schedule."

"It can't be that you play three games in six days," he said, referring to United playing Newcastle last Sunday and Brentford on Wednesday. "We have to protect our players and everyone wants the best player on the pitch."

"Everyone wants to see great, entertaining football like today but then you need your best players." (AP)

Chelsea Lose 1-0 To Wolves

Agencies

WOLVERHAMPTON: Frank Lampard made a disappointing start to his second spell in charge of Chelsea when they lost at relegation-threatened Wolverhampton 1-0 in the English Premier League on Saturday.

Matheus Nunes' spectacular angled strike in the 31st minute earned Wolves a win at Molineux that pushed them four points clear of the bottom three.

Lampard, a Chelsea player great and its manager from 2019-21, was brought in this week on an interim basis in the hope that his knowledge of the club can see it through to a successful end to the season while the board seeks a full-time replacement for



the fired Graham Potter.

Chelsea looked no different under Lampard, lacking a threat up front just as it did in the final days of Potter. It's now three straight league games without a goal.

Lampard's priority, though, is the Champions League where Chelsea faces defending champion Real Madrid in the first leg of the quarterfinals on Wednesday. (AP)

Ramazan Kargem

Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska
& Chai

Chicken Crispy

Burger

Come Have

Iftar

With Us

📍 JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR