

Gangster, Police Officer Killed In Kathua Shootout

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A police sub-inspector and a wanted criminal were killed and a special police officer was injured in a gunfight on the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital premises in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, officials said on Wednesday.

Sharma (32), who was posted at the Ramgarh (Samba) police station, suffered head injuries during the encounter that broke out on Tuesday evening outside the main hospital building in Kathua and subsequently, succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital in Pathankot, the officials said, adding that Special Police Officer (SPO) Anil Kumar (40) also sustained



injuries in the incident.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of officials went after gangster Vasudev, a key accused in a murder case registered at the Ramgarh police station, leading to an exchange of fire near the GMC hospital around 10:30 pm on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said.

Vasudev was | More on P6

Every Drop Of Blood Will Be Avenged: LG

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said his administration is committed to create a "fear-free" Jammu and Kashmir as he paid tributes to police Sub-Inspector Deepak Sharma who died in an encounter with gangsters in Kathua district. A wanted gangster was also killed and a Special Police Officer (SPO) injured in the gunfight which took place late Tuesday night inside a hospital premises when police tried to arrest them. | More on P6

6 THE JAMMU POLICE HAS TAKEN ITS FIGHT against narcotics and gangsters to a new level in the recent past.... We will go at it hammer and tongs to finish the menace as attempts are being made to set up a Punjab-type criminal syndicate."

LG Calls For Improved Pilgrim Experience, Green Initiatives At SMVDSB Meeting

Asks Officials To Plan New Temples For Reasi District

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday emphasized for evolving a robust pilgrim-feedback mechanism, conventional and innovative means, for fostering continuous improvement in the services being provided by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB). The LG chaired the 72nd Board Meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhawan.

The Board reviewed the progress of its various past decisions, progress of different developmental initiatives and held extensive deliberations



on crucial aspects of pilgrim facilitation, ratified and gave in-principle approvals to as many as 27 agenda items to augment pilgrim services and to ensure smooth functioning of the Board.

Early start of heli-service in the Jammu-Panchhi sector and Medical College of the

Board at Kakryal, construction of different buildings in various Sectors aimed at augmenting capacities etc. were the major decisions taken at the meeting.

The Board observed that direct helicopter service between Jammu Airport and Panchhi Helipad on the Shrine

track will not only bolster emergency response capabilities but also improve pilgrimage experience of devotees.

The LG, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, reviewed the progress of on-going works and emphasized on timely completion of all projects for the ease of pilgrimage. The important projects in this regard were 'New Vaishnavi Bhawan at the shrine', 'Cottages (near Sports Stadium), Katra', 'Staff Quarters (G+2) at Banganga', 'Covered Holding Area at Adhkuwari', 'Yatri Facilitation Centre at Railway Station, Katra', | More on P6

Wet Spell Likely On April 5: MeT

Agencies

Srinagar: As a weak Western Disturbance (WD) affected Jammu & Kashmir, a few areas in the higher reaches including Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora received fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains of the valley on Wednesday.

Srinagar also received rains in the later afternoon hours, bringing down the mercury here.

Against Tuesday's 21.4 degree Celsius, the maximum temperature in Srinagar settled at 17.1 degree Celsius on Wednesday, the officials in the Meteorological department (MeT) said.

The maximum temperature also plummeted in other places including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kokernag, Kupwara and other areas compared to yesterday. Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad | More on P6

Electricity Woes To Become Major Poll Plank For Parties In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, electricity has emerged as a crucial election issue and is set to become the major poll plank for the parties in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Despite ongoing efforts to bolster the power infrastructure, dissatisfaction simmers among over 20 lakh consumers, signaling widespread discontentment that political parties are poised to exploit in the upcoming elections.



The palpable frustration stems from the sluggish progress in rectifying the ailing electricity infrastructure, with rural areas bearing the brunt of dilapidated transformers,

poles, and wires. While urban regions witness a semblance of progress, rural locales grapple with prolonged power outages during peak seasons, exacerbating the daily struggles of residents.

Over the past decade, various initiatives under the Prime Minister's Development Program, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, and the Integrated Power Development Scheme have injected substantial funds into power infrastructure enhancements. | More on P6

J&K HC Freezes Draftsman Appointments

Orders Review of Qualification Rules

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday barred the government from carrying out any selection or appointment to the post of Draftsman until it frames rules regarding the same to settle the controversy surrounding it "once and for all".

1 & 2 (UT through Public Works R & B Department & Principal Secretary to government Jal Shakti Department) are directed to constitute



a team of experts for examining the minimum qualification prescribed for the post of draftsman in terms of Recruitment Rules of 1997, with respect to its term and field of diploma of the candidates, in its right perspective," a | More on P6

PDP, NC To Contest Against Each Other On 3 LS Seats

NC Left No Door Open For PDP: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The PDP and the National Conference -- the two INDIA bloc partners in Jammu and Kashmir -- will be taking on each other on the three Lok Sabha seats in the valley.

Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP accused National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah of leaving them "no option".

Abdullah, however, hit back saying the PDP was going back on the understanding reached between the constituents of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the District Development Council (DDC) elections in 2020. Mufti told reporters here that the NC has left



her party with no other option other than to contest the election on the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir. "They (NC) have left no option for us other than to field candidates and contest the elections," Mufti said.

The party's parliamentary board would take a final call on the candidates, she added.

While holding talks with the Congress on seat-sharing in J-K, the NC had made it clear that they will be contesting the three valley seats as they had won these in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The NC left two seats in Jammu for the Congress as part of the INDIA bloc's seat-sharing agreement.

Mufti said the need of the hour for the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir was to remain united after the Centre revoked the erstwhile state's special status in August 2019.

"Youth are in jails, we cannot raise our voices, even the family members of employees cannot say anything. There is an atmosphere of oppression here. So, in such an atmosphere, it is imperative for us to stand united," she said.

The former J-K chief minister, however, said the attitude of the NC leadership was disappointing and hurtful.

"When the INDI alliance's meeting took place in Mumbai, I said there that since | More on P6

Dr Farooq Won't Contest LS Polls

National Conference president and sitting MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah would not contest the Lok Sabha polls owing to his health, the party said on Wednesday. The announcement was made by his son and NC vice president Omar Abdullah at a party function in Rawalpura on the outskirts of the city here. "He (Farooq Abdullah) has taken permission from (party's general secretary) (Ali Mohammad) Sagar and other party members to not contest the polls this time because of his health," Omar Abdullah said. | More on P6

Contesting To Fight For J&K Statehood: Azad



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: DPAP founder Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said he has decided to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls to carry on his fight for the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and for the protection of land and job rights of its residents.

Azad, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, will contest

the Lok Sabha polls from Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) announced on Tuesday.

Azad left the Congress in 2022, ending his five-decade-long association with the party, and floated the DPAP.

"There are speculations that statehood will be restored in Jammu and Kashmir but on the pattern of Delhi and | More on P6

Triangular Fight In Offing In Udhampur



Jammu: BJP leader and Union minister Jitendra Singh is seeking to retain the Udhampur seat for the third time while the Congress has pitted Choudhary Lal Singh, who is facing ED heat in a money laundering case.

The entry of former minister G M Saroori on the ticket of his Democratic Azad Party (DPAP) has made it a three-cornered contest.

Though there are 12 candidates in the fray, the real fight is between the BJP candidate and his Congress rival.

Jitendra Singh had retained the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in 2019, defeating Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh, the grandson of erstwhile Maharaja Hari Singh, by a margin of 3,53,272 votes. Lal Singh only got 19,049 votes. | More on P6

NC, Congress Put Up United Face

The National Conference and Congress party put up a united face on Wednesday for Udhampur Parliamentary constituency | More on P6



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Srinagar | Thursday | 04-04-2024

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Chief Executive Officer PDA Pahalgam

Email: ceopdapahalgam@gmail.com Fax No: 01936243049

GIST OF FRESH E-BIDDING AUCTION NOTICE

E-bidding auction Notice No. 04/PDA/GeM/e-auction of 2024 Dated 02/04/2024

Pursuant to the decisions taken in the Provincial Level Outsourcing Committee held on 15-02-2024 and 01/04/2024, under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism Kashmir, For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, e-bidding notice through GeM (Government e- Market Place) Portal is hereby issued for out-sourcing of Operation & Management of various assets on license basis of Pahalgam Development Authority. The complete details of the assets to be out sourced, as per bedding event schedule mentioned in the Annexure A to this notice.

Terms and conditions:

- 1. The bidding document consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, rates terms and conditions etc. can be seen /downloaded from the GeM portal on gem.gov.in
2. The interested participants are required to register themselves in GeM forward e-auction as per process and guidelines provided in the GeM. In case of any queries related to registration and participation in bidding process, bidders may send the same by e-mail to helpdesk-ge@gov.in
3. Only registered and eligible bidders can participate in the e-bidding process and intending participants (bidders) shall finish the below mentioned documents through online mode on GEM Portal. However, the uploaded documents shall be 300 dpi or above and clearly readable. The un readable, ambiguous documents shall not be entertained. The bidders who fulfill the Prequalification/eligibility criteria shall only be eligible to participate in the e-bidding process and e-auction shall be finalized by the Competent Authority. The eligibility criteria / Pre-qualification of the bidders shall be as under:
i. The bidder shall furnish latest GST Clearance for the year 2023-24.
ii. The bidder shall furnish Income Tax Return (UR) latest filed in 2023-24.
iii. The bidder shall furnish valid PAN card.
iv. The bidder shall furnish valid A dhar Card.
v. The bidder shall upload bid-declaration certificate as per enclosed proforma B
4. The bidders shall be allowed to participate in e-bidding process through GeM portal only after uploading the required documents mentioned in above pre-qualification criteria and EMD in the shape of CDR/ FDR drawn from any recognized / nationalized Bank, pledged to Accounts Officer Pahalgam Development Authority, as shown against each asset in the Annexure "A"
5. The bidder who intentionally/unintentionally posts a financial bid which is absurdly/anomalous on a higher side and might hamper the bidding process, the same will be rejected and even the bidder can be debarred from further participation during the bidding without any bearing on the ongoing process to ensure smooth conduct of auction.
6. The Bids below the reserve bid amount shall not be entertained at all and the offered rates should be clearly mentioned in Indian Rupees. The offered bid amount shall be inclusive of all Taxes, duties, etc. complete.
7. The conditional and ambiguous bids shall not be entertained and shall be rejected out rightly.
8. The bids / offers shall remain valid for 60 days from the last date of online submission of bids.
9. All bidders shall be personally responsible for correctness / genuineness of bids / documents submitted through GeM Portal. However, in case at any time it is found that the documents / information submitted by any bidder are erroneous / incorrect or the information submitted is incorrect the necessary action against the defaulter shall be taken by the Department under rules and admissible penalty shall be imposed against him and shall render him disqualified.
10. The GeM / Pahalgam development Authority shall not be held responsible for consequential damages such as no internet connection, no power supply, system problems, power interruption etc.
11. The interested parties can inspect the sites (Assets) before participating in the e-bidding process to determine the conditions of the assets and the physical position of the assets shall stand on "As is where is, whatever is there" basis. As such, no addition, alteration rectification in the asset would be entertained by the Department during, after bidding process or dur-

ing the period of contract.

12. The period of out sourcing shall be 03 years, but keeping into consideration the investment to be made by the contractors for up gradation, operation and maintenance of the assets the allotments shall be extendable to further 02 years totaling 05 years only, subject to satisfactory management of the assets and handling of tourists by the allottee as per tourist trade Act and terms and conditions of the contract. The Annual bid for extended period i.e. 4th and 5th year shall be increased by compounded 10% per Annum as per the offered bid amount.

13. The HI successful bidder(s) shall be bound to maintain the payment schedule and shall deposit the offered bid amount as per following schedule to Pahalgam development Authority. In case of failure, the Pahalgam development authority shall be at liberty to make alternative arrangements to run the facility at the risk and cost of the defaulter bidder and his deposited sum / CDRs shall be forfeited.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Total %/age of offered bid amount, Time Line. Rows include Starting year 2024-25, 2nd year 2025-26, 3rd year 2026-27.

14. The Pahalgam Development Authority shall not be responsible for any kind of loss to the revenue sustained by the allottee due to hartals, blockade of roads or any natural disaster beyond the control of Pahalgam dev. Authority.

15. The allottee will be allowed to charge the parking, entry fee as per the approved rates / tariff schedule duly mentioned against each asset in the Annexure A and the same shall remain valid during the period of contract. The allottee shall ensure displaying of approved rate list at ticket counters. Any violation to the approved rates shall invite termination of contract and forfeiture of CDR besides taking action as per law.

16. For specially disabled persons/ Orphan schools' entry to all parks and parking places to be out sourced will be free on the production of authorization of Pahalgam development Authority.

17. The contractors shall deposit all applicable taxes, Electric fees, water fees, sanitation charges, watch and ward including maintenance and operation charges of the assets at his own in addition to his offered bid amount.

18. The Chief Executive Officer PDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof and in case of any dispute between PDA and the party (s) the decision of Director Tourism Kashmir shall be final and binding upon all.

19. The detailed terms, conditions, Rates, Specifications can be seen/ downloaded on gem.gov.in on the schedule of dates mentioned in Annexure A.

Tariq Hussain (JKAS)
Chief Executive Officer PDA Pahalgam

No: EE/PDA/ESTS/CEO/PDA/EST/25
DIPK-NB-16/24 Dated: 03-04-2024

Fresh E-bidding Auction Notice No. 04/PDA/GeM/e-auction of 2024 Dated 02/04/2024
Annexure A: Details of assets to be out sourced and e-auction event and schedule

E-BIDDING EVENT SCHEDULE

Table with 3 columns: Events, Date & Time, Remarks. Rows include Pre-qualification submission start date, Pre-qualification submission end date, Pre-qualification Evaluation date, EMD submission Start date, EMD submission End date, Type of bidding.

DETAILS OF ASSETS TO BE OUT SOURCED AND E-BID INCREMENT SCHEDULE

Main table with 5 columns: Item No, Name of the Asset, Minimum reserve bid for 03 year (Rs. in lacs), EMD, CDR Amount, Particulars/ Approved Rates structure, e-bid increment schedule. Contains 5 asset entries with detailed descriptions and bidding parameters.

Tariq Hussain (JKAS)
Chief Executive Officer PDA Pahalgam

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Umer Akbar S/o Mohammad Akbar Bhat R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate

Public Notice

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. In this matter report of patwari halqa wanigam bala records that the applicant is a permanent resident of said village and is residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 72000/-. Family details of the applicant are given below.

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Name, Parentage, Age, Occupation. Rows include Mohd Akbar Bhat, Mehbooba Begum, Asma Bano, Umer Akbar, Feroz Ah Bhat.

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/ she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered. fko Naib Tehsildar

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Ridaan S/O Tahir Bashir Sofi R/O Noorbagh Ussan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 19/05/2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko_

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Waria Dilaver khan/ Dilaver Ah khan R/o Pathallan Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 13/05/2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko_

از نیابت گوام احمد پورہ
درخواست از جانب محمد یوسف شیخ ولد محمد جعفر شیخ ساکنہ ماہوہ تحصیل پٹن بارہمولہ برآمد حصول ڈی۔تھسٹرٹیفکٹ۔
اشتہار برآمد گاہی خاص وعام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر نے کثرت سے رپورٹ پنچایت سکری ڈیوڈ اور دیو چوکیدار علاقہ و آشا میڈم سے موصول ہوا ہے کہ محمد جعفر شیخ ولد محمد کریم شیخ مورخہ 04-04-2010 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان نے تا حال کوئی ڈی۔تھسٹرٹیفکٹ حاصل نہیں کیا ہے اب متوفی کے وارثان ڈی۔تھسٹرٹیفکٹ حاصل کرنے کے خواہاں ہے۔
اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار شائع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹیفکٹ ہوتو دفتر مذکور میں اندر مراتب پیم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میں دعا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نایب تحصیلدار fko

از نیابت تلگام
درخواست منجانب
عبداللہ کار و جید احمد کار پیران غلام حسن کار ساکنان وائیگام بالا تحصیل پٹن بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ
اشتہار برآمد گاہی خاص وعام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن ہے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ دفتر پٹن میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ اس بارے میں پٹناری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ مینج وائیگام بالا میں پچھلے پندرہ 15 سالوں سے تا اندر سے اپنے والد کے ساتھ رہائش پذیر ہے۔ اور ساکنہ اور ساکنہ کے والد نے تا حال دھند سے ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی۔ اس سلسلہ کا بندر جہذیل افراد پٹن میں ہے
نمبر شمار نام معبود بیت عمر پیشہ
۱۔ غلام حسن کار ولد غلام رسول 53 مزدوری
۲۔ فریدہ بیگم زوجہ غلام حسن کار 50 گھریلو کام
۳۔ جید احمد کار 28 سال زر تعلیم
۴۔ مدحت حسن دختر غلام حسن 25 زر تعلیم
۵۔ عبداللہ کار ولد غلام حسن 19 --
۶۔ بی بی علیہ زوجہ غلام رسول کار 75 عمر سیدہ
اس طور پر ساکنہ کا کثرت سے افراد پٹن میں ہے ساکنہ کے کنبہ کے ہموا آمدنی 8000 روپے ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر ہی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیاد گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نایب تحصیلدار fko



Kashmiri Pandit Leads 'Street Iftar' In Srinagar's Down-Town

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a heartwarming display of communal harmony, Kashmiri Pandits organized a Street Iftar in the historic neighborhood of Bohri Kadal in Downtown Srinagar.

Despite the bustling streets and wet weather conditions, the distribution of Iftar Kits aimed to foster unity and understanding among people of different backgrounds.

The distribution of Iftar Kits was led by Sandeep Mawa, a Kashmiri Pandit and a respected figure in the community. Mawa is the Chairman of the Jammu and Kash-

mir Reconciliation Front.

Speaking about the kit distribution, Sandeep expressed his joy at seeing people from all walks of life gathering to share a meal and exchange warm greetings.

He emphasized the need for such initiatives to continue bridging divides and promoting peace in the region. Moreover, a local, Sahil, shared his thoughts on the event, saying, "This Street Iftar is a beautiful gesture that brings our community closer together. It shows that regardless of our backgrounds, we can come together in the spirit of compassion and broth-



Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr Traffic Police Announces Route Arrangements For Devotees

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the auspicious occasions of Jumat-ul-Vida and Shab-e-Qadr approaching, devotees are gearing up to converge at Asaari Sharief Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar.

In anticipation of the large gathering of worshippers, the Traffic Police have meticulously devised elaborate traffic arrangements to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and the convenience of all devotees.

The Traffic Police Srinagar City announced that on April 5, 2024, Friday,

devotees from various districts of the Kashmir Valley will visit the Hazratbal shrine. The Traffic Police have outlined designated routes to guide the pilgrims on their journey of faith.

Devotees travelling from North Kashmir will take the designated route through Shalteng, Parimpora, Qamarwari, Cement Bridge, Noorbagh, Sekidafar, Eidgah, Alimashjid, Sazgaripora, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Mill Stop, Molvi Stop, Botshah Mohallah, and culminate at the University Parking on the Saderbal side.

Div Com Reviews Eid ul Fitr, Baisakhi, Navratra Arrangements

Visits Dargah Hazratbal, Imambara Zadibal & Jamia Masjid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and officers of various departments to review the arrangements for the celebration of upcoming religious festivals by different communities including Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus.

The Div Com reviewed comprehensive arrangements for the observance of Shab-e-Qadr, Friday following and the celebration of Eid ul Fitr, Baisakhi and Navratra in the valley.

Addressing the meeting, Bidhuri enjoined on all the officers to ensure availability of all requisite services and facilities to the people including electricity, drinking water, sanitation, cleanliness, food items and other essentials.

He also directed for making adequate arrangements of traffic management for smooth movement of vehicles, availability of SRTC vehicles and parking space.

Further, he directed DCs to visit the prominent religious places of all the communities in their respective districts and ensure all the facilities to the devotees.

Earlier, Div Com Kashmir conducted an extensive visit of Dargah Hazratbal Shrine, Imambara Zadibal and Jamia Masjid

Nowhatta to take the stock of arrangements for the celebration of Eid ul Fitr and observance of Shab-e-Qadr and Friday following for the convenience of devotees.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi ud din; Director Health services Kashmir; SSP Traffic, Srinagar; Joint Commissioner SMC; CE, KPDC; CE Srinagar Smart City Limited and other senior of-

partment for establishment of a health camp at the shrine with a dedicated medical team besides exhorted on SMC for conducting sanitation drives in the vicinity as well as in the premises of Harz-atbal Shrine.

While visiting Imambara Zadibal, Div Com took the stock of arrangements and listened to the demands of locals there. On the occasion, Div Com directed shift-

Div Com directed concerned officers to make comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted electricity and water supply besides opening of newly constructed washrooms for public utility in view of religious festivals

Officers of line departments of Waqf Board, PHE and other concerned departments.

During his visit to Dargah, Div Com directed concerned officers to make comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted electricity and water supply besides opening of newly constructed washrooms for public utility in view of religious festivals.

He also directed the operation of water fountains in the premises of Shrine and grass cutting for the enhancing the landscape of parks.

He instructed the Health De-

partment for increasing the periphery of premises for increasing the space, besides he also directed the concerned departments for addressing the issue of water supply.

He gave directions to the concerned officers for making elaborate arrangements regarding observance of religious occasions.

At Jamia Masjid, he interacted with the members of the community and listened to their issues. On the occasion he instructed all line departments to ensure all the services to the devotees and maintain liaison with the members of the local community.

NOTICE: I Syed Wajahat Amin Shah here by confirm that my PNB MetLife Policy under Policy No. 25341553 has wrongly been issued by the name of Syed Wajahat Hussain. Now I want to change the said Policy name from Syed Wajahat Hussain to Syed Wajahat Amin Shah. Regarding this if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Office Within Seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system. Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-39-23-24 Closing Date/Time: 26-04-2024/15:00. Date:- 02/04/2024. Sr.DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-39-23-24 Closing Date/Time 26-04-2024 at 15:00 Hrs.

Public Notice: We the undersigned want to register a travel agency under name and style Heaven Tour and Travel. If anybody has any objection please he/she may contact Directorate of Tourism Kashmir in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class. Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth. Public Notice. The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Haziq Ashraf S/o Mohd Ashraf Wani R/o yadipora palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 17/11/2021 occurred at SDH Pattan.

Public Notice: I have lost the number plate of Auto bearing Regd No: JK22B -5099 while travelling from Shopian to Hirpora. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Public Notice: I have changed my name from old name Mahbooba Sideeq to new Name Mehbooba Ayub in future I will be known as Mehbooba Ayub. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class. Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth. Public Notice. The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Zuha Mushtaq D/o Mushtaq Ahmad war R/o Nowpora Kalan Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 19/08/2020 occurred at SDH Pattan.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public. The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details: Roll No: 342206 Class 10th Year & Session 2005 Annual Regular Registration: 04NKM316431 Name : Aabid Bashir Mir Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Mir Mother's Name : Mehmooda Begum Date of Birth:- 17-10-1988 Residenc:- Nishat Mohalla Bandipora

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200 AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153 HIGHWAY STATUS Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

PRAYERS FAJR 4:50 ZUHR 12:34 ASR 5:05 Magrib 6:56 ISHA 8:19 HIJRI CALENDAR 24 Ramadan 1445

This Day In History 1944 - Allied Bucharest bombings targeting railroads kills 5,000 1945 - Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation (National Day) 1947 - Convention on International Civil Aviation goes into effect 1947 - Largest group of sunspots on record 1947 - UN's International Civil Aviation Organization forms 1949 - Israel & Jordan sign armistice agreement 1949 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty signed in Washington DC 1960 - Senegal declares independence from France 1968 - Apollo 6 launched atop Saturn V; unmanned 1968 - US civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee

From KO Archives Liquor cinema, major tourist attraction 'We Have To Change With Times': Farooq

Observer News Service Srinagar- A 3-day conference on domestic tourism held in SKICC which is being attended by over a hundred delegates from outside the state didn't augur well for hundreds of local delegates as they were put to abject humiliation by chief minister Farooq Abdullah. The stunned 300 locals related with tourism, travel and trade, who had been invited as "honorable guests" were reduced to plebeians, sordid and unworthy creatures who had no choice but to swallow the insult before the "foreign guests".

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 04-04-2024

NC, PDP Alliance Unravels

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah suggested on Tuesday that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) may not field candidates against his party in the Kashmir Valley. He referenced a recent rally of the INDIA bloc in Delhi, where Mufti shared the stage with NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, reaffirming PDP's commitment to the alliance. Abdullah urged the media to avoid fostering discord between the two parties. Abdullah emphasized that both the NC and PDP are integral components of the INDIA alliance. Criticizing the emergence of new alliances in Kashmir, Abdullah alleged that these parties are operating at the behest of the BJP and are poised to contest polls as its proxies in Jammu and Kashmir.

That said, the NC's decision to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections independently, reflects the fragility of alliances in the region. The INDIA bloc alliance, comprising the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and Congress, along with the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), are struggling to stick together.

The NC going solo in the elections is likely to exacerbate existing tensions within the coalitions - both INDIA Alliance and the PAGD. The PDP has expressed some discontent over the NC's decision. With each party eyeing its electoral interests, the possibility of fragmentation looms large, which could inadvertently play into the hands of opposing factions.

The INDIA bloc and the PAGD, both formed with intentions of advancing regional interests and restoring Jammu and Kashmir's special status, stand at a crossroads. The divergence in interests and ambitions among constituent members threatens to undermine the broader objectives of these alliances.

It is imperative for the leadership of both alliances to prioritize dialogue and consensus-building to overcome internal rifts and forge a united front. While individual party ambitions are important, they must not supersede the collective interests of the region. The stakes are too high for petty differences to derail the larger mission of securing a better future for Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, the specter of electoral defeat looms large if the INDIA alliance members in J&K choose to go their separate ways. For, this will once again split the mandate. At the larger national level too, the INDIA Alliance is not in good shape. Though the recent rally in New Delhi has put some wind beneath its sails, the alliance is far from stepping up to the plate. The fact remains that there is still no one in the opposition to match the overarching persona of the prime minister Narendra Modi. The fragmentation in the alliance's ranks in J&K, in a sense, symbolizes its plight at the national level. And it is time that J&K shows the way.

“Even as huge funds have been provided to J&K under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the same are utilized only to procure water pipes as muddy water, dirty water mixed with fecal waste continues to be supplied to people in areas of Srinagar uptown



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) recently submitted a detailed water analysis report of Doodh Ganga before the National Green Tribunal-NGT. The report has been prepared by scientists of the J&K Pollution Control Committee by analyzing water samples collected from Doodh Ganga last year at various sites. The lab reports, which are in possession of this author who is also the petitioner in this case, clearly reveal that water quality in Doodh Ganga is very dangerous and isn't even fit for bathing let alone drinking.

Ironically, the said water is supplied to more than 6 lakh people of Srinagar uptown areas.

The experts say that rise in gastrointestinal diseases and liver ailments is attributed to intake of unhygienic water supplied by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) also called department of Jal Shakti. Between February to July 2023 several tests have been done on water samples collected from Doodh Ganga at Nowhar, Sogam, Chadoora, Barzulla and Tengpora and the results are very scary.

In compliance to the NGT's order dated 30-05-2023 the then Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department took some initiatives but that only controlled the illegal riverbed mining in Doodh Ganga to some extent but failed to control water pollution. Despite the meeting convened by Principal Secretary HUDD J&K Govt on 15-06-2023 and 17-07-2023 wherein he directed all the stakeholders to take remedial measures vis-a-vis sewage, managing solid waste, legacy waste along with banks of Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kul, not much work was done by the respective Govt institutions.

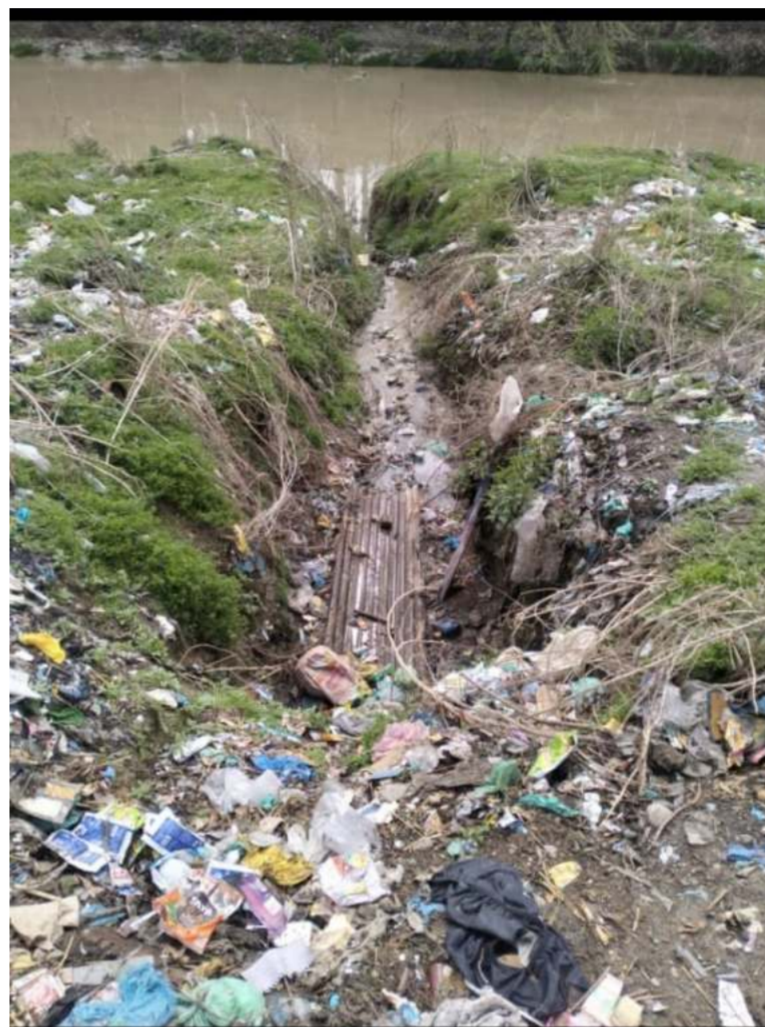
Sanitation Drive on Doodh Ganga

The Municipal Committee Chadoora, Srinagar Municipal Corporation and District Administration Budgam undertook sanitation drives on the banks of Doodh Ganga between May 27th to June 1st week on different dates. The legacy waste was cleared near Kralpora bridge by SMC sanitation workers on the orders of the then Commissioner SMC Athar Amir Khan, but no followup work was taken up later on. One can see heaps of waste dumped

Water Pollution

Doodh Ganga's Water Unfit for Consumption

Areas in Srinagar Uptown and Budgam get water unsuitable for drinking, as per a study. Administrative nonchalance continues



Open drain going into Doodh Ganga at Kralpora Srinagar just 100 meters away from Doodh Ganga Water Supply Plant. Photos by GPS.

there again and liquid waste continues to enter Doodh Ganga at Kralpora even near the area where from water is pumped up to the filtration plant. This is quite dangerous.

MC Chadoora took up sanitation work in Chadoora town and other areas as well but the areas which are outside the municipal limits continue to be filled with trash and open drains enter Doodh Ganga from Branwar to Kralpora at least 50 to 60 places. For the last 9 months no regular sanitation drives to clear solid waste or legacy waste around the banks of Doodh Ganga banks is being taken up. Only in Chadoora town and SMC municipality jurisdiction the regular sanitation work is done, rest of the areas are choked with trash especially in the rural areas falling under blocks of Surasyar, Chadoora and BK Pora in district Budgam. Huge amount of solid waste has accumulated on the banks of Doodh Ganga at Borwah, Sogam, Hanjugund, Wathoora, Stadium Colony, Chinar Colony Wathoora, Kralpora, Mouchwa and other places. It is an irony that the liquid waste continues to enter Doodh Ganga at multiple locations from Brenwar Budgam to Tengpora Srinagar especially at Branwar, Surasyar, Nowhar, Dadompora, Borwah, Zuhama, Sogam, Chadoora town, Hanjugund, Wathoora, Kralpora, Mouchwa.

Unfortunately, the same contaminated water as explained above is lifted at Doodh Ganga water supply scheme Kralpora and supplied to more than 6 lakhs population of Srinagar District and some parts of Budgam as well.

PCC water analysis report

The Pollution Control Committee has submitted the water quality profile of Doodh Ganga before the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The water sampling of Doodh Ganga was done between January to July 2023 at multiple locations which clearly reveals that the water quality at Chadoora Town and at Tengpora Bridge Srinagar is not fit for bathing leave aside drinking this water? The same water is lifted at Kralpora

ing water is 500 colony-forming units (CFU) per milliliter, with a maximum permissible limit of 2500 CFU/ml. These limits are established to accommodate variations in environmental conditions, such as seasonal changes and fluctuations in flow conditions. However, for drinking purposes, the acceptable fecal coliform count is zero, as specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in IS 10500:2012 (PM/ 10500/ 1 October 2020).

It is worthwhile to mention that the fecal coliform counts at all sampling sites exceed the acceptable limits. Specifically the water quality at Chadoora exceeds the desirable limit for bathing water by nearly three times, indicating a significant level of contamination. Additionally, at Tengpora and Old Barzulla sites, the contamination levels are exceptionally high, being nearly 20000 CFU/ml.

Grave Health Implications

The health implications of such contamination are very serious and the officials at the helm of affairs should be taken to task. Even as huge funds have been provided to J&K under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the same are utilized only to procure water pipes as muddy water, dirty water mixed with fecal waste continues to be supplied to people in areas of Srinagar uptown like Hyderpora, Pirbagh, Humhama, Sanat Nagar, Rawalpora, Rangreth, Gogoland, Chanapora, Nowgam, Bagh-e-Mehtab and other places.

Water with fecal coliform levels as high as 20,000 CFU/ml poses a severe risk of waterborne diseases and infections to anyone who comes into contact with it. Consumption of contaminated water can lead to gastrointestinal illnesses, and potentially severe conditions in vulnerable populations. Although other parameters like DO, BOD, TDS may fall within the permissible BIS levels, the extremely high fecal coliform count alone deems the water unsuitable for consumption/bathing at all locations'.

Rs 35 Cr penalty on Govt

During several hearings and through written affidavits as well the Housing and Urban Development Department -HUDD J&K time and again gave assurance to the National Green Tribunal-NGT that the sewage treatment plants-STPs would be setup on the banks of Doodh Ganga at different areas but that hasn't been done till date from 2022? The NGT imposed Rs 3 crore interim penalty on SMC, Directorate of ULB Kashmir and Mining Department in 2022. Then last year Rs 32 crore penalty was again imposed which is to be utilized for Doodh Ganga STPs but till date the STPs have not been set up anywhere.

Drainage of polluted water by SMC

In addition, more than half a dozen water pumping stations have been set up by Srinagar Municipal Corporation at Chanapora, Nati-pora, Pamposh Colony, Barzullah, Bulbul Bagh, Tengpora which flush out untreated sewage and other toxic liquid waste into Doodh Ganga. This matter has been brought into the notice of the NGT and Srinagar Municipal Corporation was penalized as well but till date these pump stations are constantly operating and causing environmental disaster which openly violates the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1974. It is worth mentioning that these pump stations were funded by World Bank for flood mitigation in Srinagar City and were supposed to drain out storm water but these were connected with sewer lines that openly violates the Water Act 1974.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

“The lab reports, which are in possession of this author who is also the petitioner in this case, clearly reveal that water quality in Doodh Ganga is very dangerous and isn't even fit for bathing let alone for drinking

in Doodh Ganga is bad as per the criteria for bathing water which is published in the Gazette of India on September 25th year 2000. As per the said criteria, the recommended fecal coliform count in bath-



Back to Basics

Did you know?

Irshad Mushtaq

IPO (Initial Public Offering): An IPO is the process by which a private company becomes public by offering its stocks to the public for the first time. A company that goes through an IPO will subsequently have its shares traded on the open market.

Primary Market: This is where new securities are issued and sold for the first time. IPOs occur in this market. Investors buy directly from the issuing company.

Secondary Market: After the securities are sold in the primary market, they trade on the secondary market, which is essentially the stock market where investors buy and sell from each other.

Why Shares Are Listed on a Stock Exchange:

- To give a company access to capital from a wider base of investors.
- To provide liquidity, allowing investors to buy and sell shares easily.
- To give the company an opportunity to enhance its profile and credibility.

Shares in Islamic Countries:

Yes, shares are listed in Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the UAE. These countries have their own stock exchanges, such as the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul), Bursa Malaysia, Indonesia Stock Exchange, and Dubai Financial Market.

Shariah-Compliant Shares in India:

- Shariah-compliant shares are those that comply with Islamic law. This generally means the companies do not deal in areas such as alcohol, gambling, pork-related products, interest-based financial services, etc.
- The number of Shariah-compliant shares in India can vary, and there are indices such as the S&P BSE Shariah index that track the performance of Shariah-compliant stocks.
- The exact number of Shariah-compliant shares in India would require current market analysis since the list can evolve with changing business practices and market dynamics.

Muslim Investment in Stock Market:

- Muslim investors are encouraged to invest in the stock market if the shares are Shariah-compliant, meaning these stocks comply with Islamic finance principles.
- They need to avoid companies that generate income from forbidden (haram) sources in Islam.
- Shariah-compliant investing involves a halal investment strategy, and many Islamic countries have frameworks and Shariah boards to evaluate which stocks meet these criteria.
- Investing in the stock market can help in wealth growth, saving for retirement, or achieving certain financial objectives while adhering to religious guidelines.
- Muslims should consider these criteria and consult with financial advisors familiar with Islamic finance to navigate the investment landscape according to their ethical, religious, and economic requirements.

The writer is entrepreneur partner, M1 Securities, Sharekhan Email:irshad@bp.sharekhan.com

Is RCB's Title Drought Due To Senior Players' Failure To Negotiate Pressure?

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: If a title triumph has eluded Royal Challengers Bengaluru since the inception of the Indian Premier League (IPL), it is because highly-paid international stars have always buckled under pressure, leaving the juniors to do all the heavy lifting, says former India batter Ambati Rayudu.

Rayudu, who has won multiple IPL trophies with both Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings, didn't take any names but probably he was hinting towards team's three premier batters -- Virat Kohli, Glenn Maxwell and Faf du Plessis.

RCB have lost two out of their three IPL games this season and while Kohli has scored 203 runs at a strike-rate of 140 plus, he hasn't exactly set the stage on fire during Powerplay.

Du Plessis has managed 65 runs in four games while Max-



well has contributed only 31 runs so far in as many games.

"RCB's bowlers always concede over par runs and their batting unit performs under

par," Rayudu told Star Sports after RCB lost to LSG on Tuesday. "Who are all batting in pressure situations? The young Indian batters and Dinesh Karthik. The

big international names, who are supposed to take the pressure, where are they? All are back in the dressing room," Rayudu said.

He was referring Mahipal Lomror, who has come in as Impact Sub in a few games and scored at a strike-rate of 230 plus and Karthik, whose cameo was instrumental in their only win of the season so far against Punjab Kings.

Rayudu termed it as a convenient option for senior batters, who are consuming all the Powerplay overs, where scoring runs is easy with field restrictions in place.

"Sixteen years. This is the same story of RCB, when there is pressure, no big name is ever found standing. All youngsters are playing at the back-end and all the big guns bat at the top of the order and they whip off the cream from the cake and that is the reason this team has never won IPL," said the 38-year-old firebrand batter, who played 55 ODIs and six T20Is for India between 2013 and 2019.

Sports Activities In Full Bloom Across J&K: DYSS



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports on Wednesday said it has been organising sports events and other activities for students and youth across 20 districts of J&K throughout the year.

DYSS Director Subash C Chhibber lauded the efforts of the department's field staff for taping sports talent in school children and giving it a positive direction.

"Aiming to promote sports culture and a drug free society and a healthy nation, Zonal and District level offices play an important role in engaging students in different games and allied activities," the Director said.

DYSS has started a variety of sports activities through Zonal Offices. Zone Zaldagar conducted Volleyball/Tug of War and recreational games on Wednesday, engaging a large number of students. The

event was inaugurated by the Principal MPML HSS Nikhat Mir in presence of ZPEO Zaldagar Javed Ahmad Malik and DYSS officials.

Meanwhile, Zone Rainawari conducted Chess and Carrom competitions at Boys High School Rainawari in which more than 50 students participated. The event was inaugurated by ZPEO Rainawari Rifat Shafi. She urged the students to be safe from drugs and to adopt games and sports as part of life.

DYSS Office Ganderbal also organised intramural sports activities across the district. Students from different sports zones of the district participated in multiple sports events, showcasing their enthusiasm and passion for sports. Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal, DYSSO Ganderbal, extended a warm welcome to the departmental officials and students, applauding their participation in the season's inaugural sporting events.

ZPEO Kicks Off 2024 Sports Competitions In Shangus



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Shangus on Wednesday organised sports competitions in the disciplines of Tug of War and Carrom for all age group boys and girls at HSS Uttersoo.

The competitions were inaugu-

rated by ZPEO Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, who advised students to take part in sports activities and to stay away from drugs.

At the end of the sports competitions, prizes were distributed among winners and runner-ups.

A total of 210 students participated in the events.

IPL 2024: Punjab Kings Batters Face Gujarat Titans Challenge

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Bruised by Mayank Yadav's scorching pace, Punjab Kings' batters will face an altogether different challenge when Gujarat Titans' bowling unit tries to take the pace off deliveries on a slightly tricky Motera track in their IPL match here on Thursday.

The Kings have lost their last two away games and another slip-up against Titans will lead to further loss of momentum which tends to shift very quickly due to lack of turnaround time.

Titans, on the other hand, are brimming with confidence after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad comprehensively by seven wickets in their last game.

In the previous match, Kings were completely undone by Mayank's speed and most of their top-order batters looked ill-equipped to face the fast bowler, who was regularly clocking 150 clicks and more importantly, aiming to bowl into the body of the batters.

However, the scenario will be completely different when veteran Mohit Sharma comes calling at the back-end, presenting a palate of variations.



Mohit uses knuckle balls, slow bouncers and wide yorkers to good effect and this year's IPL trend has shown that save Mayank, all speedsters, who have been able to take pace off their deliveries, have been more successful.

It will pose a different kind of challenge for the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow and Jitesh Sharma, all of whom like the ball to come on to the bat.

If Liam Livingstone is unavailable for Thursday's match after sustaining a hamstring niggle in the last game, it will spell doom for Punjab as they would then happen to lose their key enforcer during the death overs.

Punjab will also have to deal with the accuracy of the incomparable Rashid Khan and the guile of Noor Ahmed, former's left-arm alter-ego.

The third Afghan in the lineup, Azmatullah Omarzai's all-round skills will also be a challenge for the team.

For Titans, the performance against defending champions Chennai Super Kings could be termed an aberration as they have executed their plans pretty well.

The batting is yet to fire in unison but the bowling unit has shown its wares by defending well in opening game and restricting a rampaging SRH to a manageable score in the last game.

Mayank Yadav May Make India's T20 WC Squad: Rabada

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Immensely impressed by Mayank Yadav's raw speed and accuracy, South Africa and Punjab Kings pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada sees the fast bowling sensation as a "potential pick" in India's squad for the T20 World Cup.

The 21-year-old from Delhi has been pushing the speed barrier with every game and on Tuesday night, bowled a 156.7 kmph thunderbolt against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. It was his second straight Man of the Match performance in his debut season, leading Lucknow Super Giants to a convincing win.



Rabada's team Punjab Kings was at the receiving end of Mayank's barrage of short-pitched deliveries last week when the debutant struck thrice with his rattling pace. One of the best pacers in the game, the South African also spoke about Mayank's remarkable accuracy.

"He has got something that you cannot buy and that is raw pace. That is what exactly he is exploiting and exploiting it extremely well," Rabada told PTI in an interview.

"The lengths that he hits, his plan is clear and now batters are going to be aware of what he can bring to the party but it is pretty obvious he has got immense pace and it seems he can control where he wants to bowl.

"When you have got pace and control as well, and he understands his role. So, when you have got clarity, it is no surprise that he is turning out performances like that," said Rabada.

Short TAKES

Narine Blitzkrieg Lifts KKR To 272/7 Against Delhi

Blistering half centuries from Sunil Narine (85 from 39 balls) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (54 off 27) at the top and a late flourish from Rinku Singh and Andre Russell took Kolkata Knight Riders to 272/7 in 20 overs against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday.

Russell scored 41 in a brutal-bashing that helped KKR come within touching distance of surpassing Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) score of 277 however Kolkata ended up with the second-highest total in the IPL ever.

Big Boost For MI As Suryakumar Clears Most Fitness Tests

Mumbai Indians will soon get the much required batting boost as the world's No. 1 ranked T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav has cleared almost all the fitness tests at National Cricket Academy and is very close to playing his first IPL game of the season. Suryakumar had undergone multiple surgeries -- one for grade 2 ankle tear and another for sports hernia -- and he last played in the T20 series in South Africa.

NZ Name Bracewell As Skipper For Pakistan T20I Series

New Zealand have swung a surprise by naming experienced all-rounder Michael Bracewell as their captain for this month's five-match T20I series against Pakistan. Bracewell has not played an international match since March last year and as only recently returned to domestic duties following injury concerns that have included a ruptured Achilles and a broken finger, as per ICC.

The likes of Kane Williamson and Mitchell Santner are skipping the tour due to duties in the Indian Premier League.

Clinical Sri Lanka Sweep Test Series Against Bangladesh

Sri Lanka completed a 2-0 series sweep against Bangladesh on Wednesday after winning the second test in Chattogram by 192 runs despite Mehidy Hasan Miraz's gallant resistance. Chasing 511 runs for an improbable victory, Bangladesh were all out for 318 with Mominul Haq (50) and Miraz, who scored 81 not out, scoring half-centuries before the hosts wilted on the final day's morning session.

Sri Lanka won the opening test in Sylhet by 328 runs.

Chennaiyin FC & Norwich City FC Join Forces

Chennaiyin FC has entered into a strategic partnership with English Championship side Norwich City FC to foster mutual growth, innovation, and football collaboration.

Both clubs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday here and the deal is expected to bring in a wealth of experience, expertise, and unique footballing philosophies, along with the knowledge exchange, technical expertise, coaching methodologies, and player development strategies.

The two clubs are also expected to engage in friendly games and training camps.

Ronaldo Scores 1st-Half Hat-Trick As Al-Nassr Win 8-0



Cristiano Ronaldo hammered a hat-trick as Al-Nassr thrashed Abha 8-0 in Saudi Pro League match at the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Sports City Stadium on Tuesday. Apart from scoring three goals, the 39-year-old striker also assisted in two. His first goal came in the 11th minute of the match, in form of a free-kick. The other two came in 21st and 42nd minute respectively. This was Ronaldo's 65th career hat-trick and a consecutive one for Al Nassr.

Guardiola Backs 'World's Best' Haaland In Keane Row

Agencies

LONDON: Pep Guardiola said Erling Haaland should be respected as the "best striker in the world" after the Manchester City star was subjected to scathing criticism by Roy Keane.

Former Manchester United captain Keane, speaking on Sky Sports, said Haaland's "general play" was "so poor" and "almost like a League Two player".

Haaland came under fire from Keane for his lacklustre performance in City's goalless draw against Premier League title rivals Arsenal on Sunday.

Haaland is the Premier League's leading scorer this term with 18 goals after winning last season's Golden Boot during a remarkable first sea-

son with City.

He netted 52 times in all competitions as Guardiola's men lifted the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

Keane conceded the 23-year-old Norwegian is in a class of his own in front of goal.

But City boss Guardiola was unimpressed by Keane's remarks, insisting any blame for the scoreless display against Arsenal should be shared by the team.

"I don't agree with him, absolutely not. He's the best striker in the world and he helped us to win what we won last season. Erling is exceptional," Guardiola told reporters on Tuesday.

"The reason we don't create chances is not because of Erling. The standards that Erling

has are unbelievable and everyone expects other things.

"There are games where he could be better but I knew during the game against Arsenal that the reason why we were not creating chances was not because of Erling.

"We needed more presence in the box. If we had that Erling would have more space. It happens sometimes. If you want to score goals, bring a lot of players to the opponent keeper, it is as simple as that."

City's failure to beat Arsenal has damaged their bid to win an unprecedented fourth successive English title.

They are three points behind leaders Liverpool ahead of Aston Villa's visit to the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday. (AFP)

