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On City And Cultural Heritage: Conversation With Conservation Architect

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

As Srinagar is getting 'smart' in a massive face lifting exercise at the moment, the safeguard measures of the city's historic environment has prompted experts to alert authorities about the remodeling work being executed on war-footing.

Architect Saima Iqbal, who carried out the exhaustive cultural resource mapping of Srinagar city in 2004, said that the city's cultural heritage is already sensitive due to dents caused by the catastrophic quake of 2005 and the devastating floods of 2014.

"Natural hazards and changing climatic patterns and geophysical activities are already causing immeasurable damage to our collective heritage," Saima, who's Principal Conservation Architect, INTACH, Kashmir Chapter, said.

Apart from natural disasters, she said, lack of ownership and awareness, vandalism, conflict and potential collateral



damage resulting from an escalated event is an everyday challenge or threat to cultural

'The heritage conservation becomes important as a new sector called cultural heritage tourism is growing very rapidly," Saima, who handled the camel bridge renovation project in Dal Lake, said.

"Cultural heritage can be a major economic driver for a place to increase tourism footfall and periods of stay. This has to be tackled very sensitively

as large tourist influx can also endanger a historic place."

In an interview with Kashmir Observer, the young conservation architect lists some of the pressing challenges of the industry today and her future research understanding Srinagar's historic resilience and its relevance today.

Talk us through your journey as a conservation architect in Kashmir?

Right from the word go, I drew inspiration from the grandeur, the detail and technique

and yet the vulnerability of historic buildings. A series of experiences and working opportunities eventually directed me to be a full-time heritage conservation practitioner.

I did my architecture degree from Bijapur - a place dotted with historical buildings of the Deccan Sultanate - famously called the Palmyra of the Indian Subcontinent. Spending five years of my life in this sleepy but spectacular town had an indelible impact on me.

Coming back More on P6

INDIA. PAK CLASH

IAF Officer To Be Sacked For Missile Misfire

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A General Court Martial (GCM) instituted by the Indian Air Force has recommended sacking of a Group Captain for the crash of a Mi-17 V5 helicopter in Budgam in Jammu and Kashmir after it was hit by a missile on February 27, 2019, official sources said on Tuesday.

The attack helicopter was struck by the IAF's own surfaceto-air missile when the chopper was on its way back to Srinagar on the day Indian and Pakistani air forces were engaged in a dogfight, according to a Court of Inquiry.

The sources said the GCM ordered dismissal of Group Captain Suman Roy Chowdhury, who was serving then as the Chief Operations Officer (COO) of the Srinagar Air Force Station.

Six IAF personnel on board the chopper and a civilian on the ground were killed in the crash.

The sources said the IAF can only act on the GCM's recommendation after a decision on a case relating to the incident by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

According to laid down norms, the Chief of Air Staff More on P6

Soon, Jammu-Srinagar Distance BJP Will Win Over 300 Seats In To Be Covered In 3 Hrs: Gadkari

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: There will be a four-fold rise in the footfall of tourists in Kashmir after the completion of the Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar highway, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

The minister for road, highways and transport on Tuesday inspected a 924-metre-long Banihal-Qazigund tunnel, which will bypass a nearly three-km landslide and accident-prone area in Ramban district, and various road projects in the Union territory.

The completion of the tunnel will bring much relief to travellers by bypassing a nearly threekm landslide and accident-prone area in the Ramban district.

Lieutenant Flanked Governor Manoj Sinha and Union ministers Jitendra Singh and Gen VK Singh, Gadkari also conducted a breakthrough of Sita Rama Passi Maroog via virtual mode through a controlled blast in the tunnel.

"After completion of this road in the next two years, the tourist arrival (in Jammu and Kashmir) will increase over 4 times. That will increase the number of resorts and restaurants 9 in the Union territory)." Gadkari told reporters after an inspection of



The minister expressed confidence that after the completion of road projects, there will be a huge development, people will get employment and poverty will be eradicated in the Union

"The lifeline (highway) will have socio-economic benefits to Jammu and Kashmir.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, we are constructing road projects at a cost of Rs 1.25 lakh crore. There are 20 to 22 proposals of ropeways and cable cars that we are doing. It will have a 4-fold increase in the tourism

of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir will be self-reliant and prosperous," he said.

Referring to the work on the highways, he said there will be three roads being constructed between Jammu and Srinagar.

...One of five tunnels with a length of 45 kilometres has been inaugurated today. The other three tunnels will be open by next year. One tunnel given to TATA will take some time for

Referring to the express highway, he said that a tunnel project has been given to TATA.

"It will take some time. After

completion, the distance will be restricted to three hours. From Katra, it will be direct travel to Delhi. The travel time from Delhi to Srinagar will be 8 hours and six hours travel time from Delhi to Katra. From Delhi to Mumbai, the travel time will be 12 hours,

the minister said. Responding to the locals' demands for employment, he said, 'We are building a resort, where we can put handloom and handicrafts products of locals for display. It will give employment to 500 to 600 people".

He also said that 99 per cent of the tunnel staff has been employed locally.

'We will keep trying that local youth get jobs in other tunnels too, and Jammu and Kashmir becomes self-reliant in terms of economic growth," he added.

Gadkari also said that he always mentions the former American president's remark -- "America is rich because American roads are good".

Gadkari inspected highways, the Banihal bypass and the Peera-Chanderkote tunnel.

"Every tunnel saves time. Today this tunnel was completed...another tunnel will be completed soon. Within two months it will also be started." he said. The tunnel is part of the ongo-

ing four-laning of More on P6

states in the region." AFTER COMPLETION, THE DISTANCE WILL BE RESTRICTED to three hours. From Katra,

Next LS Polls: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Dibrugarh (Assam): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted that the BIP will win more than 300 Lok Sabha seats across the country in next year's general elections and return to power for the third consecutive term with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the helm.

Addressing a rally in Dibrugarh, where he laid the foundation stone for the Upper Assam zonal BJP office, Shah exuded confidence that the saffron party will win 12 out of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the northeastern state.

"Narendra Modi will become the prime minister for the third consecutive term with the party winning over 300 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," he said.

There are 543 seats in the lower house of the Parliament.

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress, the senior BJP leader said, "Northeast was once considered a fortress of the Congress but despite Rahul Gandhi's yatra (Bharat Jodo Yatra), the party failed to perform well in the recent assembly elections in three

Assembly elections were recently held in Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland. The



BJP formed the government in Tripura, and came in power as alliance partners in the other two states.

Shah thanked the people of Assam, which was the first state in the Northeast to give mandate to the BJP.

Alluding to Gandhi's controversial remarks during his visit to United Kingdom, Shah, who arrived here from neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh, said, "He (Gandhi) insulted India from foreign soil. If he continues defaming the country and the government by peddling lies, Congress will be white-washed from the entire country just like the party was s door in the Northeast.'

"There is no point in abusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as every Indian is praying for his good health. The more they (Congress) bad-mouth our PM, the more lotus (BJP's More on P6

MHA To Hold Crucial Meet On J&K Today

Agencies

Srinagar: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has convened a crucial meeting on Jammu and Kashmir in Delhi tomorrow (Wednesday) to discuss ongoing preparations on G-20 summit, security situation and the developmental pace in the UT.

A local news agency KNO quoted an unnamed top MHA as saying that the Ministry has invited officials from J&K including LG Manoj Sinha, DGP Dilbagh Singh, Chief Secretary Arun Kumar, DG CID and Home Secretary for a meeting scheduled at 5 pm at North Block, New Delhi.

"The meeting will be chaired by top officials of MHA. It will discuss preparations for G-20 summit meetings to be held in Srinagar in the month of May, security situation and the pace of various developmental projects going on in J&K," the official said, wishing not to be named.

He said that the More on P6

G-20 SUMMIT

Govt Sets 10-Day Deadline To Complete Works

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Taking a strong note of the slow pace of work on the ongoing construction projects under G-20 Summit, the Divisional (Div Com) Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Tuesday served 10-day deadline to the officials and contractors to complete the work of face action for negligence.

Chairing a high-level meeting here to take review of works completed, and ongoing works under G-20 Summit, Bidhuri set a 10-day deadline to finish most of most of the works, including concrete works, footpaths, tiling works,

drainage, underground works, landscaping and turfing, besides blacktopping of roads and installation of signages.

The Div Com gave a deadline of upto Eid to complete the blacktopping works in the city. Reprimanding some of the officers and contractors for slow pace of work, Bidhuri cautioned them against proceeding with such. He made it clear that action shall follow against

negligent ones. He also directed them to start parallel works to ensure timely completion of all works.

The Div Com said that the works are for the people and should be More on P6

Tourists Throng Kashmir To Enjoy Snow, Sunshine

Press Trust Of India

it will be direct travel to Delhi. The travel time from Delhi to Srinagar will be 8 hours and six

hours travel time from Delhi to Katra. From Delhi to Mumbai, the travel time will be 12 hours,"

Sonamarg: A large number of tourists are visiting Kashmir to enjoy the heady mix of snowclad mountains and bright sunshine in the union territory, away from the summer heat in the other parts of the country.

"I had imagined the beauty of Kashmir from my childhood ... And this place is certainly more beautiful than I imagined." Balarata Patra, a Kolkata resident, told PTI here, 85 kilometres from Srinagar on the highway to Ladakh.

Patra said while she is enjoying her time in the "Paradise on Earth", she is anxious how she will cope with the weather



back home.

R T

"It is so pleasant here. I wonder how I will cope when we return home. I have been sending photographs of snow to my friends in Kolkata and all they wish is that I could send some to them to beat

the heat," she added. The introduction of various amusement forms for tourists like snow scooter rides and sledge rides has created memorable moments for the visitors.

"I have captured More on P6

K E S

Not A Single Youth Has Joined Militancy In 8-Months: Bukhari

Says Situation In J&K Normal, Waiting For **EC To Announce Polls**

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Asserting that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is as normal as in any other part of the country, April Party president Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday credited the youth for choosing peace over violence.

The former minister said his party is ready for assembly elections and is waiting for an announcement by the Election Commission.

He claimed that not a single



youth has joined militancy in the Union Territory over the past eight months.

"J-K is as normal as any other place in the country. Over the past eight months, not a single local youth joined militancy and we congratulate the people and the More on P6

J&K Clocks 97 New Corona Cases

ammu and Kashmir reported 97 fresh covid-19 cases while there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours, officials said on Tuesday. They said that 49 cases were reported from Jammu division and 48 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 480230. Among the cases, 174353 are from Jammu division and 305967 from Kashmir Valley. Providing district wise details of the cases, they said, 28 cases were reported Jammu, 14 from Srinagar, More on P6

Woman OGW Among Two Held: Police

olice on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two militant associates, including a woman from North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested by a team of police, army's 29RR and SSB (2ndBn) on the basis of specific information regarding movement of militant associates in Pattan area of the district, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. He identified them as Farooq Ahmad Parra of Pattan and Saima Bashir of Sopore. "They have been More on P6

VDC Member Shoots Himself Dead

S H O

member of Village Defence Committee (VDC) allegedly shot himself dead with his rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said on Tuesday. The VDC member was identified as Suresh Kumar Sharma, resident of Bai Nambal village, they said. Sharma died by suicide on Monday night using the weapon issued to him as a VDC member, the police said in a statement. The matter is being investigated,

they said. Meanwhile, officials said

Sharma shot himself More on P6

5 Houses Gutted In Gurez Fire

T A

t least five residential houses were gutted in a massive fire in Tulail Valley of north Kashmir's Bandipora district late last night, officials said on Tuesday. Quoting sub divisional magistrate Gurez, Mudasir Ahmad, news agency KNO reported that five houses were gutted in massive fire in Grat-Nallah village of Tulail. He said that the fire erupted from one of the residential houses and engulfed the surrounding houses within no time. "The cause of the More on P6

Temp Increases At Most Places In J&K

mid forecast for mainly dry weather, the minimum temperature recorded an increase at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. A meteorological department official here said that no large change was expected in the weather and it was expected to be mainly dry till April 16. Generally cloudy sky with possibility of light rain was likely for three days thereafter, he said. Regarding the temperature, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.1°C against More on P6

5 Members Of Interstate Drug Module Held

olice on Tuesday said they busted a "major interstate" drug module by arresting five persons including a kingpin woman and her boyfriend in multiple cases in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The contraband substance was also seized. Terming it a big achievement, SSP

Sopore Shabir Nawab said that more arrests are likely. Addressing a press conference at Police Station Bomai, SSP Sopore said that police have managed to bust a major drug module by arresting More on P6

Studying Dust Produced By 'Twinkling' Stars Could Shed Light On Planet Creation

stronomers have discovered a coincidence between the varying intensity of dusty asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars, a kind of star slightly larger and older than our Sun, and variations in the amount of dust these stars produce.

The astronomers from University of Tokyo, Japan, said that since the dust thus produced could lead to creation of planets, studying it could shed light on the origins of and, in turn, life on Earth.

AGB stars are generally known to be producers of dust in the interstellar medium existing between and among stars. Among these, dusty AGBs are particularly prominent dust producers, shining light that varies widely.

The research team's long-period survey findings came from studying the data



produced by AKARI and WISE, two infrared (IR) space telescopes surveying the cosmos. While these telescopes have concluded their initial missions, astronomers continue to make discoveries from the data they have produced.

The researchers have published their findings in the journal Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan.

Lead researcher Kengo Tachibana said

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

source of information, helping astronomers unlock their secrets.

'Until recently, most IR data was from very short-period surveys due to the lack of advanced dedicated platforms. But missions like AKARI and WISE have allowed us to take longer-period surveys of things.

'This means we can see how things might change over greater time periods, and what these changes might imply.

"Lately, we turned our attention to a certain class of star known as asymptotic giant branch stars, which are interesting because they are the main producers of interstellar dust," said Tachibana.

Interstellar dust refers to heavy elements dispersing from stars, leading to the formation of solid objects including planets. The astronomers said that it is yet un-

clear as to what the main drivers of this dust production are and where they should be

looking to find this out.

"Our latest study has pointed us in the right direction," said Tachibana. "Thanks to long-period IR observations, we have found that the light from dusty AGBs varies with periods longer than several hundred days.

The astronomers further found that the spherical shells of dust produced by and then ejected by these stars have concentrations of dust that vary in step with the stars changes in luminosity.

"Of the 169 dusty AGBs surveyed, no matter their variability period, the concentrations of dust around them would coincide. So, we're certain these are connected,' said Tachibana.

The team of astronomers intends to continue their investigation by monitoring various AGB stars for many years continuously to explore the possible physical mechanisms behind dust production.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given to general public hereby that the mothers name in the passport of my daughter namely TUAHIRAH TUAHA bearing No:- S1167395 Date of Issue :- 25/05/2018 has been wrongly reflected as ROOHI instead of ROOHI BANO.The undersigned has applied for Re-issue of passport for the said daughter before Regional Passport Officer Srinagar under FileNO:SGO1C4038784418 Date of application:-12-02-2023 and intends to rectify the mothers name in her passport as ROOHI BANO instead of ROOHI. If any body is having any sort of objection regarding the same they can file the same before Regional Passport Officer Srinagar/Passport Seva Kendra Baramulla within a period of fifteen days from the publication of this notice.

Mushtaq Ahmad Tali F/O Tuahirah Tuaha R/O Gulabad Armpora Sopore

Classic Public High School Ahmadpora Zone Srinagar Pattan

Fee Structure FOR Session 2022-23

S. No	Class	Monthly tution fee
1	Pre-Nursery	Rs 650
2	Nursery	Rs 650
3	L.K.G	650
4	U.K.G	650
5	lst	700
6	2nd	700
7	3rd	750
8	4th	750
9	5th	750
10	6th	800
11	7th	800
12	8th	800
13	9th	1300
14	10th	1300

NO: CPHS/AD/76

Principal Classic Public High School



Zonal Office, Budgam Industrial Complex Zainakote, Srinagar J&K. India 190012 Tel: 0194-2497735; E: amid.zoktwo@jkbmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower in particular that the below mentioned vehicle, hypothecated to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Charar-i-sharief, physical possession whereof has been taken by the BANK, will be sold through public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" and "NO COMPLAINT BASIS" on 24.04.2023 for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch Charar-i-sharief from below mentioned borrower. The description of the vehicle & other particulars are mentioned herein below:

Particulars of the borrower	Ms. Firdousa Zahid wife of Zahid Hussain Jan resident of Gulshan Abad, Charar-i-sharief, Budgam.
Description of the Hypothecated vehicle	Mahidra Bolero Pickup FBPS Engine No. TBH1G72812 Chasis No. MA1ZN2TBKH1G58175 Registration No. JK04E 0822 Year & Month of Manufacture: 07/2017
Reserve Price	Rs.3,80,000.00
Earnest Money	Rs.38,000.00
The bid document/format	containing full details of the hypothecated vehicle and all the terms &

conditions can be obtained from and submitted at J&K Bank Ltd. IAPM Department, Zonal Office Budgam, HMT, Zainakote, Srinagar, UT of J&K -190012. The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted by or before 20.04.2023 upto 5 PM. The Public auction will be held at J&K Bank Ltd. Zonal Office Budgam, HMT, Zainakote, Srinagar, UT of J&K -190012 on 24.04.2023 at 11.30 AM. The contact details of the bank officials are: Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Khan (Incharge IAPM Zonal Office Budgam) Mobile No. 9149443300 & Mr. Aijaz-ur-Rehman (Branch Head Chrarisharief) 9469430238/7006921787.

Sd/-Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Kha In charge IAPM Zonal Office Budgam J&K Bank Ltd.

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048: T:+91 (0)194 2481 930-35: F:+91 (0)194 248 1928: E: info@ikbmail.com: W: www.ikbank.com

DIPK-NB-168/23 dated; 11-04-2023



Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Zonal Office, Budgam Industrial Complex Zainakote, Srinagar J&K, India 190012 Tel: 0194-2497735; E: amid.zoktwo@jkbmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower in particular that the below mentioned vehicle, hypothecated to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Humhama, physical possession whereof has been taken by the BANK, will be sold through public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" and "NO COMPLAINT BASIS" on 24.04.2023 for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch Humhama from below mentioned borrow er. The description of the vehicle & other particulars are mentioned herein below:

Particulars of the borrower	Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Wani S/o Mohammad Shafi Wani R/o House No. 05 Umer Colony - B Lal Bazar, Srinagar, J&K -190023
Description of the Hypothecated vehicle	Maruti S-Cross Smart Hybrid Sigma; Engine No. K15BN1191427 Chasis No. MA3ENGL1S00260485 Registration No. JK01AN 8208 Year & Month of Manufacture: 03/2021
Reserve Price	Rs.5,35,000.00
Earnest Money	Rs.53,500.00

The bid document/format containing full details of the hypothecated vehicle and all the terms &conditions can be obtained from and submitted at J&K Bank Ltd. IAPM Department, Zonal Office Budgam, HMT, Zainakote, Srinagar, UT of J&K -190012. The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted by or before 20.04.2023 upto 5 PM. The Public auction will be held at J&K Bank Ltd. Zonal Office Budgam, HMT, Zainakote, Srinagar, UT of J&K -190012 on 24.04.2023 at 11.30 AM. The contact details of the bank officials are: Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Khan (Incharge IAPM Zonal Office Budgam) Mobile No. 9149443300 & Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Dar (Branch Head Humhama) Mobile No. 9596710810.

Ref. No. JKB/IAPMD/ZOB/2023-24 Dated: 07/04/2023

Sd/-Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Khai In charge IAPM Zonal Office Budgam

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-160/23 dated: 11-04-2023

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

It is information for the general public that in my old passport bearing No. K6924335 my mothers name was wrongly entered as Syeda Nargis Naza. While her actual Name is Syed Nargis Naza. Now i want its correction now, in this regard if any body having any objection may contact Regional Passport Officer Srinagar within a period of 7 days. No objection shall be entertained after that. Syed Qamar Abbas

S/o Syed Hussain Shah R/o Chattergam Budgam.

محدابراهيم

06

ازنیابت هرده شوره بااجلاس ارشاداحمر ملک تضمون درخواست منجانب: بهميره نذير دختر نذير احدخان ساكنه موضع تركه بديوره بغرض حصول RBA سرٹفیکیٹ تحت ایس آرآ و 126 اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔ تعامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں سایل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرُ تَفْکِیٹ دفتر ہٰذامیں پیش کیا ہے۔اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا

ہے سائلہ کی مہانہ آمدنی 68217 ہے اور سایل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔ تمبرشار زمینداری 62سال على محمد خان ولد گلام قا در 01 گھریلو کام عزيزي بيكم 18 ואל Asha Worker حسينه ببكم 05

گیا جس سےعیاں ہے کہ سامل کا کنبہ دھ ھذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر

ں کےعلاہ اورکوئی افراد کنمبہ نہیں بتلایا گیاہے ۔ لہذاز پر بحث سرٹفکیٹ اجراء کرنے ہیںا گرکسی شخص کوکوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کےاندراندراینااعتراض معہ جوہات پیش کرے۔میعاد گذرنے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

Before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar

Judge Small Cause

Noora Bano D/o Mohammad Ismail Guroo R/o Khawja Bagh Muja Gund Parimpora Ghat Srinagar

Registrar Birth & Deaths S.M.C, Srinagar

Non Applicant in the matter of: Application for recording the date of birth of the below named child/person

May it please your honcur; The application is submitted as under

1 - That the date of Birth of the below named child/person has not sofar been recorded in the records of Non-applicant as is evident from the N.O.C issued by non-applicant enclosed with this application.

2. That the applicant wishes to get the date ol: Birth of below mentioned child/person be recorded in record of non-applicant and solicits application accordingly.

3. That I have not obtained birth certificate till date of below named child/person.

That this application is supported by duly sworn affidavit.

IN THE PREMISES IT IS THEREFORE prayed that the nonapplicant be directed to record the following particulars of the below named child/parson.

Name	Noora Bano
Sex	Female
Father's Name	Mohammad Ismail Guroo
Mother's Name	Sondri
Date of Birth	15.1.1968
Residence	Khawja Bagh Muja Gund Parimpora Ghat Sgr
Place of Birth	At;Home

ANNAMALAI 👺 UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

RESULT NOTIFICATION DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) ARSHEED AHMAD RATHER S/o Ab. Gani Rather bearing

University Registration No.: 1919030001 who pursued Ph.D. Programme on whole time (On Campus) basis in the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science and submitted thesis titled "EFFECT of Salicylic acid on Morpho-Physiological, Biochemical and Yield Parameters of *Vigna Mungo* (L.) Hepper Grown NDER SODIUM CHLORIDE STRESS"under the supervision of Dr. S.

Natarajan, Professor, Department of Botany, Annamalai University is declared ualified for the award of Ph.D. Degree on 29 March 2023. Sd/- Controller of Examinations Sd/- Director- DARE

با جلاس راجامحمه تشلیم نورکه شخ والدانشاذ برا ساکنهٔ کنهٔ بل مویه یُنگ روکه شخص اینهٔ و بخص بندواره سرینگر (سائل) بنام ایس-ایم-ی سرینگر درخواست بمرادا ندراج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش ازاں انشاذهرا تاریخ پیدائش 2011-07-28 اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندحة عنوان الصدر مين سائل /سائله نے عدالت بذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندارج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش دائری ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کوبذر بعداشتہار مطلع کیاجا تاہے كنسبت درخواست سائل اسائله منظور ہونے میں كوئى عذريا اعتراض ہونے كى صورت میں عدالت میں آگر مورند2023-04-19 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد كوئى عذر يااعتراض قابل قبول نهيس ہوگا۔ تح بيالصد2023-04-11



Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Jammu And Kashmir Union Territory

STAGE E-NIT S.NO:-(03) OF 2023-24 (E-TENDERING)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders are invited on an Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD/ Railways/ Other Governments/ Union Territory for the below-mentioned works. EMD 20% of the Time of completions of Head of Ac-

3.110	Name of Work	(In lacs)	Tender Doc.	advertised cost	tion	Contract	count
1	Operation and Maintenance of Irrigation supply of Lar canal and its branches including removal of encroachments to ensure smooth Irrigation season of Irrigation Sub Division Manul Zoura for the year 2023-24	2.70	150/-	5400/-	Up to 03/2023	DEE	2701-M&R
2	Operation and Maintenance of Irrigation supply of Sanigloo canal and its branches including removal of encroachments to ensure smooth Irrigation season of Irrigation Sub Division Manul Zoura for the year 2023-24		200/-	6600/-	Up to 03/2023	DEE	2701-M&R
3		3.00	200/-	6000/-	Up to 03/2023	DEE	2702-M&R
4	Maintenance of Zainapora Main canal and its distributaries of Irrigaiton Sub Divison Zainapora by eay of removal of encroachment, desilting, resectioning etc	2.50	150/-	5000/-	Up to 03/2023	DEE	2702-M&R
5	Maintenance of Rakhi Litter canal and its distributaries of Irrigaiton Sub Divison Zainapora by eay of removal of encroachment, desilting, resectioning etc	2.50	150/-	5000/-	Up to 03/2023	DEE	2702-M&R
6	Maintenance of C.K Canal l and its distributaries of Irrigaiton Sub Divison Zainapora by eay of removal of encroachment, desilting, resectioning etc	2.00	150/-	4000/-	Up to 03/2023	DEE	2702-M&R

POSITION OF FUNDS: BUDGETARY PROVISION

ACCORD OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL: ACCORDED VIDE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER HYDRAULIC CIRCLE PULWAMA HQ-SHOPIANS ORDER NO: 80 OF 03/2023 DAT-ED: 29-03-2023 AND NO: 81 OF 03/2022-23 DATED: 29-03-2023. & 03 OF 04/2023-24 DATED: 10-04-2023.

1. THE BIDDING DOCUMENT CONSISTING OF QUALIFYING INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SPECIFICATIONS, DRAWINGS, SET OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND OTH-ER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN/ DOWNLOADED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE WWW.JKTENDERS.GOV.IN AS PER THE SCHEDULE OF DATES GIVEN BELOW

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11-04-2023 (05:00 PM)
02	Date of start of downloading.	11-04-2023 (06:00 PM)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/Financial.	12-04-2023(10:00 AM)
04	Bid submission end date.	20-04-2023 (04:00 PM)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	20-04-2023 (05:00 PM))
		• • •

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (tender inviting authority). The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number. The date of treasury challan should be in between the date

The successful bidder shall have to submit the hardcopy of EMD in the shape of CDR duly uploaded, treasury challan and other allied documents as mentioned Additional security as prescribed in the below-mentioned tabulation form is to be deposited by the successful bidder as per the latest order by the finance

Tenders that are below of the advertised cost	Additional security of the advertised cost to be submitted in the form of CDR
Up-to and including 15% below	Nil
15% up to and including 20 % below	05%
20 % up to and including 25 % below	10 %
25 % up to and including 30 % below	15 %
30 % Below	20 %

Bidders are advised to use the (My Documents) area in their user on www.j&ktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below:

Dated: 11-04-2023

GSTIN clearance last quarter and PAN Registration card with the latest renewal

Treasury challan (0702) Scanned copy of EMD.

No: IDS/ 213-35

Card verification letter Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.

DIPK-356/23

Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Shopian

Sd/-

Police Busts Another Flesh Trade Racket In Nowgam, Kingpin Among Six Held

Srinagar: Barely a week after a flesh trade racket was unearthed in Bagh-e-Mehtab locality; the police raided another prostitution ring in Nowgam area in uptown Srinagar on Tuesday, leading to the arrest of six people, including a kingpin.

According to the police, investigations into a similar case in the Chanapora area last week, led to the discovery of the flesh trade ring and the subsequent arrests.

A kingpin of the racket was among six persons including a sex worker, who were arrested for running the flesh trade racket in uptown Srinagar

Police identified the arrestees as Shabir Ahmed Mir, son of Abdul Rahim Mir of Charlipora Nowgam who was the main kingpin of the racket, his wife Shazia Shabir Mir, who was operating this prostitution ring and Adil Gulzar Hazar, son of



Gulzar Ahmed Hazaar of Soura Srinagar, co-accused.

local girl (name withheld), working as a sex worker and 2 Customers identified as Nazir Ahmad Malla, son of Ghulam Oadir Malla of Narbal and Irshad Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar of Narbal have also been arrested by the police.

"Investigation in the Chanpura case led to the busting of another prostitution racket in Nowgam area. 1) Shabir Mir of charlipora nowgam, 2) his wife Shazia Mir & 3) Adil Gulzar Hazar of Soura arrested on spot for operating this racket. 2 customers & a sex worker also detained (all

locals)," police said in a tweet. Pertinent to mention here two main accused of Chanapora sex scandal case were booked under stringent Public Safety Act on April 8.

INVESTIGATION IN THE CHANPURA CASE LED TO THE BUSTING OF ANOTHER PROSTITUTION RACKET in

Nowgam area. 1) Shabir Mir of charlipora nowgam, 2) his wife Shazia Mir & 3) Adil Gulzar Hazar of Soura arrested on spot for operating this racket. 2 customers & a sex worker also detained (all locals)."

"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 Hussain Afaqi son of Asadullah Afaqi of Chanapora. He was arrested under section of Immoral trafficking prevention act 1956 (ITPA).

"Owner of the house used for immoral activities namely: Altaf Hussain 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.

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: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



21 RAMAZAN 1444

PRAYERS FAJR 4:38 **ZUHR** 12:32

5:09 **ASR** 7:02 Magrib ISHA 8:27

Auqaf Jamia Announces Prayer Timing

Jumatul-Vida At 2 PM, Shab-e-Qadr At 10:30 PM, Eid-ul-Fitr At 10 AM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An important meeting of the leading members and senior officials of Anjuman Augaf Jama Masjid Srinagar was held on Tuesday.

The meeting reviewed the arrangements for providing all possible facilities to the worshipers and devotees thronging the historic Jama Masjid on Jumma-tul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, a statement issued to the news agency-Kashmir

News Observer (KNO). It was stated in the meeting that according to the schedule, Jumma-tul-Vida prayer will be offered at 02:00 pm and Shabe-Qadr at 10:30 pm at the Jama Masjid while the Eid-ul-Fitr prayer will be held at the historic Eidgah, Srinagar at 10:00 am, as per past practice In Sha Allah. However, in case of inclement weather, the Eid prayer will be held at the Jama

Masjid Srinagar at the same time. During the meeting, the members expressed deep concern over the nearly four-year-long illegal and arbitrary detention the Anjuman Chairman Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq and urged the authorities to release him in view of the important and blessed occasions of Shab-e-Qadr, Jumma-tul-Vida and Eid-ul-Fitr so that he can fulfill his religious

responsibilities the institution of

Mirwaiz enjoins upon him. It was clarified in the statement that during these two great occasions, thousands of Muslims from all over the valley flock to the historic Central Jama Masjid Srinagar not only for the night and Friday prayers but also for collective repentance and supplication before Allah Almighty. They also benefit from the advice and sermons of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir who however continues to be under house arrest since 5 August 2019 while all his peaceful activities remain suspended since then.



Photo, Syed Mohammad Burhan

Traffic Police Counsels Stunt Bikers Those Repeat Practice Will Be Booked

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Traffic Police Srinagar after identifying the boys involved in stunt biking through social media counseled them in presence of their parents on Tuesday.

A senior traffic police official said that a productive counseling session was held for the youth involved in stunt biking, in presence of their parents, who he said appreciated the initiative.

During the session, the boys were briefed about the adverse aftermath of the incidents arising out of the stunt biking, the official said. In a tweet, city traffic police

wrote, "Traffic city Srinagar acting against stunt bikers held counseling sessions with violators and their parents. Who appreciated the initiative. Any

information regarding stunt biking may be reported on 103 number."

He said the department has issued a number 103 for the general public where they can report any occurrence of stunt biking happening in Srinagar.

"As of now, we are counseling them but those found involved again will be booked under the relevant laws," he said.

ITA Discusses Issues Confronting Traders With Div Com

CRITICAL CARE

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Srinagar: Joint Traders Association (JTA), an umbrella of 13 markets from Mughal Darbar to Lalchowk here on Tuesday called on Divisional Commissioner V.K.Bidhuri to discuss trade and commerce related issues.

The JTA was led by its Chairman Farhan Kitab and General Secretary Feroz Baba.

Pertinently, multiple issues raised by the trade community were

discussed. The absence of street lights in all important Lambert lane, the smog and dust hitting business activity in the heart of Srinagar Lalchowk due to smart city projects, diversions causing traffic mess, lack of washrooms in Abi Guzar and other areas like burning issues were raised, a statement said.

All important issues of providing roadside parking for customers to increase their footfall during the current festive season were also

9484100200

01942310018

CONTROL ROOM:

27 Gogji Bagh, Near

Oasis School, Srinagar

This Day In History

- 1648 University of Harderwijk Neth solemn opens
- 1654 Ordinance of Union between England and Scotland passed by the Council of State
- 1713 Dutch State-Gen signs peace with France: Netherlands loses Orange Princedom
- 1770 British parliament repeals the Townshend Revenue Acts, which had fueled op@position to British rule in colonial America
- 1776 Halifax resolution for independence adopted by North Carolina1787 - Philadel phia's Free African Society forms
- 1783 Tippu Sahib drives out British from Bednore,
- 1869 Hudson Bay Company cedes its territory to Canada
- 1811 1st US colonists on Pacific coast arrive at Cape Disappointment, Washington
- 1820 Alexander Ypsilantis is declared leader of Filiki Eteria, a secret organization to overthrow Ottoman rule over Greece.
- 1826 Weber's opera "Oberon" premieres in London 1844 - Texan envoys sign Treaty of Annexation with the United States
- 1857 Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" published
- 1858 1st US billiards championship, Michael J Phelan wins in Detroit
- 1859 -Hibernia Savings & Loan Society of San
- Francisco incorporates 1861 - Fort Sumter in South Carolina is attacked by the
- Confederacy, beginning the American Civil War 1862 - James Andrews steals Confederate train
- (General) at Kennesaw, Georgia
- 1862 Union troops occupy Fort Pulaski, Georgia 1863 -14] Gunboat battle at Bayou Teche, Louisiana
- 1928 Turkey passes separation of church & state
- 1940 Germany invades Norway & Denmark during WW II (Denmark surrenders).
- 1942 Battle of Bataan; US-Filipino forces overwhelmed by Japanese at Bataan.
- 1945 World War II: The Battle of Königsberg, East Prussia, ends.
- 1949 UN Intl Court of Justice held Albania responsible for incidents in Corfu Channel & awards **Britain damages**
- 1957 Suez Canal cleared for all shipping 1959 - NASA names 1st 7 astronauts for Project

From KO Archives

Sumo-Borne Men Abduct, Beat Cop

Observer News Service

RINAGAR: A traffic police constable was admitted in the hospital in a critical condition after being dropped half dead by some unidentified abductors outside the Batwara gate of the army headquarters in Badamibagh cantonment here this afternoon.

According to reports, Ghulain Muhammad (belt No1556), a constable in the traffic control department deployed in the Regal chowk to enforce one way movement stopped a white Sumo from proceeding in the wrong direction. At this, the unidentified perons pounced on the constable and beat him.

Watching the scuffle, some shopkeepers tried to rescue the policeman. But, the Sumo-borne men putted him in and fled away. The incident took place in broad day light at 3:45 p.m. At about 6.30 o.m. the army authorities informed the police about the constable lying at the mail gate of the BB Cantt almost half dead. However, the police refused to pick up the injured constable and instead demanded the in¬spector general of police or any other senior officer to go to the spot for the purpose. Eventually, it was the superintendent of police traffic, Riyaz Ahmad Bedar, who went to the BB Cantt gate and removed the constable to the SMHS hospital where the doctors attending on him said, late in the evening, that

Kashmir Observer, 12 April, 2000

From The Office Of Uzair Khan

License no. 502/2018

In the case of

R/o Sanat Nagar Srinagar

Decod: 10-64-2025

DIPK-NB-175/23

1 Tauseef Ah Lone S/o Abdul Khaliq lone , R/o Aquilmir Khanyar 2 Lateef Ahmad Lone S/o Ab Khaliq lone

R/o: Aquimir khanyar Srinagar proprietor of Eatout Resturant and Hotel Mark Court Road Amira Kadal Lal Chowk 3. Ubaid Ashraf Khan S/O Mohammad Ashraf Khan

Versus Public at large

(NON-CAVEATOS)

In the Matter of Caveat Petition in terms of Section 48-A The Caveator has reason to believe that Non-Caveators may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hob'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrpresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back /in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.



DATED:11-04-2023

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday | 11-04-2023

Gadkari's Kashmir 'roadmap'

n a renewed push to complete the Zojila tun-nel, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inspected the ongoing work at the tunnel in Baltal on Tuesday. Gadkari later tweeted that tourism in Jammu and Kashmir will increase by 2-3 times after the construction of the tunnel. He said that the government was determined to achieve the connectivity between Kashmir to Kaniyakumari in the true sense. He revealed that as many as 19 tunnels are being constructed in Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of Rs 25 thousand crore. The union minister gave more details: The two-lane tunnel, he said, is a 7.57 meter high horseshoe-shaped single tube that will pass under the Zojila Pass in the Himalayas between Ganderbal in Kashmir and Drass town in Kargil district of Ladakh. The project includes a smart tunnel system, constructed using the New Austrian Tunneling Method. It is also equipped with facilities such as CCTV, radio control, uninterrupted power supply, ventilation. "The Government of India has also saved Rs 5000 crore by the use of modern technology in this project," the minister said.

Once complete, the tunnel will usher in an all-weather connectivity between Kashmir Valley and Ladakh. Earlier, Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), which is executing the tunnel, said that the project is likely to be completed by December 2026.

The work on the showpiece infrastructure project had halted in 2018 after IL&FS, the big-time infrastructure lender, went bust. Now the government is making an effort to complete the tunnel at the earliest. The tunnel will reduce the distance from Baltal to Minamarg to 13 km from the current 40 km and the travel time will be cut by an hour and a half. Also, at 14.15 km, the Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel, and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. There is one more tunnel close to Zojila: the 6.5 km long Z-Morh which will connect Gagangir with Shetkari. The tunnels between them will ensure that Ladakh no longer will remain an inaccessible, remote region cut off from the rest of the world for six months through winter.

There are other important infrastructure projects in progress whose completion will enhance the connectivity in J&K and Ladakh. And once completed, the railway line and the roads will stitch Kashmir together with concrete and asphalt and connect places and people alienated from each other by geography. There is an urgent need to expedite the work on these projects to realize the goal of a truly integrated J&K with its limitless opportunities for trade and travel.

OTHER OPINON

Going Empty

he story of children's hunger is also the story of adults' pain. No parent wants to let their child go hungry; it is acutely painful when a baby is concerned. A recent study in India found 5.9 million 'zero food' children, who are six to 23-month-old infants who have not ingested any substantial calories for 24 hours. Two out of 10 infants within this age group have neither had solid nor liquid food for a whole day; the method followed in the study only identifies the last 24 hours and cannot show how many hours the child went without food earlier. The data were extracted from the National Family Health Surveys for consecutive years since 2016, which showed no marked reduction in food insecurity at this level. The percentage of zero food children increased from 17.2% in 2016 to 17.8% in 2021, which goes against the Centre's earlier inference that the reduction in the percentage of stunted and wasted children approximately in the same period — stunting and wasting being the conventional measures for malnutrition showed an improvement in nutrition. As the researchers of the recent study have pointed out, indirect measures are obviously not precise enough; they may even be misleading. India's food policies need to be precise and perfectly targeted.

The question of precision is relevant since India does have nutrition and food policies for the younger group. Daily supplements of 500 calories and 12 to 15 grams of protein are provided for children from six months to three years. How can there still be zero food children, and in such huge numbers? Although 20 states have improved their percentage of starving infants, the decline in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has neutralised it, while Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Assam are doing badly too. Something is going awry in the system and the supplements are not reaching the families that most need them. It is understandable that the supplements are given to households with six-month-old babies, since they are meant to be breast-fed till then. But are the mothers in these families, possibly anaemic and suffering from malnutrition themselves, able to give their babies fulfilling feeds and the immunity they need? To defeat hunger and malnutrition, food security policies need to make these households, economically worst off and often geographically disadvantaged, their first priority.

Telegraph India

2024: No Fight Left In Opposition?

There Is Little To Indicate That Prime Minister Narendra Modi Is Any Less Popular, Let Alone Facing An Anti-Incumbency Sentiment

RIYAZ WANI

To be sure, post-yatra Rahul seems to have developed some gravitas. And if this is his umpteenth relaunch - to borrow the BJP's description of the Congress leader's renewed periodic plunge into politics - then this is the most promising one so far. And if he fails yet again, it may well push him as well as the **Congress party** towards oblivion



n what could certainly have put some wind back in the sails of Congress, the opinion polls in Karnataka have given the party an edge over the BJP. The poll, conducted by CVoter, projected between 115 and 127 seats for the Congress in the 224-member assembly, with the BJP a distant second at somewhere between 68 and 80 seats. Zee News Opinion Poll, on the other hand, is favourably disposed towards the BJP. But even that doesnt give a cake walk to the BJP, something that should be cause for concern for a party that is perceived to command a majority of support in the country.

A lot rides on the outcome of the polls in Karnataka, more so, as it would set the stage for the 2024 general elections. Around ten assembly elections are scheduled to be held before the national polls. Among them, the elections in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telengana will be very consequential. The BJP will hope to win all of them. Should the party suffer reverses in the majority of these states, this may not bode well for its 2024 chances. But despite the reverses, it could still carry the day as happened in 2019 when the saffron party secured a landslide in general elections despite losing state polls in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

The elections in these major states represent the last chance for the opposition, especially Congress, to hurtle back into the reckoning. For now, the Congress can take heart from the victory in Himachal.

As things stand, the opposition has failed to stitch together a formal alliance - albeit, there has been a rising chorus from many leaders to form a united front. The unity of the opposition has been inherently hamstrung by the difficulty to rally people around a principal leader or a party. Since 2014, Congress has lost its pole

position in India's politics. And its leader Rahul Gandhi has struggled to match up to prime minister Narendra Modi's overarching political appeal.

Under Rahul's leadership, Congress has lost successive elections, which has further undermined faith in him. This has made the other opposition parties wary of making him the face of opposition unity. Besides, several regional leaders who are powerful in their respective states nurse their personal ambitions. As a result, they wouldn't want to subsume themselves under Congress, let alone Rahul or any other major opposition leader. An alliance would also oblige powerful regional parties to agree to seat-sharing in their states with the other less popular parties. So, there are many hurdles on the path to unity in the opposition, and it won't be easy to surmount them.

Will Rahul's conviction by the Gujarat High Court and his subsequent disqualification help Congress? Or for that matter, would Gandhi scion's 4000 kilometre foot march reinvigorate the party's support base? Much would depend on how Rahul builds on it. Up until now, he has squandered all opportunities that came his way.

To be sure, post-yatra Rahul seems to have developed some gravitas. And if this is his umpteenth relaunch - to borrow the BJP's description of the Congress leader's renewed periodic plunge into politics - then this is the most promising one so far. And if he fails yet again, it may well push him as well as the Congress party towards oblivion.

The objective gauge of Rahul's progress or otherwise will be the outcome of the upcoming Assembly polls. A victory in some major states can also reinstate Congress as a viable national entity that can hold its own in front of the BJP juggernaut. This can, in turn, earn Rahul the stature to command some respect from the

opposition, even if he is not able to lead them.

But for now, such a prospect remains a long shot. There is little to indicate that prime minister Narendra Modi is any less popular, let alone facing an antincumbency sentiment. His name and persona seem now entrenched in the national psyche. He is seen as a leader whose continuation in power people now take for granted. If notebandi, farmers' protests, Chinese incursions, the COVID-19 pandemic and its widespread depredations couldn't dent his image, nothing else can.

At the same time, politics is a dynamic process. Though public sentiment could be manipulated and distracted to a large extent through the control of information flow, it can also change due to factors not controlled by a rigged information order. For example, the economic factor, with unemployment, inflation, etc forcing a critical mass of people to turn away from the government. Or just a sense of fatigue with the current leaders, a certain disaffection with the prevailing state of affairs, which is described as antiincumbency, and which, so far, Modi government has not allowed to set in. There is a widespread perception that the current political officeholders still face no anti-incumbency. As of now, the situation looks set to go in favour of the BJP only. That is, unless the opposition does something spectacularly different and a set of other factors coalesce in their favour, something that currently looks improbable.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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The Needy Dying

F late, making my way to the mosque, I chanced upon a woman; begging her heart out. Many men snuck past her. And no one bothered to take a look at her. It was as if she was a ghost; waiting there to haunt the people. She lay there; her eyes flitting here and there in hopes of finding a person who could give her a few bucks. But the people acted deaf, dumb, and blind. The scene was so pathetic that it would make your skin crawl.

Yet another tragic incident, a few days back, when a girl took her own life by diving into a river, and the reason again revolved around financial problems. Everyone living in different corners of the world does help the needy. But, when it comes to us, we avert our gaze from one. Even this cold season seems to have no significant impact on our minds as to under what conditions the needy would be living their lives. We have become out-and-out beasts.

t-and-out beasts.
That lady and now no-longer-alive

girl aside for a moment, there are so many amputees, divorcees, orphans walking down the street, visiting our homes, mosques; but we almost never direct our gaze at them, or hang on their stories, or provide them with something adequate enough to bring smile to their faces.

We hardly ever make them feel lovable. We rarely are kind enough to them.

Anyways, the question again arises; to where do they go when our blasted presence has dominated this

piece of the planet wholly? Do we want them to break down in tears and invoke the Almighty to curse us or take them?!

If such incidents fail to shake our conscience and make us take concrete steps towards saving the destitute from dying, we are hardly human beings.

Peer Faizan Bashir

From Kaba In Makkah To Mosque In Kufa

Farhan Bokhari

s blood oozed from his forehead, Hazrat Ali (a.s) re-**L**ceived his fatal wound with the widely documented statement: Fuztu bi Rabbil Kaaba' (By the grace of the Lord of Kaaba, I have succeeded). And that claim of success remains unchallenged to this day.

So powerful has been the legacy of the fourth caliph of Islam after Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), that Hazrat Ali (a.s) continues to have a widespread impact in more ways than one.

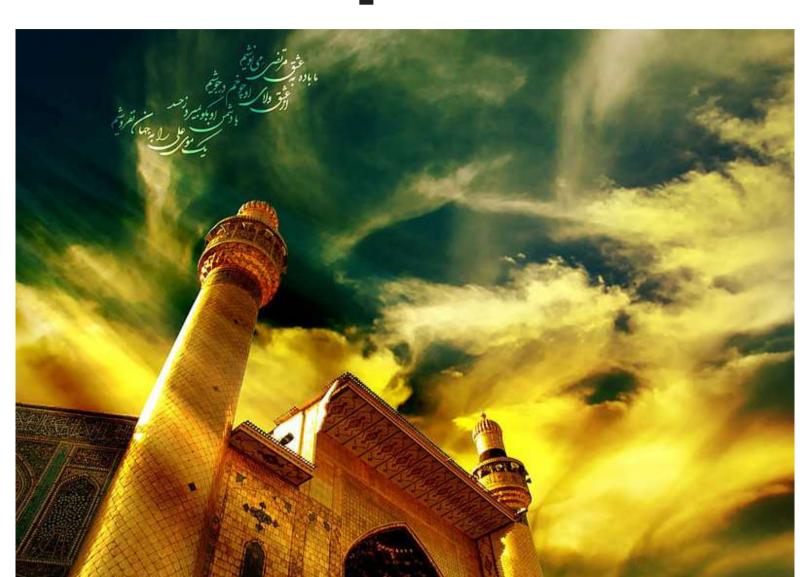
On Monday, the 19th of Ramazan, Muslims across the world will began observing the three-day martyrdom commemoration of Hazrat Ali (AS) from the day of the attack to the day of his martyrdom on 21st of Ramazan.

The persona of Hazrat Ali (AS) pulls pilgrims to the historic grand mosque at Kufa and his final resting place in Najaf-e-Ashraf in Iraq, a city surrounded by inhabitants whose lives revolve around him. The history of Najaf, barring the 'Wadi us salam' historic cemetery, is built around Hazrat Ali (AS).

Today, from centres of the Islamic scholarly world to businesses catering to the pilgrims, all exist around the shrine of Hazrat Ali (AS). And not too far is Karbala, a captivating centre for pilgrims built around the place of martyrdom of Hazrat Ali's son Imam Hussain (AS) and his followers whose defiance of Yazeed bin Muawiya in an epic encounter on the 10th day of Muharram continues to inspire Muslims worldwide. In time, these two shrines have become connected, as each year pilgrims during Muharram set out on a 100 kms journey on foot from Kufa to Najaf.

The powerful legacy of Hazrat Ali (AS) has inspired many Muslims and non-Muslims alike. The documentation of the life of Hazrat Ali (AS) ranges from his command of knowledge and philosophy to his unparalleled chivalry on the battlefield.

Titles such 'Asadullah' (the lion of Allah), 'Maulood-e-Kaaba' (One who was born inside the Kaaba), 'Fateh-e-Khyber' (Conqueror of Khyber, the Jewish fort) and 'Baab



ul Madinatul Ilm' (Passage to the city of knowledge), each demonstrate an aspect of the multi-faceted and rich life of Hazrat Ali (a.s).

Highlighting the persona of Hazrat Ali (AS) as a unifying individual for Muslims across the board, Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri in his widely acclaimed 'The Sayings and Wisdom of Imam Ali' wrote: "Any attempt to describe the personal qualities of Imam Ali is a challenging task, for he has assumed [to all Muslims alike], an almost legendary status as a paragon of virtue, a fountain of knowledge and a model

of chivalry, widely renowned for his piety, nobility and learning. Indeed it is at times difficult to find the true balance needed to love him without idolizing him".

One of the most widely circulated writings of Hazrat Ali (AS) remains a letter that he wrote to his close follower Malik Ashtar, upon the latter's appointment as governor of Egypt, then a province of the Muslim empire. That letter, among others was publicly commended by the late UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as an ideal model for governance which deserves to be embraced by modern-day rulers.

Hazrat Ali wrote; "Be it known to you, O, Malik, that I am sending you as Governor to a country which in the past has experienced both just and unjust rule. Men will scrutinise your actions with a searching eye, even as you used to scrutinise the actions of those before you, and speak of you even as you did speak of them. The fact is that the public speaks well of only those who do good. It is they who furnish the proof of your actions. Hence the richest treasure that you may covet would be the treasure of

good deeds".

And in his widely read title 'Ali the Magnificent', Yousuf N Lalljee reflecting upon the quality of statecraft under the administration of Hazrat Ali (a.s) wrote; "It was the cardinal principle of Hazrat Ali's administration that the ruler should adopt a standard of life equal to that of the humblest subject in the realm. He sincerely believed that the real greatness of a ruler did not consist in wearing rich and costly dresses, but in relieving the distress of the suffering subjects. The public treasury was

meant to meet not the extravagant demands of a ruler's vanity but the needs of the downtrodden people, to feed the starving population and to clothe the naked"

One of the most impressive memories from the life of Hazrat Ali (AS) remains his oft-repeated challenge, seeking all those around him to raise questions before he is not amongst them. "Salooni, Salooni, Kabla Ant'afkadoonee" (Ask me, Ask me before you miss me) was his statement repeatedly recorded in history, from his presence on the pulpit. For scholars seeking to track letters and sermons of Hazrat Ali (AS), 'Nahjul Balagha' - a historical text remains a popular and comprehensive starting point.

Barely moments passed after the morning 'fajr' prayer began at the 'Kufa' mosque in southern Iraq that an assassin, Abdul Rehman Ibne Muljim, armed with a poison dipped dagger struck at the head of Hazrat Ali (AS), first Imam and the fourth rightly guided caliph of Islam – thus delivering a blow whose impact remains in place almost fourteen centuries later.

Among writers who devoted time and energy to research the life and legacy of Hazrat Ali (AS), George Jordac, the Lebanese Christian scholar remains a memorable figure. In his widely noted title 'Sautul Adalatil Insaniyah' subsequently translated in English as 'The Voice of Human Justice: A Biography of Imam Ali', Jordac wrote; "His (Hazrat Ali) laws were not formulated on account of the exigencies of government and polities, but government and polities were based on those laws. He purposely did not adopt a path which might lead him to rulership, but adopted that which might enable him to make his place in the pure hearts. Justice was a part of his soul and was ingrained in his heart. and it had combined other virtues also with itself".

In a crisis-stricken era, Muslim ummah has much to learn from the life and teachings of Hazrat Ali (AS) as his martyrdom is being commemorated today.

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Who Are the 9 People That Allah Loves?

AMALIAH TEAM

oth the Qur'an and Sunnah guide us to seek the love of Allah through the actions He loves as well as striving to be like those who He says He loves in the Qur'an.

Allah tells us that if He loves a person, He calls [angel] Gabriel saying:

"Allah loves so and so; O Gabriel, love him." Gabriel would love him, and then Gabriel would make an announcement among the residents of Heaven, "Allah loves so-and-so, therefore, you should love him also." So, all the residents of the Heavens would love him and then he is granted the pleasure of the people of the earth. (Bukhari)

Here are 9 qualities that we can work on implementing in our lives in order to gain Allah's love, as highlighted in the Our'an and Sunnah:

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Islamic Relief is a trusted distributor of Zakat to people in 34 countries around the world. They give essential relief to those in need overseas, and at home in the UK as well.

1. THOSE WHO ARE GOD-CONSCIOUS (AL-MUTTAQIN)

Allah tells us in the Qur'an that fasting has been prescribed for us so that we can attain Taqwa, making Ramadan a beautiful opportunity to earn His Love. One of the ways Allah says we can achieve true God-consciousness or righteousness is "by giving some of what we cherish" (Qur'an 3:92).

"Righteousness in the sight of God... dwells in one who, despite his love for it, gives of his wealth in charity to close relatives and orphans and to the needy and the wayfarer, and beggars and for the emancipation of slaves." (Qur'an 2:177)

Islamic Relief provides an opportunity to help support orphans through their orphan sponsorship programme. The sponsorship is an effective way of giving that sets up a connection between the donor and a vulnerable orphan. The donor will

receive an annual update on how their support is assisting the sponsored child and their family.

2. THOSE WHO PURIFY THEMSELVES (AL-MUTATAHHIRUN)

Allah says, He loves "those who purify themselves" (Our'an 2:222). Wudhu is a form of purification for our sins, and the Prophet said, "When a Muslim man performs ablution, his sins are removed from his hearing, his sight, his hands, and his legs. If he sits down, he will sit down forgiven." (Musnad Ahmad) This Ramadan, you can strive to always be in a state of wudhu even when you're on your period as it carries a lot of barakah.

"When the Messenger # was in the state of major ritual impurity and intended to eat or sleep, he would perform wudū, the way he would for prayer." (Muslim)

Zakat is another form of purification which we can engage in as it purifies us and our wealth.

"Take, [O Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase, and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them. Indeed, your invocations are reassurance for them. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing." (Qur'an 9:103)

Although, it's not necessary to pay Zakat al-Maal in the month of Ramadan (unless it's due at the time), we can utilise the added barakah of the month and engage in this act of worship then.

3. THOSE WHO RELY ON HIM (AL-MUTAWAKKILIN)

Sometimes Shaitan can deceive us into thinking that if we give, we'll never have enough for ourselves or we'll be losing out. But Allah encourages us to give even when we don't have much, and He comforts us with His reminder that He

"...loves those who rely [upon Him]" (Quran 3:159).

One way to quell the fear of scarcity which arises is by giving to others from what we think we'll have less of. Relving on Allah includes leaving our affairs in His hands and trusting that He will provide for us and reward us with much more and better than we've given.



4. THOSE WHO REPENT (AL-TAWWABIN)

In the month where the gates of heavens are open and the gates of hell are closed, the Prophet # taught our mother Aisha (RA) a beautiful dua to constantly seek repentance from Allah:

Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun tuhibbul `afwa fa`fu `annee' (O Allah, You are the Most Forgiving and You love to Forgive, so forgive me)

As you go through your day in Ramadan, strive to make it a habit to recite this dua constantly as it's not limited to the last ten days of the month.

5. THOSE WHO ARE JUST (AL-MUQSITIN) Allah tells us in the Qur'an that He

"loves those who are fair (and just)." (Qur'an 49:9-10)

Everywhere you look in the world today, there seems to be an injustice of some kind. This can leave us feeling helpless but Islam also provides us with Zakat, an effective way to tackle one of the most prevelant forms of injustice which is economic injustice. Zakat is a form of social justice which involves giving out of our wealth back to the community. Giving Zakat ensures an ethical redistribution of wealth and means that those most in need

are given their due share.

6. THOSE WHO ARE CONSISTENT

The Messenger of Allah # said, "Do good deeds properly, sincerely and moderately and know that your deeds will not make you enter Paradise, and that the most beloved deed to Allah is the most regular and constant even if it were little." [Bukhari]

Technology has made it easy to automate some acts to achieve easy consistency. One way to do this can be to set up regular donations for a cause you care about even if it's a £5 a month direct debit.

Not sure where to donate? Islamic Relief UK offers several causes which you can choose to donate monthly to including providing water, supporting orphans and children or contributing towards a form of sadaqatul jariyah.

7. THOSE WHO DO GOOD (AL-MUHSININ)

Allah provides us with a plethora of opportunities to do good such as kindness to others, feeding others, spreading salaam, forgiving those who wrong us or even saying a good word.

"Who spend [in the cause of Allah]

during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good." (Ouran 3:134)

"And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good." (Ouran 2:195)

"Worship Allah 'alone' and associate none with Him. And be kind to parents, relatives, orphans, the poor, near and distant neighbours, close friends, 'needy' travellers, and those 'bonds people' in your possession. Surely Allah does not like whoever is arrogant, boastful-" (Qur'an 4:36)

8. THE PATIENT (AS-SABIRIN)

Another group of people Allah says He loves, are those who are "steadfast" (Qur'an 3:146) in patience and perseverance.

Ramadan teaches us the importance of sabr in our abstinence from haram (all actions displeasing to Allah) as well as in practising good deeds even when we don't attain any personal benefit from our actions. Sabr can also manifest in mo-

ments of trials and difficulty. This Ramadan, when you find yourself in a difficult situation before resorting to saying or doing anything you might regret, remind yourself of Allah's love for those who are patient and seek His help through duas instead.

9. THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE PROPHET

Say, [O Muhammad], "If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful." (Quran 3:31)

The best way to strive to emulate the way of the Prophet ≝ - and hence earn the love of Allah - is by engaging in actions he # has commanded us:

The Prophet said, "The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people. The most beloved deed to Allah is to make a Muslim happy, or to remove one of his troubles, or to forgive his debt, or to feed his hunger. That I walk with a brother regarding a need is more beloved to me than that I seclude

myself in this mosque in Medina for a month. Whoever swallows his anger, then Allah will conceal his faults. Whoever suppresses his rage, even though he could fulfil his anger if he wished, then Allah will secure his heart on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever walks with his brother regarding a need until he secures it for him, then Allah Almighty will make his footing firm across the bridge on the day when the footings are shaken." [al-Mu'jam al-Awsat 6/139]

"Free the captives, feed the hungry and pay a visit to the sick." [Bukhari]

"He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while his neighbour goes hungry" [Al-Albani]

"Whoever gives food for a fasting person to break his fast, he will have a reward like theirs, without that detracting from their reward in the slightest.' [Darussalam]

"Guard yourself from the Hellfire, even with half of a date in charity. If one cannot find it, then with a kind word." [Bukhari]

Abdullah ibn Mas'ud said, 'I asked the Messenger of Allah #, "Which of the deeds is most beloved to Allah?" The Messenger of Allah said, "Performing the prayer at its prescribed, fixed time.' I asked, "What next?" He replied, "Dutifulness to the parents." I asked, "What next?" He replied, "Jihad (striving) in the Cause of Allah." Had I asked him for more, he would have told me.' [Bukhari]

The Messenger of Allah (*) said, "One of Prophet Dawud's supplications was:

Allahumma inni as'aluka hubbaka, wa hubba man vuhibbuka, wal-'amalalladhi yuballighuni hubbaka. Allahumm-aj'al hubbaka ahabba ilayya min nafsi, wa ahli, wa minal-ma'il-baridi

O Allah! I ask You for Your Love, the love of those who love You, and deeds which will cause me to attain Your Love. O Allah! Make Your Love dearer to me than myself, my family and the cold water." [At- Tirmidhi]

Whatever act you choose, we pray Allah makes it easy for you, accepts it from you and makes you among those who are beloved to Him. Ameen.

Budget 2023-24 To Give Major Infra Push Towards Transforming Power, Road Sectors In J&K

18.36 lakh households to get FHTs, 6000 km roads to be of blacktopped

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: The budget 2023-24 will give a major infrastructural push to four core areas of health, drinking water, power and road connectivity aimed at providing succour to the common people and improving developmental parameters of UT at the national level.

The budget has earmarked funds for providing Functional Household Tap Connections to all 18.36 lakh households of Jammu and Kashmir by 2023-24 with a minimum of 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD) drinking water supply of prescribed quality (confirming to BIS 10500) on a regular, longterm and sustainable basis.

About sixty water supply schemes are likely to be completed during 2023-24. To bring efficiency in planning and revenue collection, the government will introduce digitalization of

consumer records and implementation of an online billing systems in entire Jammu and Kashmir.

The construction of prestigious Tawi Barrage, an artificial lake project which will boost tourism of Jammu city, will be completed during 2023-24.

According to the budget document, 6000 Kilometer of blacktopping of roads is expected to be achieved during 2023-24 under all schemes. Besides,

353 new projects worth Rs 1292 crore have been prioritized to be sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-XXVIII with NABARD funding.

In last year's budget, safety audit of bridges having completed 20 years was completed and now in this budget Safety audit for the bridges having completed 10 years has to be conducted during 2023-24.

J&K government is also putting efforts on maintenance of road/bridge assets and also for road safety measures.

The year 2023-24 will see further Improvement in daily hours of power supply with Urban-24 hours and Rural 22 hours besides a reduction in transformer damage rate, a drop in Transmission and Distribution/Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.

UN to review presence in Afghanistan following Taliban ban

Islamabad: The United Nations said Tuesday it is reviewing its presence in Afghanistan after the Taliban barred Afghan women from working for the world organisation a veiled suggestion the U.N. could move to suspend its mission and operations in the embattled country.

Last week, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers took a step further in restrictive measures they have imposed on women and said that Afghan women employed with the U.N. mission could no longer report for work.

They did not further comment on the ban.

The U.N. said it cannot accept the decision, calling it an unparalleled violation of women's rights.

It was the latest in sweeping restrictions imposed by the Taliban since they seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops were withdrawing from the country after 20 years of war.

The Taliban have banned girls from going to school beyond the sixth grade and women from most public life and work.

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

On City And Cultural

home to Kashmir as a young architect in the early 2000s, the contemporary architectural scene was far from challenging and the scenes of heritage buildings crumbling or being vandalised gradually tip-toed me towards working in this very new profession.

INTACH, Kashmir Chapter was just established at that time and I grabbed the opportunity of being part of the 4-member team that carried out the exhaustive cultural resource mapping of Srinagar city in 2004. The success of this project paved the way for many more conservation projects in Srinagar and this is how I landed into being a full-time conservation practitioner.

Before coming of age, growing up was fun in Kashmir. Given my father's central government service, we travelled a lot and learned a lot from our travelling experience. We were made to observe and analyse things around us at an early age. I was shy but at the same time quite outgoing and had a fair number of neighbourhood friends. Being the 80s kids we would be out on the streets, playing, meeting friends for long hours. Our parents allowed us a degree of independence which greatly shaped my personality and individuality.

As a conservation architect, how do you ensure that the historical integrity of a structure is maintained while making it relevant and functional for contemporary use?

Well, it really depends on what kind of heritage values we are working with. If the project has very high historic and architectural significance then we only preserve it using the best conservation philosophies and standards.

We use minimum intervention and like-forlike philosophy for such projects but if there is room for adapting a heritage building to a new use, after due value assessments, then we definitely allow ourselves to play with the spaces, form and material of the building or precinct and present it as a functional and architectural space ideal for contemporary use.

Since your work involves addressing issues in areas of architecture, historic conservation, and tourism development, can you elaborate on how these areas intersect?

There is a new sector growing very rapidly and it is called cultural heritage tourism. Cultural heritage can be a major economic driver for a place to increase tourism footfall and periods of stay. This has to be tackled very sensitively as large tourist influx can also endanger a historic place.

We work with authorities and prepare proposals for promotion of cultural heritage tourism and focus on specific themes such as heritage circuits, core historic city and vernacular architecture, historic gardens etc.

These projects then get funded under various government schemes and involve components of conservation, refurbishment, adaptive reuse, heritage walks, interpretation etc.

What's the role of heritage conservation in promoting culture tourism in Kashmir?

I think community engagement is very important to achieving any large-scale project successfully. There has to be serious intent on part of authorities. Ad-hoc and quick-fix measures will only give temporary results. Capacity building programs and training workshops of various types and at various levels is also important so that informed project deliveries can take place.

For Kashmir, I strongly believe that impact assessments should be carried out before any project implementation. Derelict/abandoned properties should be adapted to viable enduse to reduce development pressure and improve the public realm and quality of our built

environment.
What specific project stands out in your mind as particularly challenging or rewarding

in your career so far?

All my projects have challenged me and I have tried to give my best to them, be it the conservation of the built elements of the Shalimar Bagh, the conservation of Amar Singh College or the currently ongoing refurbishment of Meeras Mahal Ethnography Museum, but if I have to pick one then I will choose the retrofit of OontKadal (Camel Bridge) in Dal Lake.

This project was very challenging because of the protection status of the Dal Lake and the consequent logistical issues of ferrying men and material to the site across the Lake. There were challenges of strengthening the foundation of the bridge which sat under water. We had to drain out water from around the bridge and secure the site with a temporary bund. We had a small window to carry out as much work as possible during the day as the water from the lake would quickly start seeping in and fill the project site up.

Material damage and pilfering had to be repaired; large and heavy stones had to be ferried inside the lake on a boat, which sometimes would be on the verge of capsizing. Because the project was funded by the German Embassy, we were working around a tight deadline and had to carry out the project in sub-zero

temperatures in the lake which was not easy for our workforce. We also had to prepare special hydraulic lime that had to set under water.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the field of conservation architecture today?

Financial resources, depleting historic material resources and traditional building crafts being slowly replaced by contemporary technologies and material are some of the pressing challenges of the industry. These challenges can be addressed by transfer of traditional building craft knowledge to younger generations through training programs and conducting master classes, documentation of building craft technology is also very important.

The issues of depleting historic building material such as timber can be addressed by using alternate materials and adapting traditional building knowledge to fit contemporary needs. Lack of financial resources can be addressed by raising funds from sources other than the government like private donors, CSR, crowdfunding etc.

I have been myself fortunate to successfully receive generous grants from established international grant-giving organisations. The process is straightforward, you apply on their prescribed format and show the project potential, legacy and prepare a work plan, budget, professional capacity and a detailed methodology. If you can convince the donors, as grants are generally highly competitive, you get the grant. Currently I am trying to raise funds on a crowdfunding platform along with a couple of passionate urban conservationists for a placemaking project in downtown Srinagar for the first time.

What're the biggest threats to heritage sites and buildings in Jammu and Kashmir today?

You have seen how our historic environment was impacted by the catastrophic floods of 2014 and the larger Kashmir region suffered substantial damage during the earthquake of 2005, so these natural hazards and changing climatic patterns and geophysical activities are causing immeasurable damage to our collective heritage.

Apart from this an everyday challenge or threat to cultural heritage is lack of ownership and awareness, vandalism, conflict and potential collateral damage resulting from an escalated event.

What're some of your future goals in architecture and conservation?

Involving youth, communities and artisans and promoting cultural heritage, especially engaging the so-called Gen Z are some of my future goals. Documentation of traditional building crafts is another area I will be focussing on but most importantly I want to work on traditional knowledge, coping mechanisms and urban resilience during, before and after disasters, especially floods.

In more specific terms, my future research will focus on understanding what made the city of Srinagar 'resilient' historically and how much of this knowledge is still relevant and/or in practice today and how we can adapt those mechanisms for meeting today's challenges of disaster risk management, essentially of cultural heritage.

IAF Officer To

has to give an approval on the recommendation of the GCM for sacking of the official.

The sources said the order of the GCM will be put up before the IAF chief after a decision on the case by the court.

The GCM was constituted based on the findings of a Court of Inquiry (CoI) into the incident.

The CoI into the incident found that the Mi17 V-5 helicopter was hit by a ground-based

The probe had found that the 'Identification of Friend or Foe' (IFF) system on-board the helicopter was switched off and there were "vital gaps" in communication and coordination between the ground staff and the crew of the chopper.

It also found violations of standard operating procedures. The IFF helps air defence radars identify whether an aircraft or helicopter is friendly or hostile.

The helicopter crashed in Budgam around 10 am on February 27 when Indian and Pakistani fighter jets were engaged in fierce aerial combat in Nowshera, a day after India's air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot in Pakistan.

MHA To Hold

MHA would like to know the status of preparations for hosting the G-20 dignitaries and the venues where the events would be held. The official said that the meeting will also discuss the status of militancy in J&K and the overall security scenario prevailing in J&K.

He said that the MHA officials would also like to get feedback about the tourist footfall in J&K and its impact on the economy and overall situation. The official said that the meeting would deliberate on the status of militancy, law

and order situation and the progress achieved "thereof in rooting out the terrorism from J&K soil"

Pertinently, DGP Dilbagh Singh recently stated that the number of local as well as foreign militants was at an all time low in J&K and efforts are on to eliminate the remaining militants. He had stated that even though militancy was not over but "it was on the death bed."

Sources in the MHA said that G-20 event preparations will be the primary focus of the MHA meeting followed by security review. Earlier, DGP Dilbagh Singh had told reporters in Srinagar that some G-20 summit are likely to be held in Srinagar. It may be recalled that Srinagar city is going through a major infrastructural revamp under the Smart City Project. Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta recently said Srinagar would have been never better as it is going to be in days ahead. However, it is believed that massive constructions of roads in Srinagar is aimed to ensure further beautification of the city ahead of the G-20 event likely to be held in Srinagar in May.

Soon, Jammu-Srinagar

the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway - the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country.

The tunnel bypasses the most vulnerable stretch of Panthyal in the Ramban district.

The work on the four-laning project started in 2011 and includes a number of small and major tunnels, bridges and flyovers. The project is likely to be completed by the next year after missing several deadlines over the past decade.

Asked about the second tube (T2) of the Kunfer tunnel, he said it will be ready within two months.

The completion of these projects will not only help resolve the issue of traffic jams on the highway to a large extent but will also cut down the distance between different points by several kilometres.

"To ease the travel between Jammu and Srinagar, 3 corridors are being built at a cost of Rs 35,000 crore. Under this, the first corridor from Jammu to Udhampur-Ramban-Banihal and further to Srinagar...," Gadkari said.

This 4-lane road of 250 km length is being

built at a cost of Rs 16,000 crore. Out of this, 4-laning of 210 km route has been completed, including 10 tunnels of 21.5 km, he said.

The minister also said that the government is constructing a multi-model hub of world standard at Katra, the base camp of the cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi.

"It will be an attraction for the world. It has got a beautiful design. We are also going there," he added.

BJP Will Win

election symbol) will bloom," he said on the '...kabr kudegi' remark.

Shah said that the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 or AFSPA has been removed from 70 per cent of the area of Assam, while Bodoland and Karbi Anglong areas are peaceful and the state's border disputes with its neighbouring provinces are being resolved.

"Earlier, Assam was known for 'andolan' (agitation) and 'aatankwad' (terrorism) but now there is peace and people are dancing to the beats of Bihu music," Shah said, while referring to a mega event which will be held in Guwahati on April 14 in which over 11,000 dancers will perform in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah said that under the BJP rule in Assam, over 41,000 have been given employment, 25,000 hectares of land have been earmarked for Bajra Mission, two lakh hectares for palm oil production and 12 lakh families have been provided with handlooms.

He said the BJP government in Assam has already established 12 medical colleges and 12 more are in the pipeline, while Modi will inaugurate AIIMS in the state on the occasion of Rongali Bihu.

"The double-engine government of the BJP under the leadership of PM Modi at the Centre, and Sarbananda Sonowal and later Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assam have led to a pathbreaking development, peace and security in the state." Shah said.

Shah later left the state for New Delhi aboard a flight from Dibrugarh airport.

Govt Sets

completed at an earliest for their convenience. He sought feedback from the participants regarding the needs and requirements vis a vis meeting work completion deadlines.

During the meeting, Bidhuri took detailed work wise status from the concerned Officers and Contractors involved in the respective works. The officers and contractors briefed the Div

Com about the status of the works in hand and also presented timelines of finishing the works. He instructed the concerned to check if there is need of labour component and directed the

Labour Commissioner J&K to provide labour to them to meet the demand. Among others, the meeting was attended by

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC/ CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited, V.C LC&MA, Director Floriculture, Labour Commissioner J&K, SSP Security, SSP Traffic City, C.Es of PW (R&B), PHE (Jal Shakti), I&FC (Jal Shakti), KPDCL Kashmir and other Officers and Officials besides Contractors of works go-

Pertinently, Srinagar is all set to host the third meeting of G20 Tourism Working Group under India's G20 Presidency from May 22 to 24

ing on under G-20 Summit.

G20 brings together 19 of the world' leading economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 percent of global trade and 60 percent of the global population, according to the MEA.

The G20 member nations are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Tourists Throng

the beauty and beautiful moments of Kashmir. These will stay with me," Patra said. For Nikita, who has come up here from Bengaluru, visiting Kashmir only once would not be enough for her. "Kashmir is so beautiful... I think I should be visiting every six months," she said.

Nikita said she has heard from friends that every season in Kashmir has a different charm. "I want to experience all the seasons of Kashmir."

Vishakha, Nikita's sister, feels April is the best time to visit Kashmir as one can enjoy the snow as well as some warm sunshine. "There was no snow in Doodhpathri but the

greenery there is amazing. I love snow and I enjoyed a lot in Sonamarg and Gulmarg," she added.

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed an all-time

high tourist arrivals last year while the numbers have been good this year as well.

"Tourists are coming in good numbers and

our season has just begun. We hope to match the last year's figures, if not exceed them," an official of the Tourism department said.

Not A Single

security forces for this achievement," Bukhari told reporters here.

He said smuggling of narcotics from across the border has emerged as the major challenge rather than the gun.

"Our present challenge is drugs and not guns. The government of India is more mature to decide what should be done or not," Bukhari said.

He was responding to a question about demands from certain quarters for the resumption of cross-border trade in J-K alongside efforts for a "religious corridor" to facilitate pilgrims to visit Sharada Peeth in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Asked about the situation in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370, he said the credit for the restoration of peace in J-K goes to the youth who have chosen peace over war.

"The youth have replied to everybody the neighbour (Pakistan) and the leaders - that we only want peace. They have given a clear-cut message that their rhetoric has no takers," he said, adding "there is peace and it will prevail Insha Allah (god willing)."

On the possibility of assembly elections within the next six months, he said the world exists on hope. "We are ready for the elections and we are the only party that is on its toes since 2020 to reach out to the people."

Lauding the efforts of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in the construction of roads across the country, Bukhari thanked him for sanctioning a tunnel for the Mughal road connecting the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with south Kashmir's Shopian.

He said Gadkari had kept his promise made to the people of J-K in 2015 and requested the minister to set a timeline for the completion of the project

He also demanded the setting up of a task force to monitor the four-laning of Jammu-Srinagar national highway project.

"The road network is important for our economy and tourism sector. We want the minister to continue his generosity towards J-K which really needs his support. Your name will be written in golden letters," Bukhari said.

J&K Clocks

10 from Budgam, seven from Kulgam, six Samba, four each from Udhampur and Kishtwar, three each from Rajouri, Baramulla, Ganderbal, two each from Reasi and Pulwama besides one each from Kathua, Poonch and Bandipora.

There was no death either from Jammu

division or Kashmir valley during the time. So far 4788 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2355 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 52 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—seven from Jammu division and 45 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 471 active cases— 200 in Jammu and 271 in Kashmir.

Woman OGW

shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody," the spokesperson said.

"On their disclosure, arms & ammunition including a Pistol, 02 Pistol Magazines, 05 Pistol rounds and IED (approximately 2kgs) alongwith remote control & other incriminating materials have been recovered," he added

terials have been recovered," he added.

During preliminary questioning, the spokesperson said that the arrested duo revealed that they were working as militant associates with

active militant Abid Qayoom Lone of Wussan.
Accordingly, he said, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pattan and further investigation has been initiated.

VDC Member

with his .303 rifle in the fields near his house and a team of police from Kandi police station has rushed to the spot.

5 Houses Gutted

ever, no loss of human life in the incident," he said. **Temp increases**

fire is yet to be ascertained. There was, how-

6.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C

below normal for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 4.8°C against 4.2°C on the previous night while the tourist resort of Pahalgam recorded a low of

3.0°C against 1.6°C on the previous night. Kokernag recorded a low of 7.7°C against 6.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.6°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.5°C against 3.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 5.2°C against 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 17.4°C against 17.0°C on the previous night. It was 1.8°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 7.0°C (below normal by 1.2°C), Batote 11.5°C (above normal by 1.0°C), Katra 16.0°C (0.5°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 7.4°C (0.4°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 2.0°C and 2.5°C respectively, he added. (GNS)

5 Members Of

an absconding kingpin woman, whose family is also involved in the drug abuse trade and is lodged in different jails in multiple cases. "Besides the lady, four others have also been arrested in this module," he said.

He said that on March 01, the police during a naka at Tarzoo held two persons identified as Tanveer Ahmed Shah and Javaid Ahmed Shah of Sopore along with 3512 tablets of Spasmoproxyvon plus tablets. "During the investigation, they revealed the name of another person who is involved in selling drugs in and around Sopore. The arrested person was identified as Amir Sadeeq Parra of Chandoosa Baramulla. On his personal search, 112 tablets were recovered," he said.

SSP Sopore said during further investigation, the names of two kingpins identified as Urooj, daughter of Mohammad Muzzafar Bhat of Batapora Sopore and her boyfriend Mohammad Ashraf Mir, son of Late Farooq Ahmed Mir of Hathishah Sopore, also surfaced. "The duo was involved in supplying drugs from outside the valley to Sopore and other areas. On the confession of the arrested persons, we managed to arrest the duo from Srinagar outskirts along with 1648 capsules. With their arrest, we have managed to bust a major interstate module," he said.

state module," he said.

About Urooj, the kingpin, the SSP said, "Her whole family is involved in the drug trade and have multiple cases registered against them, while her father Mohammad Muzzafar Bhat has 8 cases and is lodged at Delhi Central Jail, her brother Yawer Ahmed Bhat has 15 cases and is currently lodged at Kot Bhalwal Jail Jammu. Yawer has been recently booked under PSA as well. Her mother Afreena Begum has one case against her and was recently bailed

out after a few years."

Meanwhile, a case FIR No 07/2023 U/S 8/22-29 NDPS Act has been registered in Police Station Bomai. "We are collecting the details and the investigation has been taken up. More arrests are likely," the SSP said—(KNO)

Congress Singularly Responsible For All Mess In J&K: Devender Rana

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday accused the Congress of murdering democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, and said it "singularly responsible" for all the "mess and uncertainty" in the Union Territory.

He said holding assembly elections is a prerogative of the Election Commission but his party is ready round-the-year for the democratic exercise.

The BJP firmly believes, he said, it would emerge victorious with a strong mandate owing to "propeople" policies of the party and the "restoration of peace and rule of law" in the Union Territory.

"The BJP is promise-bound to work for the welfare of people and safeguard their interests. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's August 5, 2019 decision, J-K is marching on the path of development," Rana told reporters at the party headquarters here, talking about the abrogation of Article 370 and withdrawal of J-K's special status.

He said Jammu and Kashmir will emerge as an important state in north India in the next five years.

Peace and normalcy have returned to J-K and every region and every section of the society is getting their rights, he said. "India is on the path of becoming the world leader and J&K will be its bright star."

As far as Assembly elections in J and K are concerned, Rana

said, it is a decision for the Election Commission of India, which is an autonomous body, to take and there is no role of any political party in it.

"The BJP is always ready for elections round-the-year and will emerge with a strong mandate whenever the polls are held because of the pro-people measures taken by the party which have brought a change on the ground," he said.

Asked about the opposition parties' claims that the BJP is unwilling to hold polls in the UT as it has lost ground due its "antipeople" policies, he said, those making such remarks have lost their credibility and are responsible for all the mess and uncertainty in J&K.

"Who are they? The Congress which I believe is responsible for the murder of democracy in J&K. It is the party which is singularly responsible for the present day situation in J&K," he said.

The BJP leader hailed Lt Governor Manoj Sinha-led administration for taking care of the public interests and said whenever the party raised any issue of public importance with him, he responded in a positive manner.

"Federation of Industries and other trade bodies raised an issue of J&K Power Development Corporation planning another power tariff hike with the party recently. They submitted a memorandum stating that there has been a 25 to 38 percent increase in electricity charges and one more hike will harm the industrial sector.

3 Union Ministers, LG Pay **Obeisance At Vaishno Devi Shrine**



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Jitendra Singh and V K Singh along with Lt Governor Manoi Sinha paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

Gadkari, the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, is currently on a two-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir to review

various highway projects. On reaching Reasi after inspecting and inaugurating several projects on Jammu-Srinagar national highway, Gadkari, accompanied by the two other union ministers and the Lt Governor, visited the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi

cials said. Gadkari is also scheduled to inspect the inter-modal railway station at Katra.

and offered prayers, the offi-

Ring Road Affected People Meet Nitin Gadkari

DDC Chairman Budgam Leads The Delegation



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The affected farmers and people of Srinagar Ring Road from district Budgam on Monday evening met with Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in Srinagar.

The delegation was led by Chairman District Development Council Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan. Social Activist Dr Raja Muzaffar also accompanied Nazir Ahmad Khan along with representatives of Land Owners Welfare Committee Srinagar Semi Ring Road.

"Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that assessment for land compensation has to be done by the local administration and we are ready to pay the money. He said that he would still look into the issue and make sure farmers won't suffer and would be adequately compensated. I also raised issue of alternate road to Poonch via Arizal and I got assurance Dr Raja Muzaffar

that it would be surveyed next year by Govt of India" said Nazir Ahmad Khan

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat who was also accompanying the delegation hailed the efforts of Nitin Gadkari by making concrete roads across India especially Maharashtra. He urged the Union Minister to create similar infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir and also pay fair compensation to the affected people of the Srinagar Ring Road project.

" I asked the Union Minister that payment be paid as per central law which is applicable in J&K post 370. We also urged him to not to change the alignment of the Ring Road in Mamath area of Budgam and issue notification under central law like LARR or National Highway Act 1956 for land acquisition in Rakh Shalina, Pampore and Mamath areas. He marked our representation and said he would take up the issue with LG Manoj Sinha as well" said

No Need To Panic About Current Covid Spike: Experts To CS

Genome Sequencing Labs Established In Both Cities

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: In a meeting with health experts, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta was on Tuesday assured that there is no need to panic in view of the little spike in Covid-19 cases reported across the UT recently.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Health; Director SKIMS; Principals of Medical Colleges and Heads of Medicine and Microbiology of Medical Colleges; Directors of Health Services Kashmir/ Jammu besides other experts from the Medical field.

Dr Mehta enjoined upon all these health experts to take all the necessary measures to tackle any issues that may arise fully. He asked them to perform the precautionary testing of individuals as per the set protocols and not to resort to either under testing or over testing in the health facilities. He impressed upon them to create ample awareness among public so that no unnecessary scare is created among them.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized on taking stock of medicines and other paraphernalia beforehand so that people are served better. He asked the department to give booster doses to the vulnerable groups like elderly and persons with comorbidity. He also directed them for encouraging people to observe the Covid appropriate behavior for safety of all.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary directed for constituting a three member committee under Director SKIMS with Principals of Government Medical Colleges of Jammu and Srinagar as members for working out a standard protocol for treatment of patients across the health facilities of I&K for various ailments.

He also urged the commit-



further asked them to frame a mechanism in consonance with the hospitals in other regions regarding a policy for taking off days in lieu of night duty and working of medics. He also asked the Department to ensure that various wings in all hospitals must follow an inclusive approach with respect to all doctors working in the wing for ensuring equitable opportunities and due process of consultations in management of patients.

The Secretary Health informed the meeting that currently there is no ICU bed occupancy related to covid in the health facilities of the UT. He made out that the testing capacity of J&K has been augmented by many folds. He made out that the full Genome Sequencing facility has been started at SKIMS recently and other at GMC Jammu shall be started soon. He also revealed that every sample of a positive person is sent for its genome analysis as per the GoI guidelines.

The Secretary apprised the meeting that Mock Drills were conducted in 162 health facilities across the UT on 10th April to ensure Operational Readiness for management of CO-VID at all identified dedicated facilities including GMCs/ DHs and CHCs with specific focus on Oxygen Plants (LMO/ PSA/ Manifold), Ventilators, Logistics & Human Resources.

He gave out that the covid vaccination doses given in the age groups of 18 years & Above, 15-17 years and 12-14 years in the UT are above that of the National Average which is quiet an encouraging affair. He ascertained that there is no reason to worry and only caution can evade its possible implications.

Moreover the health experts also gave their suggestions regarding the current scenario and preparedness of J&K UT. They informed that the virus is not so lethal this time although the spread may be faster. They advised people to only take precautions so that they keep themselves safe as well as others.

It was revealed that J&K has identified around 3000 Covid beds, 1966 isolation beds, and 330 ICU beds in its hospitals. It has a capacity to generate 1,14,366 LPM of oxygen from its 154 plants. The UT also has 4 CBNAAT, 15 TRUENAT labs in its hospitals to generate tests more accurately and expeditiously.

Soz Slams Azad For 'Extreme Act Of Disloyalty' To Cong

Says Former CM Seen Moving Closer To BJP

NEW DELHI: In the wake of Ghulam Nabi Azad's strident criticism of the Congress, party veteran Saifuddin Soz on Tuesday said Azad cannot convince the people that he was justified in his "extreme act of disloyalty" to the party.

Azad is seen moving closer to the BJP to cause division of votes when elections take place, he said.

Coinciding with the launch of his autobiography, Azad has been giving a series of interviews, slamming the Congress leadership and the party.

In an interview with Malayalam News channel Asianet News, Azad, referring to the Gandhi family, said, "The entire family has associations with businessmen, including him (Rahul). I can give you 10 examples of where he would go even outside the country to meet people who are undesirable businessmen."

gress has said that with every passing day, Azad falls to new depths to demonstrate his "true character" and his loyalty to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a statement, Soz. a Congress veteran from Kashmir, said he feels sad about Azad showing himself in poor light at the fag end of his political career.

"The feeling is widespread that Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad deserted the Congress party, at last, which had bestowed upon him so many honours, all through his career. The general run of people, especially the people in Jammu and Kashmir, assert the fact that Mr. Azad cannot convince the people that he was justified for this extreme act of disloyalty to the Congress." Soz said.

The other public reaction is that Azad is seen moving closer to the BJP and his participation in electoral politics will cause division of votes, particularly result in indirect support to the BJP, the former Union minister said. "This seems to be an organized effort." Soz said ultimately the Congress will not suffer any setback as the people think that Azad's action constitutes "extreme disloyalty" to the party which had accorded dignified positions to him all through his political career.

"People also feel that Mr. Azad's action against the Congress has come at a time when the party is leading the campaign against fascist forces in Îndia," he said.

The common people's feeling is that Azad's political stature has received a "setback" which can never be repaired, Soz said.

Azad will soon start feeling the affects of social and political wilderness of "unimaginable proportions", he said.

After quitting the Congress, Azad formed his Democratic Progressive Azad Party.

SCERT Rolls Out New Syllabus, Academic Calendar For 2023-24 Session

Syllabus Marks A Shift From Rote To Competency-Based Learning: Official

Farooq Shah

SRINAGAR: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has developed and designed a comprehensive "Syllabus cum Academic Calendar" for the academic session 2023-24, which includes the foundational stage, and the classes 1 to 8 in the schooling system of Jammu and Kashmir.

The syllabus is in accordance with the latest guidelines and instruction manuals issued by NCERT, New Delhi, and is aligned with the NEP-2020 to improve the quality of education, which aims to shift from rote learning to competency and experiential-based learning.

After four months of rigorous effort by experts from NCERT and SCERT, the new syllabus maps the learning outcomes with the contents of the prescribed textbooks of J&K Board of School Education.

In a remarkably short amount of time, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory to create such a comprehensive document, outpacing all other states and union territories in the country. The exercise took place under

the guidance of Prof Parikhshat Singh Manhas, the Director of SCERT, and Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, the Joint Director of the Central Move Office, a group of academic officers and resource persons from the Assessment Cell of the Education

Research Survey and Assessment (ERSA) Division of SCERT.

The syllabus aims to enhance the quality of education in Jammu and Kashmir by shifting the focus from rote learning to competency-based and experiential learning. The syllabus is in sync with the latest guidelines and instruction manuals issued by the NCERT, New Delhi, and is aligned with the NEP-2020.

The syllabus aims to provide teachers with the flexibility to plan their classroom activities for success in the 21st century.

in a meaningful and productive manner, keeping in mind the Learning Outcomes suggested by the NCERT and NEP-2020.

"The Learning Outcomes are a set of expected knowledge, skills, and values that students should acquire at the end of each class or level," Joint Di-rector, Central Move Office, Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, said. "These Learning Outcomes are designed to ensure that students have a holistic development and are prepared for the challenges

of the 21st century." The syllabus, he said, emphasizes the importance of inclusive education and provides teachers with the knowledge and skills to create an inclusive classroom environment.

"Inclusive education refers to an educational approach where all students, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, are provided with equal opportunities to learn and succeed," Fayaz said. "The syllabus provides teachers with diverse material and non-material resources to make inclusive education a reality. These resources include tactile diagrams/maps, talking books, audio-visual materials, Braille, etc.'

For children with special needs (CWSN), the syllabus emphasizes importance of providing appropriate sources and The support. syllabus provides teachers ance on how

to use these re-

sources to support the learning needs of CWSN. These resources are designed to ensure that CWSN have equal opportunities to

learn and succeed. The document is available in parts on the website of the SCERT for easy access by teachers, students, and parents.

With the introduction of the new syllabus, it is hoped that it will enhance the quality of education in Jammu and Kashmir, and help students develop the skills and competencies needed

DC Kulgam Reviews Arrangements For Baisakhi Festival



Observer News Service

KULGAM: To review and finalize arrangements for Baisakhi festival a meeting of officers and members of Gurdwara Prabhadhak Committee Palpora, was on Tuesday held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Mini-Secretariat Kulgam.

The meeting finalized arrangements of safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, first-aid, sanitation and other related arrangements.

The DC instructed the Officers of Jal Shakti and KPDCL to provide uninterrupted power and water supply to Palpora area during the days of festival.

KPDCL authorities were also instructed to repair defunct high mast lights in Palpora area. District heads of various de-

partments were given directions to ensure fool-proof arrangements pertaining to their respective departments.

The meeting was attended by ADDC. Showkat Ahmad Rather. ADC Vigar Ahmed Giri, Tehsildar Devsar, BDO Devsar and other officers besides President and members of Gurdwara Prabhadhak committee Palpora.

To Accelerate MSME Growth, J&K Bank Signs MoU With CIMSME

We Have Robust Numbers To Back Our Commitment Towards MSME Growth In The Country: MD & CEO Baldev Prakash

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Forging partnership with Chamber of Indian Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (CIMSME) to accelerate growth of manufacturing enterprises, J&K Bank today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the country's apex chamber of MSMEs that represents their interests and issues with the Government and various Regulators while being active participant in MSME related policymaking.

General Manager (Corporate Banking/MSME/Agriculture) Ashutosh Sareen signed the MoU on behalf of the Bank, while as, President Mukesh Mohan Gupta put in his signatures representing CIMSME in presence of MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General

Manager Narjay Gupta, Director (CIMSME) Subhash Joinwal, DGMs and other senior Bank officials. Bank's Divisional Heads also joined the function through VC Mode.

While lauding the role of CIMSME in promotion of MSMEs, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash expressed pleasure over the signing of MoU. He said, "As a responsible financial institution we understand that MSME sector plays a critical role in fostering entrepreneurship and generates huge employment opportunities thereby contributing greatly to the country's GDP. Moreover, MSME lending is profitable for banking industry and we need to translate this MoU into solid business growth especially in the rest of India because this is the sector which complements the

large industries in the form of subsidiary units that are vital to the entire eco-system."

"J&K Bank has always been on the forefront of creating employment opportunities and we have robust numbers to back our commitment towards encouraging the MSME growth in the country. There has been a growth of 440% in the number of Bank's MSME accounts during the last six years while as the credit exposure to the sector has witnessed 232% increase from Rs 4768 Cr to Rs

15872 Cr.", he added. Asserting that MSME sector will bolster economy of the UT and the country alike, MD said, "We will ensure that bankable leads generated by the CIMSME are processed in a time bound

Speaking on the occasion, Pres-

ident (CIMSME) Mukesh Mohan Gupta said, "We feel honoured for J&K Bank's acceptance of our request for the tie up. Having J&K Bank on board is great boost for us that will eventually help MSME sector a great deal."

Citing the lack of awareness about various MSME schemes and processes to avail the facilities, he stressed upon the need to educate lenders particularly at operational levels and borrowers of this sector. He further added, "We will soon be coming up with a web portal for ease of both MSME lenders and borrowers."

Director, Sudhir Executive Gupta said that signing of the MOU with the apex chamber is akin to forging a partnership that will go a long way in promoting the culture of enterprise across

the country while adding to the Bank's business profile.

Earlier, GM Ashutosh Sareen said that under the tie-up CIMSME will not only source the MSME/Start-up proposals across the country but will conduct due diligence of these proposals as per the Bank policy and RBI Guidelines. And once CIMSME is satisfied with the financials and track records of the company/ firm, the leads will be shared with the Bank for further pro-

Notably, the Bank provided benefits of employment to around 92000 youth till March 2023, under the J&K Government's flagship programmes 'Back to Village 4.0' and 'My Town My Pride' – a feat that has been hailed by the UT Government and people alike.



AIFF Prez Meets J&K LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The President of All India Football Federation Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran met J&K LG Manoj Sinha during their official visit to Srinagar on Monday, April 10, 2023, and discussed the development of football in the state.

The two senior officials of the AIFF also held a series of meetings with various stakeholders of local football, including district associations, clubs, academies, former players, coaches, referees, senior officers of the J&K Sports

Council and the local administration. They also visited the renovated Bakshi Stadium.

"Considering the immense potential of football in J&K, which has produced many top footballers in the past, the AIFF has decided to collaborate with the local administration here to initiate projects which would unearth talents and develop the best among them through the Centre of Excellence. We will also do everything to develop a competitive structure that would encourage regular participation of local youths in foot-

Inter-School TT, Chess & Carrom Competitions Held At Bijbehara

Observer News Service

BIJBEHARA: The Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Bijbe-

organized Inter School Zonal Level competitions in Table Tennis, Chess and Carrom on Tuesday at Govt. Boys Model Higher Secondary School Bijbehara for U-14 and U-17 age group boys.

ferent schools of Zone Bijbehara participated in the compettions.

In the U-14 Table Tennis, GMS Samthan emerged Winner and GMS Kanelwon was the Runner Up. While in U-17 Table Tennis, HSS Veeri was the Winner while HSS Arwani came Runner Ups.

In the U-14 Carrom, MS Nowpora emerged as Winner and GMS HP Tawaila was the Runner Up. In U-17 Carrom, HS



Almost 180 students from dif- Marhama emerged as Winner and HS HP Bagh was the Run-

In the U-14 Chess, HSS Jablipora emerged as Winner and BMS Gadiseer came Runner Ups. In U-17 Chess, HSS Marhama was the Winner, while HSS Veeri emerged as Runner Up.

IPL: RR Face Chepauk 'Test' Against CSK



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The in-form dynamic opening Rajasthan Royals pair of Jos Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal will face a quality 'Spin Test' on a tricky Chepauk pitch when they lock horns with some world-class shortformat tweakers in the Chennai Super Kings line-up in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

The England white-ball skipper and his young Indian partner have both scored a couple of half-centuries each and that too at healthy strikerates -- 180.95 for Buttler and 164.47 for Jaiswal.

But in the three games that Royals have played so far, two were in Guwahati, which was the flattest batting deck amongst all the venues. The Hyderabad track was also loaded heavily in favour of

And, suddenly, they come to Chennai where the ball can grip and also get slower as the match progresses. The toss is

always an important factor in Chennai as chasing anything above 170 to 175 could be a risky proposition.

Especially, when Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja and Mitchell Santner are operating at the Chepauk and might bowl 10, if not 12, overs between them. Matches can be won and lost

The three seasoned CSK campaigners have taken 11 wickets between them in three games but, more importantly, their economy rate has been very impressive.

But by no means Royals' spinners could be taken lightly as the wily 'Cricket Scientist' Ravichandran Ashwin has played all his cricket at this very ground and the intelligent Yuzvendra Chahal can outfox any batter on a given day. Add the other Tamil Nadu spinner Murugan Ashwin in the mix and CSK will also have their own set of challenges.

However, CSK will be miss-

ing Deepak Chahar, who is expected to be out of the tournament due to recurrence of a left hamstring injury.

Whether Dhoni prefers the erratic but pacey Rajvardhan Hangargekar or the incisive Simarjeet Singh will be a big question.

On the batting front, the vastly experienced Ajinkya Rahane showed he too could score quickly on his CSK debut as the team turned in a strong performance with spinners Jadeja and Santner doing a

Add the good run of Ruturaj Gaikwad at the top of the order and CSK do have a formidable batting line-up. But they would be up against an equally well-endowed Royals team.

It promises to be an interesting battle on the morrow with the two sides boasting of a strong batting unit, and the onus would be on the bowlers to seize the moment.

Match starts at 7.30 PM

Chennai, Kolkata Could Be **Pakistan's Preferred WC Venues**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Pakistan cricket team would prefer playing bulk of its 2023 ODI World Cup matches in Chennai and Kolkata -- the two venues where the team has felt safe during its earlier tours, according to ICC

The World Cup will start tentatively on October 5, with 46 matches, including final set to be played across 12 Indian cities, including Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mumbai, Rajkot, Bengaluru, Delhi, Indore, Guwahati and Hyderabad, Dharamasala. It is understood that discussions are currently on at the ICC level as Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) bigwigs are in talks with a top level ICC executive on the issue, which

still remains a sensitive one. "A lot will depend on what BCCI and the Indian government best chance to earn optimum profits but the Narendra Modi Stadium is already hosting the final, so another venue might

host the game. Each team will play nine games at the league stage which will be held in round-robin format.

Pakistan Could Lose USD 3M If It Skips Asia Cup: PCB Chief Najam Sethi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Najam Sethi has said that it stands to lose around USD 3 million in revenues from the tournament if the country refuses to play in the Asia Cup this year.

Sethi said that Pakistan was willing to bear this loss of revenue as it was "a matter of principle" as far as the hosting rights of the Asia Cup are concerned.

"We have made it very clear that unless the Asia Cup is held



decide but given a choice, Pakistan will like to play most of its World Cup matches in Kolkata and Chennai.

'In Kolkata, Pakistan played its T20 World Cup game against India in 2016 and the players were very happy with the security. Similarly, Chennai as a venue remains memorable for Pakistan. It's also about feeling safe at specific venues," a source close to ICC Board, tracking developments, told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The bone of contention will be the India versus Pakistan game. While Ahmedabad with 1,32,000 capacity gives ICC, the on a hybrid model like we have proposed, that is India playing its matches at an offshore venue and Pakistan hosting the remaining games at home we will not accept any other schedule and neither play," he said. Pakistan is due to host the

Asia Cup in September but uncertainty surrounds the venue of the tournament as India has made it clear it can't play in Pakistan. Sethi has proposed a "hybrid

model" to host the Asia Cup where India will play its matches at an offshore venue. "We will not lose our hosting

rights," he added.

