

Heavy Rains Lash Kashmir, Disrupt Life

Wet Weather Expected Till April 19: MeT

Agencies

Srinagar: The winter chill has once again returned to Kashmir as the fresh and moderate rainfall across the Valley brought the mercury down on Monday while the weatherman has predicted light rains at isolated places for the next two days. The incessant rainfall throughout the day affected the normal life across Srinagar and other parts of the Valley. An independent weather forecaster said that during the next 4-6 hours, heavy rainfall would likely continue in most places of Jammu and Kashmir. Srinagar city and other

plains of Kashmir can see heavy to very heavy rainfall during the period, he said. Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad in a detailed forecast, stated that through there is a possibility of gradual improvement in weather conditions from tonight, but partly cloudy weather is expected on 16-17th April with possibility of light rain at isolated places. On 18-19th April, generally cloudy with light rain and snow (higher reaches) at many places with thunder, lightning during 18th night to 19th late afternoon and evening is expected, he said. | More on P6



National Highway Closed

The Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police department reported that rainfall led to shooting stones in the Kishtwari Pather area, resulting in a halt of traffic. | More on P6

Avalanche Warning Issued

Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Monday issued an avalanche warning in the higher reaches of two districts of Kashmir valley during the next 24 hours, officials said. An avalanche with "medium danger" level is | More on P6

AMARNATH YATRA 2024

Advance Registration Begins In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The registration for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage began on Monday with a large number of people turning up at designated bank branches here to secure a permit. The 52-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-meter-high cave shrine in south Kashmir is scheduled to start on June 29 and conclude on August 19, according

to the announcement made by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB). The journey can be undertaken through two routes -- the traditional 48-km route through Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir. "The advance registration has started | More on P6

Rafiabad Shocker: Son Allegedly Kills Mother

Agencies

Srinagar: In a tragic incident that has deeply shaken Rafiabad in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, a son allegedly murdered his mother, who was in her late 40s. The accused, identified as Aamir Wani alias Gajini, worked as a driver and was reportedly a drug addict, locals said. They are demanding strict action against the killer and urging the police to crack down on drug peddlers operating within the area. Officials said the tragic event took place during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday in Hadipora village of Rafiabad. The victim, whose identity is being withheld, was attacked with a sharp-edged

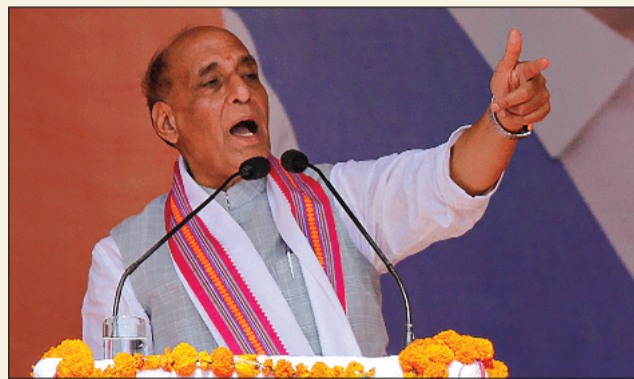


weapon by her son. Police said they arrested the accused shortly after the commission of the crime. The case has been registered at Police Station Dangiwach and further investigations are underway, a police official said. He added that the body of the deceased was transferred to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Sopore for legal-medico formalities. | More on P6

Beginning Of 'Ram Rajya' Has Started In India: Rajnath Singh

Press Trust Of India

Kathua: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the "Ram Rajya" has started taking roots in the country and nobody can stop it becoming a reality. Addressing an election rally in support of Union Minister Jitendra Singh at Basohli in Kathua district, he highlighted the fulfillment of all promises made by the BJP like abrogation of Article 370, construction of the Ram temple and implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). He said the BJP is not doing politics for formation of



the government but for the country which was pulled out from a big trouble caused by the trust deficit between the people and politicians. Singh assured people that nobody who is an Indian national is going to lose his citizenship after the implementation of the CAA, while the | More on P6

Amit Shah To Address Rallies In Jammu, Kathua Today

head of the Lok Sabha polls, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot are gearing up to address the gatherings in Jammu and Kathua on Tuesday. Amit Shah is scheduled to speak at the Manhas Biradari Ground near Paloura, rallying support for BJP candidates Dr. Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma, contesting from Udhampur and Jammu Parliamentary constituencies. | More on P6

'BJP To Bag All LS Seats In J&K'

BJP senior leader and incumbent Defense Minister Rajnath Singh Monday said that BJP will bag all the Parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir. He was addressing an election rally in Basohli belt Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir. He said the BJP fulfilled all the promises it made to the people of the country. Rajnath Singh said as per the promise and election manifesto BJP abrogated the Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. "We also constructed the Ram Mandir," he said. Without mentioning the name of | More on P6

'EQUATION HAS CHANGED' Iran Warns Israel Against 'Reckless' Retaliation

Agencies

Tehran: Iran Sunday said its unprecedented aerial attack has changed the equation against Israel warning Tel Aviv that any "reckless" retaliation would receive a "much stronger response". Hailing the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s retaliatory attack on Israel, President Ebrahim Raisi said "the hybrid operation taught the occupying regime an unforgettable lesson". More than 300 drones and missiles were launched at Israel by Iran overnight, following the 1 April Israeli strike on Iran's consulate in Syria. It marked Iran's first direct attack on Israel, with the two countries having waged a years-long shadow war. President Biden said U.S. military forces in the region helped Israel intercept the Iranian drones and missiles. Britain too was | More on P6

POLL CAMPAIGN IN J&K HEATS UP

Omar Dares Azad To Contest Against Him

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah challenged Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls against him, instead of "hiding behind a camera" and making statements targeting his party. Abdullah, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, is contesting the election from north Kashmir's Baramulla parliamentary constituency. He is currently on a four-day tour of the Chenab valley region to garner support for INDIA bloc candidate Choudhary Lal Singh. The Chenab valley, comprising Doda, Kishtwar and



Ramban districts, is an area where Azad has considerable influence. It also forms part of the Udhampur parliamentary constituency, which is going to polls on April 19.

Azad, also a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, was named as the DPAP candidate from the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat but he subsequently said he is not sure about his

candidature as he was not consulted by the party about it. "I challenge him (Azad) to contest (the polls) against me to test his strength. Hiding behind a camera and giving statements (against the NC) is very easy. If he is a man, let him fight against me. I will see how many votes he gets," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of his roadshow in the Thathri area of Doda district. Braving inclement weather, the NC leader carried on with his roadshow in support of Lal Singh, who is contesting the polls on a Congress ticket against Union minister Jitendra Singh. Asked about Azad's onslaught against the NC in his election rallies, Abdullah claimed that he is doing so at | More on P6

I Am In Comfortable Situation: Mian Altaf

Press Trust Of India

Anantnag: National Conference candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat Mian Altaf Ahmad on Monday said he is in a "comfortable situation" as he is the most acceptable candidate among the contestants on both sides of the Pir Panjal range.



"I am in a comfortable situation and I feel I am acceptable on both sides | More on P6

Altaf Bukhari Hints At BJP Support

Srinagar: Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari Monday said that his time has not come yet and whenever it comes, entire Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be with him. Replying to query that he has covert links with the BJP, Bukhari said that he has met PM



Modi and other leaders in broad day light and there is nothing secret about it. | More on P6

ECI Cracks Down On Money Power In J&K

Cash, Liquor, Drugs, Freebies Worth Rs 4 Cr Seized

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Authorities have seized cash, liquor, drugs, and freebies worth over Rs 4 crore in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission of India said on Monday. The poll body is on track for the highest-ever seizures of inducements recorded in the 75-year history of Lok Sabha elections in the country, with seizures totalling Rs 4650 crores, showing an increase of Rs 175 crore compared to 2019, it said. According to the EC data,



cash worth Rs 1.2 crores, liquor worth Rs 63 lakh, drugs worth Rs 2.35 crores, precious metals worth Rs 25,800 crores, and freebies and other items worth Rs 5.59 lakh | More on P6

J&K Emerges As India's Most Crucial Battle Ground

Srinagar: The political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir is ablaze with anticipation as three former Chief Ministers, one incumbent Union Minister, and a former Union Minister vie for victory in the coming Lok Sabha polls. Mehbooba Mufti and Ghulam Nabi Azad are set to lock horns in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, while Omar Abdullah shifts his goal post to Baramulla. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and former Union Minister Chaudhary Lal Singh will face off in Udhampur. Ghulam Nabi Azad, attempting his second foray into the Lok Sabha elections, hopes for success this time from

the newly delineated Anantnag-Rajouri seat. Mehbooba Mufti, once an MP from Anantnag, aims for redemption after her third-place finish in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections following the Pulwama attack. Meanwhile, Omar Abdullah shifts his electoral stronghold from Srinagar to Baramulla, having previously served as an MP thrice and as Minister of State in the Central Government. Dr. Jitendra Singh, incumbent from Udhampur, seeks to maintain his ministerial tenure after nine consecutive years in the PMO. However, he faces stiff competition from Chaudhary Lal

Singh of Congress and GM Saruri of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), both possessing formidable political pedigrees. The contest intensifies as NC replaces two of its MPs this election cycle, opting for fresh faces across all three Kashmir seats. Dr. Farooq Abdullah's withdrawal due to health concerns and the cancellation of tickets for Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone indicate a strategic shift in the party's approach post-delimitation. This is being deemed by the political pundits as a calculated bid for victory in the altered electoral landscape. (KNO)

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Kashmir Grapples With A Surge In Leopard Attacks

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Kashmir is witnessing a troubling trend of increased sightings of wild animals, particularly leopards, venturing into human settlements. This has resulted in several tragic encounters, with two minor girls losing their lives to leopard attacks in the last month. While locals accuse authorities of turning a blind eye to the growing human-wildlife conflict, officials blame unjustified human meddling into natural habitations for the rising attacks. Officials said that wildlife is being impacted by climate change in a variety of ways, including habitat loss, altered migratory patterns, and declining



population. They also attributed the influx of wild animals into human settlements to shifting weather patterns. Regional Wildlife Warden shed light on the possible connection between this year's unusual

Wildlife Officials Issue Advisory

Syed Mohammad Burhan

In the wake of recent reports regarding the presence of a leopard in the Malabagh area of Srinagar, officials from the wildlife department have cautioned residents living in the adjoining areas of Zakura and Malabagh in the | More on P6 severe or atypical snowfall pattern might also be harmful to their regular survival." "Shrinking animal habitats brought on by mining, quarrying, and developmental activities along the periphery, as well

as encroachments and break-ins along animal movement corridors, all contribute to and intensify the man-animal conflict," Naqash told Kashmir Observer. "How would you respond if someone broke into your home and forced you to leave? Similarly, when you trespass into a wild animal's territory, such as a leopard or a bear, they will react aggressively," he added. Several leopard attacks took place in Kashmir this year so far. On March 28, the dead body of a 5-year-old girl, who went missing from her residence in Hariwani village in central Budgam district, was found in a nearby area after mauled to death by a leopard. Similarly, a 9-year-old girl was mauled to | More on P6



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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Physical Activity In Evening Linked To Greatest Health Benefits For Obese, Diabetic: Study

Press Trust Of India

Undertaking most of the daily physical activity in the evening is linked to the greatest health benefits for people suffering from obesity and diabetes, new research has found.

According to the study published in the journal Diabetes Care, those performing a majority of their "out-of-breath" vigorous activity between 6 pm and midnight were found to have the lowest risk of dying prematurely and from cardiac ailments.

The study followed nearly 30,000 people aged 40 years or above over almost eight years.

"Exercise is by no means the only solution to the obesity crisis. But this research does suggest that people who can plan their activity into certain times of the day may best offset some of these health risks," said lead author Angelo Sabag, a lecturer in exercise physiology at The University of Sydney, Australia.

Using wearable devices, the participants' physical activity was recorded, along with the time of the day when it was undertaken.

The researchers did not just track structured exercise, but also moderate to vigorous aerobic activity performed in bouts of three minutes or more, as they said previous research has shown such activity to be strongly associated with glucose control and lowering the

risk of heart-related diseases. "We didn't discriminate on the kind of activity we tracked. It could be anything from power walking to climb-

amount of physical activity undertaken throughout the entire day.

Even though the findings are observational with no cause-and-effect



ing the stairs, but could also include structured exercise such as running, occupational labour or even vigorously cleaning the house," said Matthew Ahmadi, a postdoctoral research fellow at The University of Sydney.

The frequency with which such activity was performed was found to be more important than the total

links established, the researchers said it supports the original hypothesis that people living with diabetes or obesity, and are already glucose intolerant in the late evening, may be able to offset some of that intolerance by performing physical activity in the evening.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K) , Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops, Desktops, Printers, Photocopiers, Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his school records as Nageeb Rafiq while his correct name is Nageeb Rafeeq Malik which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Srinagar British School H/O Rajbagh within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Rafeeq Malik
F/O Nageeb Rafeeq Malik
R/O SK Bagh Wanbal

mtko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written on my Electricity Bill bearing C.ID No; 0235010004122 as Assadullah Rather S/o Qasim Rather while my correct name is as per Aadhaar is Assadullah Rather S/o Mohd Qasim Rather which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Division Sumbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Assadullah Rather
S/o Mohd Qasim Rather
R/o Rather Mohalla Sarai Dangerpora

X

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 Aisha Fayaz D/o Abdul Aziz Katoo R/o Trikbal Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 08/03/1968 occurred at Home

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

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2008 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Ab Waheed Dar
S/o: Mehraj Ud Din Dar
Roll No: 401230
Year & Session 2008 Annual Regular



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

bb

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 Haroon Ayesha D/o Javid Ahmad Mir R/o Bucho Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 21/02/2023 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for issuance fertilizer licence under name an style Naikoo Enterprises Hermain Shopian if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Chief Agricultural Officer Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aaqib Hamid
S/o Abdul Hamid
R/o Aloora Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my passports bearing no J435622 my name has been wrongly mentioned as Misra while as my actual and correct name is Misra Begum . Now I want to apply for it's correction in this regard if any person has any objections he/she may file the objections in office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be accepted.

Misra Begum
W/O Abdul Majid Mir
R/O Patushai Bandipora

fko

*Gone from our sight but never from our hearts
Come back. Even as a shadow, even as a dream*

SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER

With deep grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mr. Abdul Rashid Zargar S/o Haji Mohd Abdullah Zargar R/o Madin Sahib, Bota Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir who left for heavenly abode on April 13, 2024 (Saturday).



"May Almighty Allah rest your soul in peace and grant you Highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous,"
Ameen

The Congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on Tuesday (April 16, 2024) at 10.00 am at our ancestral graveyard at Syed Sahib, Rajouri Kadal near Gani Memorial Stadium, Srinagar.

We request the female visitors not to bring any kind of fruits etc. along.

Bereaved:
Sakib Rashid Zargar (Son)
Mr Mubashir Fazal Keng (Son in law)
Mr Muneeb Mushtaq Tibetbaqal (Son in law)
Mobile No: 7006111362, 9469316272

SHEIKH FAMILY BEREAVED

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform all the relatives and friends, the demise of **Sheikh Muhammad Yaseen S/o Late Sheikh Abdul Hamid**. He was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard at Gupkar Road Graveyard near Kashmir Nursing Home on 15th April 2024 (Monday).



Fateh khawani will be observed on 18th April 2024 (Thursday) at 9:00 am.

Bereaved
Sheikh Mohd Roman(son), Sheikh Mohd Yaqoot(Brother)
Sheikh Mohd Yaqoob(Brother) 9906660588/9906711338
Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of Fruits/Eatbales etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK04C-2032 while travelling from Magam to Poshkar . 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 Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Javid Ahmad Mir S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Mir
R/o Alamnag Poshkar Khag
(2nd Owner) Mudasir Ahmad Dar S/o Nazir Ahmad Dar
R/o Sharan Poshkar Khag

bmj

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District Judge At Pulwama/ Before The Hon'ble Court Of Civil Judge (Jr. Division)/Munsiff At Pampore

In the case of:
Ab Rashid Fazi. S/o; Ghulam Ahmad Fazi
R/o; Shar-Shali, Pampore

..... Caveator/Applicant

V/S
Public at large

.....Non-Applicants

In the matter of: Caveat application in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C on behalf of Caveators.

May it please your Hon'our:

The application is most humbly submitted as under: -

1. That the applicant/caveator is permanent resident of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and is resident of Shar-Shali, Pampore Tehsil: Pampore District: Pulwama and is having landed property measuring 10 Marlas (Milkiyat) approximately, and double storied Residential House built over the said land, situated at Mouza Namblabal, Pampore.

2. That the applicant/caveator has an apprehension that some un-known person/s will approach this honhle court with a false and fictitious suit and will get an order in his/their favour in ex-parte against the applicant/caveator, and in case of such eventuality, no orders may kindly be passed in ex-parte against the caveator without providing the caveator an opportunity to be heard.

3. That before passing any kind of order/relief in favour of the non-applicant on any suit or application, the caveator be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard, otherwise the caveator shall have to face great irreparable loss, injury and inconvenience.

4. That an affidavit duly sworn by the caveator is enclosed herewith.

Prayer: -

In the premises it is therefore prayed that this [hon'ble] Court may be pleased to provide an opportunity to the caveator of being heard before passing/granting any kind of relief/order in favour of the non-applicants with regard to the above said subject matter, in the interests of justice and law.

fko Caveator through counsel

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank Account bearing A/C NO: 0227040800004573 as Ashiq Ahmad Hajam While my correct name is Ashiq Hussain Hajam which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office fo the BranchManager J&K Bank Singhpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ashiq Hussain Hajam
S/o Gh Ahmad Hajam
R/o Habak Tangoo Pattan

bmj

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Documents Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Inspector, Finance Department - regarding.

Whereas, The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board(JKSSB), conducted the OMR Based Written Examination for the post of Inspector, Finance Department, UT cadre, advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2020, under Item No. 117 on 17th March, 2024; and Whereas the JKSSB notified Revised/Final Answer Key vide Notice No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/9/2024-03 (7430339) dated : 15.04.2024, in respect of the aforesaid posts and the same was uploaded on the official website of the JKSSB (www.jkssb.nic.in) for the information of the candidates.

Accordingly, the candidates as per Annexure-A to this notification have been shortlisted for Documents verification cum Interview/Viva Voce for selection to the post of Inspector, Finance department.

The candidates who are falling under the consideration zone for the aforementioned posts, are hereby called upon to appear physically before the designated Documents Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce Committees of the Board for the verification/scrutiny of their documents/certificates. The Documents Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce will be held tentatively from 06th to 08th May,2024 as per the schedule and venue which will be intimated later.

Candidature of these candidates is provisional subject to their being eligible in all respects. The Candidates will be required to produce the original certificates in support of their claims pertaining to age, educational qualifications, category if any, etc. at the time of their Documents Verification cum Interview/Viva Voce. They are therefore advised to keep the said documents ready with them. No request for change in the date and time of the Documents Verification cum Interview/viva voce intimated to the candidates will be entertained.

The candidates are required to produce following original documents/certificates in original, along-with one set of self-attested copies, before the designated committee(s):

1. Copy of Online application form.
2. Two passport size recent colour photographs.
3. One original photo ID Proof i.e. Aadhar card/Voter Card/Pan Card/Passport etc.
4. DOB certificate (10th Diploma/Marks card)
5. 10+2 Diploma/Marks card.
6. Valid Category certificate, if belongs to reserved categories.
7. Domicile Certificate.

8. Graduation Degree and Marks Card from recognized University.
 9. Bonafide Certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the Controller/Registrar of the concerned University/Institute in respect of Candidates, who have obtained the qualification from outside the UT of J&K.
 10. Checklist sheet/form to be submitted by candidates at the time of D.V cum Interview/Viva Voce (as per Annexure B)
 11. Other documents as per prescribed qualification mentioned in the Advertisement Notification.
- The candidate(s) who fail to appear before the respective Document Verification /Viva Voce Committee(s) on the scheduled date(s) shall forfeit their right to selection.

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/9/2024-03 (7430339)
DIPK-94/24 Dated : 15-04-2024

ANNEXURE A

Serial	Roll Number	19.	1130233	38.	1450009
1.	1030285	20.	1140102	39.	1480057
2.	1030312	21.	1140287	40.	1510289
3.	1030333	22.	1140304	41.	2040037
4.	1040250	23.	1150116	42.	2050089
5.	1060263	24.	1160120	43.	2100057
6.	1060289	25.	1180540	44.	2110151
7.	1060346	26.	1210075	45.	2120287
8.	1070315	27.	1220015	46.	2190047
9.	1080329	28.	1230121	47.	2210305
10.	1080332	29.	1280125	48.	2230136
11.	1080388	30.	1300354	49.	2330478
12.	1080391	31.	1340048	50.	2410009
13.	1080493	32.	1340179	51.	2460066
14.	1100114	33.	1340284	52.	2520254
15.	1110357	34.	1350360	53.	2530071
16.	1110420	35.	1400057	54.	2530255
17.	1120259	36.	1410053	55.	2560061
18.	1120427	37.	1430060		



Around 92,000 Visitors Flock Srinagar's Tulip Garden In Last Six days

Agencies Srinagar: Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar has seen an unprecedented surge in tourist footfall this season, with over 91,963 people from different countries and states visiting the garden in the last six days alone. Contractor Khan Mudasir, overseeing the garden, informed that the influx of visitors has been remarkable, with a daily average of around 15,327 enthusiasts exploring its winding pathways and vibrant floral displays. To enhance the visitor experience, the floriculture department has introduced five new varieties of tulips, which further adds to the garden's charm, he said, adding that the management has implemented online ticket processing to streamline entry and minimize long queues. The move has received positive feedback



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

from tourists, he added. Kashmir's rich culture and traditions. Khan said that to encourage educational visits, a special 20 percent discount on tickets has been extended to students until April 20. Visitors have com-

mended the government's efforts in ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience, expressing satisfaction with the arrangements made. Last year, the garden welcomed over 3.65 lakh visitors, including domestic and foreign tourists, highlighting its growing popularity as a tourist hotspot. Moreover, it has become a favored filming location for various movie and video productions, with several film units opting to capture the garden's scenic beauty. The Tulip festival, held annually during the spring season, aims to showcase the garden's diverse range of flowers and attract tourists from around the world. Alongside admiring the blooming tulips, visitors can immerse themselves in cultural programs, savor local cuisine at food stalls, and participate in various activities showcasing



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Rainfall Lands Commuters In Trouble, Causes Traffic Snarls In Srinagar

Agencies

Srinagar: The heavy downpour in Srinagar has punctured the tall claims of the administration as most parts of the City turned into a virtual pool on Monday as the inundated roads caused huge inconvenience to the commuters, thereby leading to the traffic chaos as well. Locals have reported the potholes at numerous locations, exacerbating the situation, choking traffic movement, and causing severe traffic jams for hours as well. Residents have expressed anguish with the slow pace of work under the Smart City project, accusing authorities of neglecting basic infrastructure maintenance.

They added that traffic movement has completely been choked today, causing inconvenience to locals and pedestrians alike. "The condition of our roads has worsened due to the ongoing rains, and the open potholes are a serious safety hazard," said a local resident, Mohammad Ali, from Karan Nagar, Srinagar. Another resident, Wahid, voiced his concerns, saying, "We were promised better infrastructure and improved services under the Smart City project, but the reality on the ground tells a different story. The authorities need to prioritize the safety and well-being of the residents," added Wahid. "The Smart City initiative was launched

with the aim of transforming Srinagar into a modern, sustainable city with improved infrastructure and services. However, delays in completing essential infrastructure work have left many questioning the effectiveness and efficiency of the project," said Jibran, another local. Moreover, due to the potholed conditions of roads, many accidents have occurred in the last couple of days. Earlier, at least three individuals, including a woman, were injured after an auto-rickshaw met with an accident in Ganderpora locality of Srinagar's Sakidafar. The accident was the outcome of the potholed road condition outside Shaheen Public School at Sakidafar here as according to the locals several accidents have taken place from last two days at the spot—(KNO)

Body Of Missing Man Recovered From Jhelum Near Shalteng

Agencies Srinagar: Body of a man, who was missing since April 08, has been recovered from river Jhelum near Shalteng area of Srinagar this morning, officials said. An official said the body of Fayaz Ahmad Khan, son of Mohammad

Shafi Khan of Khankah Mohalla was recovered from Jhelum near Mujgund in Shalteng by locals, who then informed the police. He said the body has been sent to the hospital and will be handed over to the family after completing all medico-legal formalities. Police have taken cognizance of the matter—(KNO)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice. The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction on eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division: Catalogue No.: EAF2R-SLR24-13A. Auction Start: 03/05/2024 at 11:00 Hrs. Name of work: Allotment of contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No. / SLR compartment: 12426-F1, 12498-F1, 22432-F1, 11450-F1, 22430-F1, 14610-F1, 14612-F1, 20986-F1, 22402-F1, 19416-F1, 22942-F1, 22462-F1, 14682-F1, 16788-F1, 19804-F1, 14034-F1, 12446-F1, 19028-F1, 12414-F1, 19108-F1. For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. 1129/2024. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

J&K Bank Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Central Stationery Department Nowgam, Bypass Srinagar 190015 J&K. On-Line Request for Quotes (e-RFQ) for Supply of White A4 Photocopier Paper (75 GSM). RFQ Notice along with Complete RFQ document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://jkbank.abcpocure.com w.e.f. April 12, 2024, 16:00 Hrs. RFP Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is May 02, 2024, 17:00 Hrs. e-RFQ Ref. JKB/CSD/Photocopier/2024-1040 Dated:08-04-2024. Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L6510JK1938SGC000048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info@jkbmail.com; W : www.jkbank.com

MORE SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS-2024. In addition to already announced Summer Special Trains, Railways will run following additional Summer Special Trains as per following details :- 05656/05655 Guwahati-Jammu Tawi-Guwahati Summer Special Train 18 Trips. Train No. 05656 STATIONS Train No. 05655. ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. GUWAHATI 13:20 - - 17:35 - - JAMMU TAWI - - 10:00. Days of Run : 05656 Ex Guwahati from 06.05.2024 to 01.07.2024 on every Monday and 05655 Ex Jammu Tawi from 09.05.2024 to 04.07.2024 on every Thursday. Stoppages: Kamakhya Jn, Rangiya Jn, Barpeta Road, New Bongaigaon Jn, Kokrajhar, New Cooch Behar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Katihar Jn, Naugachia, Khagaria Jn, Begusarai, Barauni Jn, Shahpur Patoree, Desari, Hajipur Jn, Sonpur, Chhapra Jn, Siwan Jn, Bhatni Jn, Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur Jn, Gondia Jn, Lucknow Nr, HarDOI, Bareilly Jn, Moradabad Jn, Laksar Jn, Roorkee, Saharanpur Jn, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt, Jn, Ludhiana Jn, Jalandhar Cantt, Jn., Pathankot Cantt., Kathua stations. Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper. 09405/09406 Sabarmati-Patna Jn-Sabarmati Special Train 22 Trips. Train No. 09405 STATIONS Train No. 09406. ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. SABARMATI 13:30 - - 15:35 15:45 LUCKNOW 16:05 16:15 02:00 - - PATNA JN. - - 05:00. Days of Run : 09405 Ex Sabarmati from 16.04.2024 to 25.06.2024 on every Tuesday and 09406 Ex Patna Jn. from 18.04.2024 to 27.06.2024 on every Thursday. Stoppages: Mahesana Jn, Palanpur Jn, Abu Road, Ajmer Jn, Phulera Jn, Jaipur, Bandikui Jn, Bharatpur Jn, Achhnera Jn, Agra Fort, Tundla Jn, Kanpur Central, Lucknow Nr, Sultanpur, Varanasi Jn, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar & Ara Jn stations. Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General. 09309/09310 earlier announced between Indore-New Delhi-Indore superfast Bi-weekly special Train will now run between Indore-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Indore as per following details: Train No. 09309 STATIONS Train No. 09310. ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. INDORE 21:00 - - 04:30 - - HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN - - 08:20. Days of Run : 09309 Ex Indore from 19.04.2024 to 30.06.2024 on every Friday & Sunday and 09310 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin from 20.04.2024 to 01.07.2024 on every Saturday & Monday. Stoppages: Dewas, Ujjain Jn, Nagda Jn, Shamgarh, Ramganj Mandi, Kota Jn, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Bharatpur Jn & Mathura Jn stations. Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General. For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

09064 Gorakhpur Jn.-Udhna Jn. Un-Reserved Special Train 01 Trip. STATIONS Train No. 09064. ARR. DEP. GORAKHPUR Jn. - - 04:45 LUCKNOW 13:05 13:10 UDHNA JN. 15:30 - -. Days of Run : 09064 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. on 16.04.2024 (Tuesday) Stoppages: Anand Nagar Jn, Siddharth Nagar, Barhni, Gainsari, Tulsipur, Balrampur, Gondia Jn, Barabanki Jn, Lucknow Nr, Kanpur Central, Orai, Virangana Lakshmbai, Bina, Vidisha, Rani Kamalapati, Itarsi Jn, Khandwa Jn, Bhusawal Jn, Nandurbar, Bardoli & Chalthan stations. Accommodation: Sleeper & General. 04145/04146 Prayagraj-Anand Vihar T.-Prayagraj Superfast Summer Special Train 12 Trips. Train No. 04145 STATIONS Train No. 04146. ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. - - 21:20 PRAYAGRAJ 19:20 - - 08:00 - - ANAND VIHAR T. - - 09:30. Days of Run : 04145 Ex Prayagraj from 26.04.2024 to 31.05.2024 on every Friday and 04146 Ex Anand Vihar T. from 27.04.2024 to 01.06.2024 on every Saturday. Stoppages: Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla & Aligarh. Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General. 08475/08476 Puri-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Puri Summer Special Train 20 Trips. Train No. 08475 STATIONS Train No. 08476. ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. - - 04:50 PURI 06:55 - - 17:40 - - HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN - - 23:30. Days of Run : 08475 Ex Puri from 19.04.2024 to 28.06.2024 on every Friday and 08476 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin from 20.04.2024 to 29.06.2024 on every Saturday. Stoppages: Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Naraj Marthapur, Dhenkanal, Angul, Rairakhol, Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda Road, Bilaspur, Katni Murwar, Damoh, Saugor, Birangana Laxmbai Jhansi, Gwalior, Agra Cantt, Mathura Jn stations. Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General. 05051 Chhapra Jn.-Delhi Jn. Unreserved Special Train 01 Trip. STATIONS Train No. 05051. ARR. DEP. CHHAPRA JN. - - 11:25 LUCKNOW 22:00 22:10 DELHI JN. 11:40 - -. Days of Run : 05051 Ex Chhapra Jn. on 16.04.2024 (Tuesday) Stoppages: Ballia, Indara Jn, Mau Jn, Azamgarh, Khorason Road, Shahganj Jn, Ayodhya Cantt, Lucknow, Moradabad & Ghaziabad. Accommodation: Sleeper & General. RailMadad Helpline No. 139. Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download Railmadad App. Follow us on: NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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 - (Closed)

HIJRI CALENDAR 07 Shawal 1445. PRAYERS FAJR 4:32 ZUHR 12:32 ASR 5:10 Magrib 7:05 ISHA 8:31

This Day In History. 1457 BC- Battle of Megiddo: Egyptian forces of Thutmose III defeat a large Canaanite coalition under King of Kadesh. First battle recorded with a reliable account. 566- Pelagius I begins his reign as Catholic Pope. 1071- Bari falls to Robert Guiscard's Norman forces, ending Byzantine rule in Italy. 1346- The Serbian Empire is proclaimed in Skopje at an Easter assembly and Stephen Uroš IV Dušan crowned Emperor over much of the Balkans. 1395- Azzo X d'Este is defeated at the Battle of Portomaggiore by Venetian-Ferrarese troops. 1509- French army under Louis XII enters the Alps. 1799 -- Napoleonic Wars: The Battle of Mount Tabor - Napoleon drives Ottoman Turks across the River Jordan near Acre. 1865 - Battle of Columbus & West Point, GA (Ft Tyler) 1913 - The Bulgarians and the Turks agree to an armistice that will be accepted by the other nations involved. 1917 - Lenin arrives back from exile in Russia at Finland Station, Petrograd to join the Russian Revolution. 1921 - Liberal Freedom League forms in The Hague. 1922 - German-Russian treaty signed in Italy, Soviet Union recognized. 1922 - Rapallo Agreement, between Germany and Russia, is signed. 1939 - Stalin requests British, French & Russian anti-nazi pact. 1943 - 40 NZ bombers attack Haarlem, Netherlands (85 killed). 1945 - Red Army begins Battle of Berlin. 1945 - US troops enter Nuremberg, Germany. 1946 - 1st US launch of captured V-2 rocket, White Sands, NM; 8 km alt. 1953 - British royal yacht Britannia launched by Queen Elizabeth II. 1957 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test. 1972 - Two giant pandas arrive in US from China. 1972 - Apollo 16 launched; 5th manned lunar landing (Decartes Highlands). 1974 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR. 1980- US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site. 1982- Queen Elizabeth proclaims Canada's new constitution. 1984- Pulitzer prize awarded to Mary Oliver for "American Primitive". 1986- To dispel rumors he's dead, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi appears on TV. 1986- West Indies complete 5-0 demolition of England. 1989- Berendrechtsluis opens in Antwerp, biggest flood lock in world. 1992- Afghan president Najibullah resigns. 2003 - Treaty of Accession is signed in Athens admitting 10 new member states to the European Union. 2007 - Virginia Tech massacre: The deadliest mass shooting in modern American history. The gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, kills 32 people and injures 23 others before committing suicide. 2012 - At least 55 people are killed in the Syrian uprising despite UN presence to oversee ceasefire. 2012 - For the first time since 1977 no Pulitzer Prize is awarded for fiction. 2013 - 37 people are killed by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Khash country, Iran. 2014 - South Korean ferry MV Sewol sinks on route Incheon to Jeju, 304 drown, mostly students. National controversy erupts over rescue efforts and actions of crew and owner. 2017 - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo an wins referendum on 18-article constitutional reform package. 2019- Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson becomes the highest-paid player in NFL history with a 4-year \$140m extension including record \$65m signing bonus.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™
Tuesday | 16-04-2024

Iran's Right To Self-Defense

The recent escalation between Iran and Israel underscores the urgent need to prevent a wider conflict in the Gulf region. The exchange of missile and drone attacks threatens to plunge the already volatile region into further chaos and bloodshed, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the people living in the affected areas and beyond.

The attack launched by Iran, targeting Israeli territory, represents a dangerous escalation in tensions that have been simmering for years. While Israel managed to intercept the majority of the projectiles, the fact that such a large-scale assault was attempted highlights the grave threat posed by the ongoing animosity between these two regional powers. Moreover, the involvement of other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, in assisting Israel's defense underscores the risk of broader international entanglement in the conflict.

The repercussions of a full-blown conflict in the Gulf cannot be overstated. Beyond the immediate loss of life and destruction of property, such a scenario would have far-reaching geopolitical and economic consequences. The Gulf region is home to vital shipping lanes and strategic oil reserves, making it a linchpin of the global economy. Any disruption to the flow of oil and commerce through this region would send shockwaves throughout the world, driving up energy prices and destabilizing markets.

Moreover, a wider conflict in the Gulf would likely exacerbate existing tensions in neighboring countries, such as Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon, further fueling violence and instability across the region. The risk of a broader regional conflagration, drawing in other actors and escalating into a protracted and devastating conflict, is very real.

In the face of this alarming escalation, it is imperative that all parties exercise restraint and pursue diplomatic solutions to de-escalate tensions. The international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, must play a proactive role in facilitating dialogue and mediation between Iran and Israel, as well as other relevant stakeholders in the region.

Dialogue and diplomacy offer the only viable path to resolving the underlying grievances and addressing the legitimate security concerns of all parties involved. Military escalation will only lead to further suffering and instability, with no winners in sight. Instead, concerted efforts must be made to find common ground, build trust, and chart a course toward peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Additionally, regional powers and international actors must work together to address the root causes of the tensions between Iran and Israel, including the ongoing conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and beyond. Addressing these underlying conflicts and grievances is essential to creating a conducive environment for peace and security in the Gulf and the broader Middle East.

The stakes are too high to allow the current escalation to spiral out of control. The time for action is now. The international community must redouble its efforts to prevent a wider conflict in the Gulf and pursue a peaceful resolution to the longstanding disputes plaguing the region. Only through dialogue, diplomacy, and concerted international cooperation can lasting peace and stability be achieved.

OTHER OPINION

Fleeting relief

The average inflation of 5% clocked in the final quarter of 2023-24 is not just in line with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projections but also the slowest in three years. For the full year gone by, consumer price rise averaged 5.4%, as the RBI had forecast — a four-year low. Core inflation, excluding energy and food prices, has been under the 4% mark for four straight months. QuantEco Research estimates that overall fuel inflation in India hit a four-year low of -2.7% in March, which was the seventh straight month of disinflation in the segment. No doubt, the 2 per litre cuts in petrol and diesel prices and the 100 drop in cylinder prices have helped, though the full impact of these pre-poll steps will be seen this month. Amid these pleasant portents, two critical problems persist — food bills remain problematically high, even as overall inflation is rising for rural consumers, already hit by a weak monsoon.

Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index, has averaged an alarming 8% through 2023-24, and 8.5% in the January to March quarter. And while some government interventions have helped check a few items' prices and hopes of a normal monsoon this year could lift some pressure points, perhaps from July onwards, the ongoing heat waves across large parts of the country remain a threat to perishable supplies. Moreover, some key items are seeing deeply entrenched inflation trends — double-digit inflation has now been seen for five months in vegetables, 10 months in pulses and a whopping 22 months in spices. Cereals inflation picked up pace in March, breaking a seven-month moderating streak, while eggs, meat and fish are also seeing spikes. While the RBI expects inflation to cool to 4.5% this year, it is projected at 4.9% for the first quarter. A durable descent to its 4% target that has now been elusive for 54 months, remains tricky. For urban consumers, inflation eased tantalisingly close to the target in March at 4.14%, but it rose in rural India to 5.45% from 5.34% in January and February. While a prolonged phase of high prices is already hurting consumption, the resurgence in crude oil prices to a seven-month high of \$90 a barrel this month, faltering hopes of interest rate cuts in the United States and the European Union, and strife-fuelled shipping cost spikes, pose fresh worries on the inflation front in the months to come.

The Hindu

Textbooks for sure are indispensable tools to realize the curricular goals and objectives. The designing of textbooks therefore needs to be meticulously organised and crafted to render them more effective and penetrative. So, the job to compile text books in different subject domains requires expertise of the highest order, both, in terms of having mastery over the content matter and clearly defined in-built pedagogical framework. Previously the essence of classroom teaching-learning was central to the nature and type of text book and teacher usually was restrictive and limited in his/her approach while imparting black and white information to the learners and he/she would hardly trespass beyond textbooks to further explore and refine the concepts of the by-gone era learners. The rigid and non-flexible approach on part of the teacher by totally relying on text books in content transmission has fostered the skill of rote-learning and cramming up of the information by the end user.

NCF 2005, NCF (Foundational stage) 2022 and NCFSE 2023

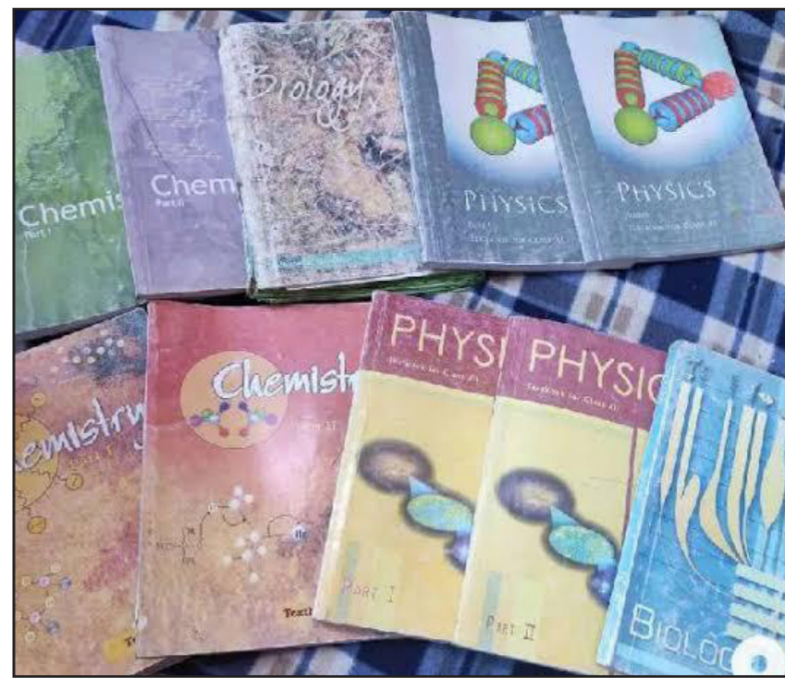
Education sector has made immense strides over the past couple of decades and has therefore opened new contours and channels in disseminating learning content to the modern day learners. All the National Curriculum Framework Documents, be it NCF 2005, NCF 2022 for foundational stage and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE 2023) have unequivocally laid down procedural framework on how to effectively achieve the curricular goals and aims by empowering learners as co-creators of knowledge rather than mere recipients of black and white information.

NCF documents, although extend a great deal of emphasis to textbooks, strongly discourage a teacher to be entirely dependent and text book centric. NCF documents, as rightly referred to as Bible of Indian Education is a guiding document for all the relevant stakeholders, especially the teachers and empowers them to move beyond textbooks while exploring the learning horizons and subsequent fine-tuning of concepts from the learner's perspective.

The NCF entrusts a degree of autonomy to teachers to judiciously make use of all available resources at hand and even come out of the four walls of the room, when it comes to execute constructivist approach of teaching-learning by letting students to construct new knowledge based on their prior experiences, rather than blindly trusting and relying on a single book. Text book is just a guiding path for the teacher and he/she holds absolute discretion to explore requisite ways and means to consolidate the concepts of the modern day learner.

The Unending Textbook Controversy

The controversy around the text books has gained momentum and will certainly remain a hot topic of discussion for a considerable period of time. It is being debated in every type of public discourse. Even social media platforms are flooded with memes, reels and discussions on the issue of textbooks. In our part of the world, we have unfortunately limited our understanding of curriculum to mere textbooks only, which is an outrightly wrong notion. Textbooks by no means are curriculum in entirety. The term 'Curriculum' is not a restrictive term. We have limited our understanding of curriculum to textbooks which otherwise goes much beyond, with text books being just one entity in the broader domain of curriculum. As per National Curriculum Framework for School



The Textbook Conundrum

Mushtaq Rather

Education 2023(NCFSE), which draws its essence from NEP2020, Curriculum refers to the entirety of the organised experiences of students in any institutional setting towards educational aims and objectives. The NCFSE further emphasises that the elements which constitute and bring life to curriculum are innumerable and include goals and objectives, syllabi, content to be taught and learnt, pedagogical practices and assessment, teaching learning materials, school and classroom practices, learning environment and culture of the institution. So across the landscape irrespective of the school: be it government run institution or private institution curriculum is uniform, however text books might be different.

Intervention in Right Perspective

The J&K UT government took a pioneering step in the right direction by making it mandatory for every school affiliated to JKBOSE irrespective of the nomenclature based on opt for common text books. This decision was not taken in isolation but was a well thought out intervention on the part of the government as grievances flooded from varied quarters especially from the parents regarding the monopoly of private schools and their unholy profiteering nexus with private publishers. The intervention of common textbooks is truly a laudable initiative on the part of the government and has certainly brought a sigh of relief to aggrieved parents. However, vested interest people have created a false notion in the society that JKBOSE books are not the ones framed and designed by subject experts from NCERT. This absolutely holds no water as JKBOSE has the mandate to have a periodic review and updation of the books which in essence are the NCERT books but are to be contextualised by incorporating local content as well. Education experts of the highest order are of the opinion that NCERT books are by no means inferior to the quality and content of private publications be it Oxford, McMillan, Oswal, Modern, Leads etc. However, the quality of the text paper in case of JKBOSE books is

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certainly on the poorer side but at the same time as mandated by Right to Education Act (2009), government has to ensure free textbooks to a whooping number of more than 12 lakh students at the elementary level, where quality of the text paper is bound to nose dive.

Core Problems

Earlier establishing an education institution was considered a not for profit entity and the ultimate motive and purpose was to illuminate and transform the lives of innumerable individuals which in the longer run can result in enhanced intellectual wellbeing in the society. The educational institutions were mainly operated by people having intellectual acumen of the highest order and far-sighted vision. In the current scheme of things private educational institutions are now considered as lucrative business entities and have therefore lured major business players to invest in this sector. This was essentially the need of the hour as well to boost and raise the infrastructural landscape of international standard. The problem started emerging when the private school administration started muddling

in areas they were supposed not to interfere in: they literally started vending out uniform and book outlet stores even in school premises or outside school compounds controlled and regulated by them and this has lowered their bar in the eyes of the public. One cannot ignore the contribution and sacrifices rendered by private schools in raising the academic standard across the length and breadth of our country in general and UT of Jammu and Kashmir in particular. However the unholy profiteering nexus between the private school administration and the publishers has fleeced parents to the core by selling books at highly exorbitant rates and parents are left with no choice but to toe their line. The monopoly is of such a magnitude that the books are available at a designated shop only. As it pertains to the education of their child, parents are ready to sacrifice everything and don't even bargain while purchasing books and uniforms as it is every parent's desire to let their children have access to quality and equitable education. In the current discourse private school sympathisers are strongly advocating that it must be the autonomy of the individual school to decide the type of textbooks as they believe that private publications like McMillan, Oxford, Lucent, Lead etc are the high quality end books and can go an extra mile in letting the acquisition of 21st century skills among modern day learners. Are the teachers in these institutions equipped with the requisite pedagogical set of skills to ensure the meaningful transaction of the text books? Or they simply believe in the actualization of exercise given at the end of the chapter or unit? What about the case studies, project work, Higher order thinking skills, surveys etc which are an integral component of these text books. Why cannot a school replicate the same set of textbooks for the next academic sessions? Why change text books every now and then? Doesn't it amount to profiteering and malafide intention? Isn't it a hoodwink trend to fleece parents? Why is there so much ado about textbooks? For a versatile and resourceful teacher, a textbook is a mere tool and his vibrant approach without relying too much on text books can take the learners to new echelons of knowledge. For a resourceful teacher, a textbook is just a skeleton and wrapping the muscles around the skeleton is the responsibility of the teacher to render it a functional combo.

Tailpiece

The contribution of private schools in raising the bar of academics will be recorded in the annals of history. However, they need to stick to their core domain of providing quality and equitable education rather than turning their institutions into business entities. This will certainly restore trust and faith in the general public. When a drawing book of average quality with 15 leaves is sold at a price of 510 rupees, then they are certainly answerable both to the authorities and to the general public and their image will further take a downslide, exposing the ill motive of profiteering.

As far as JKBOSE is concerned, they need to ensure the timely distribution of the full set of textbooks before the commencement of the new academic session. In maintaining the originality and sanctity of the NCERT books, JKBOSE has to ensure the services of the best brains of the department in contextualising and updating the text books at periodic intervals.

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



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Work Life Imbalance

Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's recent suggestion for "70-hours-work-a-week" among Indian youngsters will no doubt boost productivity, but it will certainly affect the balance of work-life approach, which is equally important. Unsurprisingly Mr. Murthy's comments have evoked a nationwide controversy, with many

have criticised his idea. In fact, a Bengaluru-based Cardiologist wrote in his X (formerly Twitter) account saying, "such an inhumane working hours can create a whole generation with a host of heart-related comorbidities." The Cardiologist's comment gains prominence, as WHO says that India accounts for at least one-fifth of the 17.9 mil-

lion cardiovascular disease-related deaths globally, especially in the younger generation. Currently, India's labour codes mandate that workers put in 8-hours of work a day, capping the weekly work hours at 48. Despite this, global data shows that India ranks fifth in the world among countries with long working hours. Research has

revealed that productivity falls sharply after 50 hours per week, and drops off a cliff after 55 hours. Rather than extended working hours, a streamlined approach with set working hours will work for large enterprises that have plentiful resources.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

In Pursuit of Morels A Childhood Adventure

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

While I was recovering under a stack of quilts due to feeling unwell a few days prior, I overheard a group of children excitedly spreading the news that a local named Tehleel had stumbled upon some morels. As the echoes of children's excitement filled the air, I peered through the window and saw them flocking to visit Tehleel. He was bombarded with a barrage of questions about the discovery of morels: where he found them, whose orchard they were from, and how many he had found.

Morels are prized mushrooms with a distinctive honeycomb-like structure, often heralding the arrival of spring as the first to emerge. This early appearance adds to their allure and mystique. Tehleel laughed heartily and answered, "May Laeb' Emm kangnich Razaq Chachn'i Baaghi Manzi—"I found these morels in Razaq's orchard, where blessings abound."

Buzzing with delight, the kids enthusiastically followed Tehleel, vanishing from view like bees to flowers. I felt all kinds of emotions at once. Since the people of Srinagar owned all the orchards, Razaq was only the orchard's custodian and not its owner. Even yet, Razaq chachi's name remained on the orchard, even though those kids probably never saw him because he had died more than ten years prior. I thought back to my early years and remembered passing those orchards on my route to school. As the vernal equinox heralds its arrival, nature's dormant denizens emerge from their somnolent state, seizing the opportunity bestowed upon them to unfurl their verdant splendor in a symphony of resplendent bloom. When gardens burst with an array of colorful flowers, the blossoming peach trees bring an extra charm to the scene. Back in the day, children headed to school without crisp uniforms, ties, or ID cards. Their shoes gleamed not from polish, but from mustard oil. On my way home, passing orchards of apple and peach trees, we would share exciting discoveries. News of finding something new, like Gu-



AI generated image

chi morels, spread through the village like wildfire.

All the children would dash home, quickly change their clothes, and return in search of morels (kangich). Every orchard became bustling with children, and once one child found a morel, every other child believed there was another nearby wait-

ing to be found. They would gather in a circle at that spot, chanting "Joori'e Joo'er Nati Ninn oEr" (either give me your pair or take your partner away), while searching nearby, displacing the grass in their quest. In April, as the weather remains cool with frequent showers, thunderstorms and lightning, every child, myself

included, believed that morels grew and emerged from the soil during these storms.

Among the many myths circulating among us children, some believed that applying kajal to our eyes in the morning would improve our eyesight and aid in finding a larger quantity of morels. We were all engrossed in

discussions about which orchard had the best abundance of morels, fueled by our shared curiosity and wonder. Each of us would bring home the morels, and our mothers would meticulously thread them together like garlands using needle and thread. These garlands would then be hung up for the drying process,

filling our homes with the earthy aroma of the mushrooms as they preserved for selling.

As April drew to a close, it was announced that the presence of morels had dwindled, and children began to compare how many morels they had collected. The once abundant and sizable morels had dried up, shrinking in size, much to the dismay of every child. They worried that they wouldn't make enough money, as what had once seemed like substantial garlands of morels now appeared diminished. Every child became increasingly eager to sell their morels at good prices, hoping to make the most of their harvest before the opportunity faded away completely. On Sundays, every child eagerly awaited the arrival of the morel merchant, who would come with a bag slung over his back, either on his bicycle or more commonly on foot. He carried a small measuring scale in his hands and pockets brimming with money. Everyone wanted to sell their morels directly in front of their eyes, as every child harbored trust issues, fearing that their parents or the merchant might cheat them and not pay them the exact amount they deserved. Since sometimes our mothers wouldn't disclose the actual amount of money they received when selling the morels, children felt compelled to sell their harvest directly to the morel merchant to ensure they received the full and fair value for their hard-earned bounty. While the children of this generation are often absorbed in mobile and virtual gaming, there's a unique allure to activities like searching for morels and selling them. It offers a different kind of engagement with nature and a sense of satisfaction from the tangible rewards of their efforts. I hope that the children of this generation will have the opportunity to experience the joys of exploring orchards and engaging in activities like morel hunting, just as we did at their age. It's a tradition worth preserving and passing down to future generations.

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Five Tips To Help You Start New Hobbies In Retirement

Alison Bishop

Retirement can be an exciting but also scary prospect for many. How you fill your time is totally up to you, but with so many choices it can be a bit daunting. But it's important to make sure you keep active, physically and mentally.

Hobbies can increase well-being by boosting brain function, enhancing social skills and improving fine motor skills. A study carried out in 2022 found that spending time on hobbies was associated with lower symptoms of depression and a perceived increase in a person's sense of health, happiness and overall life satisfaction.

However, many older people don't take up hobbies for all sorts of reasons. This might include fears that they are not as good at something in their older age as they were when they were younger. This fear of trying new things can lead to increased feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Here are five tips using positive psychology that could help you or someone in your life if they are scared or nervous about picking up a hobby.

1. Broaden your strengths

Our idea of what we are good at is formed at a very young age and often reflects subjects that we were good at in our school days. Positive psychol-



ogy's "theory of strengths" encourages us to think more broadly about what constitutes a strength. For instance, it considers curiosity, kindness and bravery as strengths. When applied to choosing a hobby, it means that if you believe one of your strengths is

kindness, you could consider working in outreach or charity as a hobby or spending time speaking with people who are housebound.

2. Find activities you already enjoy

The "broaden and build

theory" suggests that when we feel positive emotions such as joy or love, we are more likely to engage in new activities, thoughts and behaviours. It follows then, that if you look at times in your life when you experience these emotions this could help you start a new

hobby. So, if you enjoy walking in the countryside, then the theory suggests that those feelings would enable you to join a rambling club.

3. Remember moments you've lost track of time

Another way to identify an

activity that would be good to do is by using "flow theory". This suggests that when we are doing something that we become completely absorbed in, that our brain-wave patterns change and we can lose track of time. For this to happen, we need an activity that is meaningful to us to complete, with just the right amount of challenge so that it is not too easy or too hard.

An exercise that reveals your personal flow template involves looking back on your life to find as many times as possible when you've been doing something and completely lost track of time. Write these down and see if these moments have anything in common. For example, are they all creative activities or all outdoors and physical? This will reveal something about yourself and the type of activity that is aligned with who you are, and could suggest new hobbies.

4. Be kind to yourself

"Self-compassion theory" teaches us the importance of being as kind to ourselves as we would be to a friend. When we are thinking about what we are good at, we can be unkind to ourselves by comparing ourselves unfavourably to others or to an imagined high standard.

Self-compassion theory states that our imperfections

make us human, and it is our shared knowledge of this that connects us to others. Where a goal in an activity is kindness with ourselves and those doing the activity with us rather than performance, we can access a new more meaningful reason to take part in something.

5. Imagine your perfect day

The last tip from positive psychology involves creating a story of the perfect average day and then planning to actually live it. How do your hobbies fit into this? How does this day tap into your broadened idea of your strengths? How does it include kindness to yourself and others?

It also helps to identify goals either for retirement more generally or for participating in a hobby. By picturing the perfect average day you can create more meaning and purpose in life by seeing how all the parts of your life fit together. It also reveals short term goals for example, if you plan to go to an art club but can't get there, then a goal could be asking for a lift from another club member. When these pieces are in place, hope is ignited, and a vision created of how life can go forward so that you really can live your best retired life.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Jammu-Srinagar Rail Link By June

AGENCIES

Srinagar: The ambitious railway line linking Katra to Sangaldan is on track to be finalized by June this year, railway authorities have announced, with work progressing rapidly. Presently, trains operate along the railway line from Kanyakumari to Katra, while services run from Baramulla to Sangaldan in the Kashmir Valley. The impending connection between Katra and Sangaldan is poised to bridge the gap in rail connectivity, facilitating seamless travel from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

According to the reports, over the weekend, Railway Protection Force (RPF) Director General Manoj Yadav conducted an extensive inspection of the newly constructed railway line and stations between Banihal and Sangaldan in Ramban district. Arriving in Jammu and Kashmir for a two-day visit, Yadav, accompanied by Northern Railway officials, embarked on a special inspection, traveling to

Banihal station from Srinagar via rail car. During his visit, he meticulously examined the railway station and RPF post, ensuring security measures were in place.

Reports inform that Yadav proceeded to Khadi-Sumbad and Sangaldan railway stations, where he assessed the deployment and security arrangements of the Railway Protection Force.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, including the 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan section, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20. This ambitious endeavor, totaling 272 km, represents a significant milestone in India's railway infrastructure development. Phase I of the project, covering the 118 km long Qazigund-Baramulla section, was inaugurated in October 2009. Subsequent phases saw the inauguration of the 18 km long Banihal-Qazigund section in June 2013 and the 25 km long Udhampur-Katra section in July 2014.(KNO)

construction of the Ram temple since 1984 but it was done by us and our Prime Minister performed its 'pran pratishtha' on January 22," Singh said.

"We implemented the CAA but there are people who are trying to create misgivings but I want to clarify that no Indian citizen is going to lose his citizenship," he added.

Singh further said, "We have promised implementation of the UCC in the next five years and I wonder why it should not be done."

"A big trouble has been created in free India due to trust deficit caused by the politicians who used to say something and do something else. This trust deficit between people and politicians was finished by the BJP," he added.

Referring to the triple talaq, Singh said some people are saying why are you interfering in the religious affairs of others.

"I want to make it clear to them that any woman irrespective of her faith is our mother, sister and daughter. The attack on the dignity and honour of women will not be tolerated. Whether we form a government or not, how can we accept such a thing which will throw her out of her home," he said.

As far as the Narendra Modi government is concerned, Singh said not only India but the world acknowledges that India is moving ahead to become the third largest economy in the world and its image has also enhanced so much that the world listens carefully to what "we are saying unlike in the past when nobody was taking us seriously".

He said the BJP is doing what it is saying and it was not the case with Congress which ruled the nation for so many decades but failed to make the country a powerful nation which it should have done three decades ago.

Singh also took a dig at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti over her remarks that there would be no one to lift the tricolour in Jammu and Kashmir in case of the abrogation of Article 370.

"I want to tell you, Mehbooba Mufti, today the tricolour is being unfurled on all parts of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Referring to another remark that there would be a bloodbath on the roads of Kashmir, he pointed out that streams of milk and water are flowing in Jammu and Kashmir, showing the significant development and progress made since the abrogation of the Article 370 in August 2019.

"Modi has returned things with interest to Jammu and Kashmir. J&K is moving rapidly on the path of development and progress," he added.

Pointing towards Congress leader Rahul Gandhi playing with his sister Priyanka in the snow at Gulmarg in Kashmir early last year, Singh attributed it to the peace prevailing in the region after the abrogation of Article 370.

"India's Power Surged Post-Surgical Strikes"

The Defence Minister said India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has shown to the world that it has the power to hit its targets within and across the border in the aftermath of Uri and Pulwama terror attacks.

The terrorists attacked an army camp in the border town of Uri in September 2016, resulting in the killing of 19 soldiers. A fortnight later, the Indian Army carried out a surgical strike across the border and destroyed launch pads for terrorists.

In February 2019, over 40 CRPF personnel were killed in a suicide attack on their convoy by the terrorists in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. Twelve days after the attack, the Indian Air Force (IAF) destroyed the terrorist camp in Balakote, Pakistan.

"Earlier India was considered as a soft state...India has neither attacked any country nor occupied any foreign land which is its character."

"But when Uri and Pulwama happened, India gave a strong message that we will not touch anyone but if touched by someone we will not leave them," he added.

Singh, Union Minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, is seeking his re-election for the third term from Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on April 19.

"We have the capability and power to hit (our targets) anywhere within and across our borders. The power of India increased in the world (after the surgical strikes)," he said, giving credit to Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Referring to the safe evacuation of over 22,500 Indian students in the midst of war between Ukraine and Russia in early 2022, he said the fighting between the two countries stopped for over four hours after Modi established contact with the presidents of the two countries and the US.

"The concerned parents of these students started demanding for the return of their wards from the war-torn country and the government facilitated their safe return (to their homes)," he said.

Amit Shah To Address

respectively.

Meanwhile, Sachin Pilot will address rallies in Kathua in support of Congress candidates, including Choudhary Lal Singh for the Udhampur constituency and Raman Bhalla for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat.

With the first phase of campaigning nearing its conclusion, these rallies hold strategic significance, particularly in hotly contested constituencies like Udhampur and Jammu.

In Udhampur, the battle is primarily between Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Congress' Choudhary Lal Singh, with other candidates also vying for attention. The constituency heads to the polls on April 19.

Similarly, in Jammu, the main contest is between BJP's Jugal Kishore and Congress' Raman Bhalla, with other parties also in the fray. This constituency is spread over four districts and is scheduled for elections in the second phase on April 26, 2024.

Furthermore, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Security, Shamsher Hussain, also issued an advisory for people to arrive on time for smooth entry before the start of the programme. (KNO)

'BJP To Bag

any neighboring country, Rajnath Singh said that India will not hesitate to strike across the border if the need arises. "India has the power to strike at its enemy from its soil and also in the enemy's territory across the Line of Control as the country has the world's best military might," he said, adding that India has evolved into a global leader under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Singh who sought votes for the BJP candidate for Udhampur parliamentary seat, Dr Jitendra Singh hit opposition political parties including Congress, National Conference, and PDP from left, right, and centre, claiming that these parties have lost credibility before the common people.

Udhampur Lok Sabha seat is going to polls on April 19. The main contest is expected between the BJP's Jitendra Singh and Lal Singh from the Congress party.

Iran Warns Israel

part of what it described as an "international coordinated effort" to intercept the Iranian attack on Israel. Jordan "dealt with" objects that flew through its airspace overnight, the country's cabinet said.

Following the attack, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed "together we will win", but it is unclear how his country plans to respond. Last week, Israel's defence and foreign ministers warned that if Iran attacked Israel, Israel would strike back inside Iran.

Tehran has warned it will strike again with greater force if Israel or the US retaliate for the Iranian strike on Israel that used more 300 drones and missiles on Saturday night.

"If the Zionist regime [Israel] or its supporters demonstrate reckless behaviour, they will receive a decisive and much stronger response," President Raisi said in a statement on Sunday.

Raisi's statement follows a similar warning by Iranian military chief, Major-General Mohammad Bagheri, who told state TV that a "much larger" response awaits Israel "if it retaliates against Iran".

Iranian armed forces chief of staff Maj Gen Mohammad Bagheri told state TV the US had been warned - via Switzerland - that American backing of an Israeli retaliation would result in US regional bases being targeted.

"Our response will be much larger than tonight's military action if Israel retaliates against Iran," the Iranian armed forces' chief of staff, Maj Gen Mohammad Bagheri, told state TV, adding that Tehran had warned Washington that any backing of Israeli retaliation would result in US bases being targeted.

Another top general declared that Sunday's strikes have changed the equation against Israel, and Iran will now hit Israel directly against any aggression.

"From now on, if the Zionist regime attacks our interests, assets, figures, and citizens at any point, it will face counter-attack from within the Islamic Republic of Iran," said IRGC Chief Maj Gen Hossain Salami.

Israel, with the help of key allies including the US, UK and Jordan, claimed to have intercepted 99% of the launches during the mass strike, but added that some ballistic missiles had reached

Israel, damaging the Nevatim airbase in southern Israel.

Some projectiles penetrated the defensive shield. IDF Spokesman Daniel Hagari confirmed a direct hit on an airbase in southern Israel that caused "minor damage to infrastructure" though the base remained fully operational.

Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian asserted that the Security Council's inaction emboldened Netanyahu to disregard laws, clarifying that Iran's military operation against Israeli Occupation was targeted and limited in scope, avoiding economic or civilian targets. He emphasized the precision of Iran's response, targeting the launch sites of F-35 aircraft as a legitimate act of self-defense.

The New York Times cited Israeli intelligence sources as saying the main targets appeared to be military installations in the occupied Golan Heights, in the far north, and the Negev desert, in the far south.

Tehran's ally in Lebanon, Hezbollah, fired volleys of rockets at the Golan Heights at the same time as the Iranian bombardment, and the Iran-backed Houthi forces in Yemen claimed they had also joined the attack.

Avalanche Warning

likely to occur above 2400 meters over north Kashmir district of Kupwara and central Kashmir's Ganderbal districts in the next 24 hours.

People living in these areas have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Kashmir valley was lashed by widespread rains during the past two days and some upper reaches also received a fresh snowfall prompting authorities to issue a fresh avalanche warning as a precautionary measure for the people.

The authorities have also asked the people living in these districts to dial 112 for help in case of any emergency.

Omar Dares Azad

the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"We did not speak against Azad (after he left the Congress and floated his own party in 2022) until he started targeting NC president Farooq Abdullah. We considered him as our friend but he turned out to be a friend of the BJP," he said, adding, "It is Azad's compulsion to target the NC as he cannot target the BJP."

Earlier, addressing a gathering from atop a vehicle despite rains, the NC leader said his tour of the Chenab valley is meant to caution people about the ground situation and the conspiracies to divide their votes and weaken their voice.

"The party with a bucket symbol (DPAP) is not here to benefit you and resolve your issues. It has joined the (poll) contest to benefit the BJP, which revoked Article 370 of the Constitution, bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories (on August 5, 2019) and made hollow promises to us," he said.

Abdullah said this was the first time in the history of the country that a state was downgraded to a Union Territory. "What has changed (after August 5, 2019)? They made big promises and accused us of being an obstacle in the development of the region."

The NC leader said they are compelled to ask about the promised industrialisation, opening of new factories, employment for youngsters and massive development.

He slammed the BJP for its "failure" to ensure employment for locals in under-construction power projects and said the administration has decided to lease out electricity from the Rattle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited, a joint venture between the NHPC and the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation, to Rajasthan for 40 years even as "our villages face major power cuts".

"This is the same power project that gave the BJP Rs 600 crore in the form of electoral bonds," the NC leader said.

I Am In Comfortable

-- Anantnag-Kulgam as well as Rajouri-Poonch. My assessment might be wrong, but I think the other parties contesting here do not have as much acceptability on both sides," Ahmad told reporters here while on campaign trail.

Following the delimitation exercise undertaken after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat has been carved out by cobbling together Anantnag and Kulgam districts from the erstwhile South Kashmir constituency and Rajouri and Poonch district of Jammu Lok Sabha constituency.

The National Conference (NC) leader, who hails from Kangan assembly segment in central Kashmir Ganderbal district, dismissed suggestions that any of the contesting candidates was an outsider.

"I respect all my opponents. (Ghulam Nabi) Azad is contesting from here. It is not as if he is making a mistake. He has a right to contest. He has contested from Maharashtra also. My father (Mian Bashir Ahmad) contested from Darhal (Rajouri) and won from there.

"A former chief minister (Mufti Mohammad Sayeed), who I respect, contested from UP while Mehbooba Mufti herself contested from Wachi (Shopian). I do not want to comment on these issues," Ahmad said while listing two other Lok Sabha members who represented the South Kashmir constituency but did

not hail from here.

The NC candidate said his focus will be on undoing the decisions taken by the Centre in August 2019 by abrogating Article 370 and downgrading a full-fledged state into two Union territories.

"I will try to reach out to each and every block and tehsil in the constituency. I will listen to the people about their issues but the main focus will be to right the wrongs that were committed after August 2019, the uncertainty that is prevailing, the downgrading of a full-fledged state into two Union territories. The people have not accepted this decision.

"In terms of development, I will replicate in the Parliament constituency what I have done in my assembly constituency (Kangan). I have listened to the poor, the youth and unemployed which resulted in people voting for me time after time.

"But all this is possible only when the political uncertainty ends. You can see this uncertainty in Ladakh and Jammu while it is there in Kashmir also," he added.

Altat Bukhari

"Respecting Omar Abdullah is my duty, but it also is a fact that he left from Srinagar," he said, hinting at Omar Abdullah contesting from Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency. (KNO)

Azad Hits Back

as he hit the campaign trail in Doda as a star campaigner, canvassing for party candidate and former minister G M Saroori.

The campaigning in Udhampur-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency has become intense with the exchange of personal attacks by rival politicians.

Congress's Lal Singh is pitted against Union minister and BJP candidate Jitendra Singh in the Udhampur-Kathua parliamentary constituency, which goes to polls in the first phase of the Lok Sabha election on April 19.

DPAP's G M Saroori is among 10 others in the fray.

"Omar sahib ... You visit your maternal grandfather's house during summers in London and some hot country during winters and you come here as a tourist," Azad took dig at the National Conference vice president in his speech.

Omar Abdullah is also on a campaign trail in Doda district canvassing for Choudhary Lal Singh of Congress, in capacity as a partner in the INDIA bloc.

Lal Singh is contesting for the fourth time from Udhampur Lok Sabha seat.

Azad alleged that Omar used to visit Chenab Valley for five minutes and hasn't come to the area even once in the last several years.

"Have you seen his face in Doda, Bhandarwah or Kishtwar during his tenure as CM? Has he been here for the last 10 years?" Azad said, addressing the public.

He also questioned the whereabouts of "political tourists" during the region's years of hardship and criticised the parties for their silence on issues like land eviction order and abolition of Article 370.

He accused the NC of tacitly supporting the BJP's agenda for its own interests, over the welfare of the people.

"Where were these political tourists in Chenab Valley during these ten years of people's suffering? Did they raise their voices against land eviction or Article 370 in Parliament? They seem to be aiding the BJP in every action. Their leaders are too busy appeasing the BJP, just check their statements. They are the ones who declared their doors open for NDA, not me. So who's the BJP's A team? It's NC," Azad said.

The former Congress leader said that despite such restrictions as the Public Safety Act, Omar Abdullah and "his cohorts" have continued to live luxuriously.

Azad, who is also a former J-K chief minister, said that unlike some, he does not indulge in leisurely vacations and is committed to the alleviation of the suffering of the people.

Azad questioned the Congress party's stance on Article 370, and said he always advocated for Article 370 and 35A, as well as the restoration of statehood of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that instead of confronting the BJP, the Congress seems to focus on targeting his party.

"Congress is silent on Article 370, they didn't even speak when I was in Congress. Only I know how I managed to speak on Article 370 in parliament," he said. PTI

ECI Cracks Down

were seized in Jammu and Kashmir. "Total seizures in J-K are worth Rs 4.2 crore," it said.

Similarly, all items amounting to Rs 11,580 were seized in Ladakh, including liquor, making it the lowest seizure among all the states and union territories.

The EC stated that its crackdown will continue ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. Among the 36 states and Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir ranks 30th in seizures.

The enforcement agencies have made a record seizure of over Rs 4650 crores in the EC's resolute fight against money power even before the first phase of polling for the 18th Lok Sabha elections which commences on Friday, it added.

This marks a sharp increase over the Rs 3,475 crores seized during the entire Lok Sabha election in 2019. Significantly,

45 per cent of the seizures are of drugs and narcotics, which are under the special focus of the Commission, it added.

Advance Registration

today at bank branches here. The exercise is being conducted at 540 branches of PNB (Punjab National Bank) across the country," an official involved in the registration process said.

It is Aadhaar authentication-based form generation for yatrins rather than the manual procedure followed in 2022, the officials said, adding that forms will be system-generated now.

The designated PNB branch in Rehari opened this morning bedecked with flowers and bunting to welcome prospective Amarnath pilgrims, who were standing in queues since early morning for registration.

"We want to be part of the first batch of pilgrims undertaking the yatra to the cave shrine. We have been registered. It is a moment of happiness for us," said Suman Devi of Janipur.

The schedule of the pilgrimage was decided at the meeting of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) chaired by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday.

The yatra would commence simultaneously from both the routes, the officials said.

The shrine board will also enable the live telecast of morning and evening "aarti" (prayers) for devotees across the globe.

A total of 542 bank branches across the country has been designated for the registration of pilgrims by the board, which is offering the facility also on its website.

According to the board, which manages the annual pilgrimage, no one below the age of 13 or above 75 years, and no woman with more than six weeks' pregnancy shall be registered for the yatra.

Rafiabad Shocker

Expressing their concerns, locals called upon the police to take strict measures against drug peddlers to prevent such incidents from recurring. They expressed confidence in the Sopore police team, headed by SP Divya D (IPS).

In March last year, a similar tragedy took place in Dangerpora village of the district, where another 'drug addict' son killed his elderly mother. The accused, Showket Ahmed, had a history of drug addiction and had been taken into preventive custody by the police multiple times.(KNO)

Kashmir Grapples

death by a Leopard in the Samsan area of Budgam district on March 11. The girl from Samsan, officials said, was attacked by the animal near her home.

In Shopian district, four people were injured on April 6th. Another attack occurred in Pulwama on April 5th, injuring a man. An 8-year-old boy was also hurt by a leopard in Budgam on March 18th.

According to data from the department of wildlife protection, from March 2021 to December 6, 2023, wild animals in Kashmir claimed 32 lives and wounded 296 more.

Wildlife Officials

city outskirts.

With growing concerns about the safety of residents living in the outskirts of Srinagar city, particularly during morning and evening hours, Dr. Mohsin Gazi, Incharge of Rescue Operations in Kashmir, has urged the public to avoid venturing out alone.

"We along with range officer and rescue team Dachigam went to the site to access the situation and took appropriate measures including detailed canvassing, scrutinizing of area and there is not much evidence to suggest the presence of leopard in the area but people should exercise maximum restraint and precaution," Dr Gazi said.

He said that the Wildlife department officials have deployed teams at a few schools as a precautionary measure so that education of children is not affected.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Dr Gazi said the department is still looking into the matter and all the resources have been placed to ensure the safety of citizens and urged people not to panic but to exercise precaution.

Emphasizing the importance of staying indoors during morning and evening hours, Dr. Gazi highlighted the potential risks associated with venturing out, especially in areas lacking adequate street lighting.

"Due to land habitat fragmentation, land use patterns and other reasons leopards barge into city localities and we have rescued them from the city in the past as well," Gazi said.

He also raised concern about venturing into abandoned plots, temporary sheds, and overgrown bushes, which could serve as hiding spots for wild animals like leopards.

Additionally, Gazi said the presence of garbage dumps along roadsides poses a dual threat, attracting dogs and also potential predators like leopards.

"Avoid confrontation with wild animals if encountered, as it can exacerbate dangerous situations."

Pet owners, cattle farmers, poultry farm owners should keep a proper check in order to avoid a possible predator attack.

"Strict legal action has been warned against individuals spreading fake, old, or distorted videos to mislead the public," he added.

New Reservation Rules Stall Recruitment in J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The implementation of new reservation rules for government recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir is facing hurdles, potentially causing delays in the issuance of notifications for new job posts.

This development has raised concerns among the lakhs of candidates preparing for government jobs in the region.

As per the inputs received by the news agency, following the recent allocation of 10 percent reservation for the hill community in Jammu and Kashmir, new reservation rules have yet to be finalized for recruitment purposes. Until these rules are incorporated into the notification process for new job vacancies, the issuance of notifications will remain pending.

Sources within the dis-

pensation divulged that both the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) have urged the General Administration Department



ment to expedite the approval of these new rules to ensure timely recruitment examinations.

Despite the allocated reservation, neither the JKSSB nor the JKPSC have received the finalized reservation rules from the government. Consequently, these recruitment agencies have requested the inclusion of the new rules by

sending the posts referred by various departments back to the General Administration Department.

Reports inform KNO further that among the pending recruitments, the JKSSB is tasked with filling 4022 posts of police constables and 700 posts of Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) under the Home Department. Similarly, the JKPSC is also expected to experience delays in notifying new job posts. "Any further recruitment initiatives will only commence after the enforcement of the code of conduct. However, it's important to note that the new reservation rules will not be applicable to posts notified before March 15. Recruitment to these posts will proceed according to the pre-existing reservation rules," a senior official privy to the development told KNO—(KNO)



AMIDST HEAVY RAIN, a group of Kashmiri fisherwoman braves the downpour while selling fish, sheltered under an umbrella cover.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Mehbooba Urges Party Workers to Represent People's Aspiration

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Emphasizing the party's commitment to performance, valuing its workers and expressing readiness to take challenges head-on in way of serving the people, the Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has urged the party leaders and workers to focus on demonstrating strength and solidifying the party at the grassroots level in order to work effectively for the cause of people of J&K.

Mehbooba Mufti while addressing a meeting of Central Kashmir leaders of the party said that every functionary must work to live up to being members of PDP that is a formidable force struggling for the people of J&K. "Our founder Mufti sahib, had a deep emotional connection with Srinagar. His personal history and the time he spent in Srinagar contributed to his understanding of the city's needs and aspirations. This connection also influenced the party's focus on addressing the concerns of the people of Srinagar and advocating their interests. His affection for Srinagar and his dedication towards its development could be seen as a driving force behind the party's efforts to represent the city effectively," Mehbooba said.

She urged the workers to prioritize performance based work to mitigate people's sufferings and strengthening the party at gross root level. "We must work for our people selflessly and earn their trust and confidence based on our empathetic work approach," she added.

Addressing the gathering party General Secretary Gh Nabi Lone Hanjura emphasised on a bottom-up approach where every member of the party is seen as a potential candidate who must understand and promote the party's agenda and programs at the grassroots level.

"Every member of our party plays a crucial role in representing and advancing the party's agenda. We must realise this

NC, Cong mislead public, my focus development: Azad

Agencies

JAMMU : Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Monday slammed the NC and Congress for misleading the public.

He referred to their actions as stemming from frustration due to the strong presence of DPAP in the Chenab Valley.

While addressing a public meeting, in Doda Azad rebuked the selective attention of political parties towards the plight of Chenab Valley people. He questioned the whereabouts of political tourists during the region's years of hardship and criticized parties for their silence on critical issues like land eviction order and Article 370.

He accused NC of tacitly supporting the BJP's agenda for their own interests, highlighting their failure to prioritize the welfare of the people. He stated "Where were these political tourists in Chenab Valley during these ten years of people's suffering? Did they raise their voices against land eviction or Article 370 in Parliament? No. They seem to be aiding the BJP in every action. Their leaders are too busy appeasing the BJP, they check their statements. They are the ones who declared their doors open for NDA, not me.

role and ensure that we are able to create a strong support base through engagement at all levels of society," Hanjura said.

On this occasion, Additional General Secretary of the party Asiea Naqash asserted the need to win the confidence of the people and strengthen the faith and trust that the people have showered on J&K PDP. She sought to build upon the strong legacy of the party and assured that party leadership will always continue to represent its aspiration at the highest forum.

Weather May Impact Lok Sabha Elections in Udhampur Seat

Agencies

JAMMU: With the polling day for the first phase of polling for Parliamentary elections is just three days away, weather is expected to play a spoilsport as Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted rain on polling day.

According to the news agency, light rain is expected for isolated places in Jammu and Kashmir with generally cloud cover. But on April 19, the light is expected in twin districts of Doda and Kishtwar which are part of the Udhampur parliamentary constituency.

According to Director IMD Srinagar, Dr. Mukhtaq Ahmed, there is possibility of rain till tonight and the weather will remain cloudy with possibility of light rain in isolated places till April 18. "In Doda and Kishtwar district it will remain dry till April 18 with cloud cover in few areas. On April 19, light rain is expected in these



two districts," he said.

The Udhampur-Doda parliamentary constituency is going for polls during the first phase of polling in Jammu and Kashmir and this is one of the biggest constituencies in the country in terms of area and having more than 15 lakh votes. This comprises plains in Kathua district to hills of Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts.

One of the most underdeveloped areas of Jammu and Kashmir Marwah and Warwan also fall in this constituency which remains disconnected

through roads as the only link the area has from Anantnag district of Kashmir region. Falling in Kishtwar district, these two areas don't have direct road connectivity with the district headquarters.

To take polling parties and security forces in these areas and other hilly areas which are without road connectivity, election commission of India either ferry them in choppers or use other means and if the weather remains erratic, it can impact the electioneering process.

The bad weather also impacts the campaigning of contesting candidates as they have to either reschedule or cancel the visits. A candidate, who was expected to visit Marwah, Warwan, Gulabgarh, Machail and a few other areas through helicopter today had to reschedule it. As the forecast is not so good till April 19, these areas may remain out of bound for political parties.

Tribunal Confirms Declaration Of JKDFP Unlawful

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A tribunal constituted by the Union Home Ministry has confirmed the ban imposed on the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), headed by jailed separatist Shabir Ahmad Shah.

The Union Home Ministry had on October 5, 2023 declared the JKDFP a banned group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for five years for its "anti-India" and "pro-Pakistan" activities.

Subsequently, the tribunal was constituted with Delhi High Court judge Justice Sachin Datta as its head for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the JKDFP an unlawful association.

In a recent notification, the home ministry said the tribunal

in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 passed an order on April 3, 2024, confirming the declaration of JKDFP an unlawful organisation.

In its order, the tribunal noted that the elaborate material and evidence placed on record before it found that there was ample justification to declare the JKDFP an unlawful association under the UAPA.

It said the activities of the JKDFP has had a deleterious effect on maintenance of law and order in the region of Jammu and Kashmir over the last several decades.

"The modicum of stability that has come about after 2019 (as is evident from the reduced number of unconducive incidents) could not have been allowed to be jeopardised on account of

continuing activities of the concerned association," it observed.

The tribunal noted that in the framework of the Indian constitution and the UAPA, there is no space for an association like the JKDFP which openly propagates secessionism, avowedly expresses dis-allegiance to the Constitution of India, and undermines the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

"Thus, this tribunal having followed the procedure laid down in the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 and its Rules and having independently and objectively appreciated and evaluated the material and evidence on record, is of the firm and considered view that there is sufficient cause for declaring JKDFP as an unlawful association under Section 3(1) of the UAPA, 1967, vide the notification dated October 5, 2023," it said.

15 Years On, Sub-District Hospital In Kulgam Awaits Completion

Agencies

KULGAM: The construction of the sub-district hospital in south Kashmir's Kulgam dis-

ing, "This relocation process, however, not only prolonged the project but also resulted in wasted funds, becoming a victim of political manoeuvring



trict remains incomplete even after 15 years, leaving the hospital to function from inadequate facilities.

The hospital project, sanctioned in 2008 with a scheduled completion period of three years, remains unfinished despite the passage of more than a decade and a half, locals told the news agency.

They said that only around 55 percent of the work has been completed so far, and recently efforts were made to resume construction after years of suspension.

Health department officials said poor planning and political interference caused the delay, which led to the project's prolonged stagnation. They said that after completing nearly half of the construction, the site was declared unfit due to political pressures, resulting in a search for an alternative location.

Eventually, a decision was made to construct the modern sub-district hospital at the site of the Police Station Damhal Hanjipora, which was previously damaged during the 2016 unrest, an official said, add-

as various local leaders vied for credit instead of prioritising the needs of the local population."

Residents of the upper belt of Kulgam have expressed frustration, saying they are being caught in the crossfire of political games, witnessing little to no development on the ground.

"We are forced to visit District Hospital Kulgam for even minor procedures as authorities have failed to complete a new building," they lamented.

They said the incomplete sub-district hospital, which functions merely as a Primary Health Centre (PHC) due to the lack of facilities, exacerbates the healthcare crisis and is serving hundreds of villages.

The locals have urged authorities to expedite the completion of the hospital to alleviate their suffering and provide essential medical services closer to home.

An official informed KNO that construction work has recently resumed, and truss work is currently underway. Efforts are being made to accelerate the project, and it will be completed by March next year, he said—(KNO)

Eight Booked Under PSA In Baramulla: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla said to have booked eight persons under Public Safety Act and subsequently lodged them in separate jails.

"Acting tough against miscreants and criminals Baramulla Police booked eight persons namely Waqar Ahmad Bhat son of Bashir Ahmad resident of New Colony Kreeeri, Danish Hussain Gojree son of Abdul Gaffar resident of Takisultan Drangbal, Taseen Ahmad Hurra son of Mohd Ramzan resident of Pethpora Hamrey, Mohd Abdullah Bhat son of Abdul Aziz resident of

New Colony Palhallan, Mohd Ashraf Wani @ Ashraf Haji son of Mohammad Munawar resident of Utikoo Kunzer, Suhail Ahmad Sheikh son of Ghulam Ahmad resident of Sheikh Mohalla Kunzer, Touseef Ahmad Akhoun son of Ghulam Mohd resident of Khanpora & Abdul Majeed Shah son of Ghulam Mohiuddin resident of Iqbal Colony Pattan under Public Safety Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority," reads a statement.

"The booked persons have been detained and subsequently lodged in District Jail Udhampur & Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jail Jammu."

Kashmir's Acacia Honey Production Surges To Meet Demand

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With spring at its peak, Acacia honey is silently flourishing in Kashmir as beekeepers produce this quality honey in large quantities to meet the demand.

As per the news agency, known for its delicate flavour and medicinal properties, acacia honey production has surged in the region over the years, presenting both economic opportunities and environmental benefits.

Local beekeepers, equipped with traditional methods passed down through generations, are actively involved in harvesting this golden elixir.

Among the beekeepers is Mudasir Ahmad of Tangmarg



who returns to Kashmir during the Spring season with his bee colonies to produce and harvest acacia honey.

Every Spring, he harvests almost 150 kilograms of acacia honey to sell it worldwide.

"Acacia honey is very rare due to which it has got a huge demand in local, national and international markets. I spend my winters in Rajasthan and Gujarat with my bee colonies to produce honey. During

the Spring season, I return to Kashmir for acacia honey," he said.

Like Mudasir, scores of the beekeepers in Kashmir are currently harvesting acacia honey to sell it on various e-commerce platforms.

"Beekeeping has grown as a profession in Kashmir for the last few years. Our beekeepers produce different varieties of quality honey including the Himalayan Manuka Honey, Wildflower Honey, Acacia Honey, and Saffron Honey. Himalayan Manuka Honey is produced from jungle bees, not bee farms," said Saleem Ahmad Bhat.

Given the immense demand for acacia honey, he said this honey is produced in Kashmir

in large quantities. "Almost 90 percent of the beekeepers in Kashmir are associated with acacia honey. Conveniently, acacia honey remains liquid longer and crystallizes much slower than traditional honey. Because it abstains from solidifying for longer, this honey is highly popular," Bhat said.

Officials from the agriculture department said that the valley is emerging as a hub for acacia honey production. "The acacia trees, abundant in the Kashmir valley, provide the perfect nectar source for honeybees during the spring season. This natural abundance has transformed Kashmir into a hub for high-quality acacia honey production," an official said—(KNO)

Pollard Defends Pandya, Says 'Sick & Fed Up' Of People Pinpointing Individuals

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard is "sick and fed up" of people pinpointing particular individuals for the team's losses as he urged fans not to "nitpick" struggling captain Hardik Pandya after MI lost to Chennai Super Kings by 20 runs in their Indian Premier League match here.

CSK legend MS Dhoni took 26 runs off Pandya's final over with the help of three consecutive sixes as the MI skipper struggled for right line and length while also bowling two wides at a crucial time.

Pandya finished with figures of 2 for 43 from his three overs and also had a tough time with the bat, managing a mere two runs off six balls at a crucial juncture of the game.

"You're going to have those days. I'm sick and fed up of just



looking to pinpoint at individuals. Cricket is a team sport at the end of the day," Pollard said at the post-match press conference Sunday night.

"He (Pandya) is a confident

guy. He has been great around the group. In cricket, you have good days and you have bad days. I'm seeing an individual who's working bloody hard to continue his skill and to ply his

trade." Pollard reminded fans about the possibility of Pandya being picked for India's T20 World Cup campaign, saying if that happens everyone would be

'singing his praises'.

"This is an individual that's going to represent the country in less than six weeks' time. We're all going to be cheering for him and want him to do well," said the West Indian who himself is a MI legend.

"It's about high time that we try to encourage and try to stop nitpick. See if we can get the best out of one of the great all-rounders India could ever produce.

"He can bat, he can bowl, he can field. He has an X factor about him. I hope very well deep down within my heart that when he comes out on top, I'll sit back and I'll watch everyone sing his praises."

The match witnessed intermittent booing of Pandya who struggled with both bat and ball.

Pollard said he is seeing Pandya evolving and backed him to turn things around.

RR Brace For Narine Spin Treat As KKR Eye Top Spot



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Rajasthan Royals' star-studded batting will face the serious challenge of decoding Sunil Narine's mystery at Eden Gardens when they take on two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders in a top-of-the-table IPL clash here on Tuesday.

Narine, who is one month shy of turning 36, had played a pivotal role in KKR's twin triumphs under former skipper Gautam Gambhir in 2012 and 2014.

Ever since joining the side way back in 2012, Narine has sizzled at Eden Gardens with his crafty bowling, proving to be a big threat to opposition batters.

Phil Salt may have walked away with the player-of-the-match award in their solid eight-wicket win over LSG here on Sunday, but it was Narine, who choked LSG in the middle overs to limit them to a below-par 161 for 7.

Come Tuesday, the likes of Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag and Shimron Hetmyer -- who all have struck at the rate of more than 155 this season -- will be up against the Narine challenge.

It remains to be seen if Jos Buttler

is fit to be included in the playing XI after missing their last fixture against Punjab Kings.

With his ability to express himself at the top, Narine, who has a strike-rate of 183.51 and averages 33-plus this season, has a Rashid Khan-like aura at KKR. Their IPL record buy Mitchell Starc has also shut all the noise to return to his elements, claiming two wickets in the last over for his 3/28 against LSG.

In such a scenario, the top-of-the-table contest may well boil down to KKR's bowling versus RR's batting.

KKR's only weaklink could be their skipper Shreyas Iyer's poor form with the bat.

Even though he remained unbeaten on a run-a-ball 38 in their 162-run chase against LSG, Shreyas looked tentative both against the pacers and spinners and KKR's batting may well get exposed if RR manage to give early breakthroughs.

KKR's batting has largely depended this season on Salt-Narine's fireworks at the top and Andre Russell's blitz at the death, as their Indian batters have not been tested much.

Can't Help If Australia Refuses To Play Us: Rashid Khan

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: "You can't do anything about it," Rashid Khan conceded as he tried to make sense of Australia's refusal to play bilateral cricket with Afghanistan men's team, which he believes, achieves nothing beyond denying happiness to his people.

Cricketer Australia cancelled an ODI series Down Under in 2023 and as recent as last month, refused to play a T20 series scheduled in the UAE later this year due to its government's concerns over "marked deterioration" of treatment of women in the Taliban-ruled state.

But Afghan players, including Rashid, continue to be welcome in the Big Bash League. "I want, all the players want, to play cricket because that is the only source of happiness for people back home

in Afghanistan and if you take that away, there is nothing that people could celebrate or enjoy," Rashid told PTI during an exclusive interview on Monday.

In 2023, Rashid had threatened to pull out of the Big Bash League over Australia's refusal to play bilateral cricket with them. The 25-year-old has many Australian friends but he hasn't actually spoken to any of them about the issue.

"Well, I have never discussed it with anybody (Australian cricketers) as I haven't had that opportunity to discuss all those things with them, something which is not in your hands or you have no control over, you can't do anything about it.

"It's not a cricketering reason or matter that you think about it, it is about two governments and as a player you can't do anything about it. What we can do is whenever we get an

opportunity to play cricket, we go with full pride while representing our country."

'PLAYING IN THE IPL WAS A FAR-FETCHED THOUGHT'

Having played over 400 T20 games and being the most sought after freelancer in the T20 universe, Rashid feels privileged about being the face of Afghanistan cricket.

"Before 2017, we never thought about playing the IPL. It was hard (far-fetched) thought for us to even think of playing in the biggest T20 league in the world.

"The hardest part is to get into the system and when I (first) got the opportunity, I knew okay, I got that opportunity now I have to do the best where it helps me promote my cricket and also help my country where youngsters can get inspired to get into cricket more and more," the eloquent Pathan said.

Short TAKES

J&K Emerges 2nd Overall In Roller Skating National Championship



J&K emerged second overall in India in the 67th JSGFI National Roller Skating Championship held at Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

In Under-19 Boys, Ranveer Shan took 1 Gold 2 Silver, Rajveer Singh had 2 Gold, Samarjot Singh 1 Gold 1 Silver.

In Under-19 Girls, Nivriti Sharma won 1 Silver. In Under-17 Boys, Udhay Narayan had 1 Gold 1 Silver. In Under-17 Girls, Prageet Kour won 1 Bronze. In Under-14 Boys, Abhinav Bakshi had 1 Gold 1 Bronze. Puneesh Puri won 1 Gold, Dharun Sharma 1 Silver.

At 50, Senior Bureaucrat Wins National Powerlifting Medals

Ekta Vishnoi, Deputy Director General at Sports Authority of India (SAI) and woman behind the now well-established Fit India Movement has broken records.

She won multiple medals and broke records at the recently concluded National Senior Powerlifting Championship in Hyderabad. At 50, Vishnoi won a Silver in the deadlift with the best lift of 165kg and a Bronze overall with the best lifts of 132.5 kg in the squat, 70 kg in the bench press and 165 kg in the deadlift.

Former Aussie Batter Michael Slater Remanded In Police Custody

Former Australia cricketer and commentator Michael Slater has been remanded in police custody after being charged with offences including common assault and stalking.

According to the Guardian, the 54-year-old Slater has been charged with more than a dozen offences including unlawful stalking or intimidation, common assault, breaking into a dwelling with intent at night, assault occasioning bodily harm and choking or suffocation.

The former right-handed Australian opener played 74 Tests and 42 ODIs between 1993 and 2003.

Nadal Confirms Comeback At Barcelona Open, To Face Cobolli

Rafa Nadal has confirmed he will play this week's Barcelona Open in what will be the Spaniard's first tournament since January and first appearance on clay since the 2022 French Open. "I arrived here a bit late in a last minute decision as I didn't know if I was going to be able to play," the 22-time Grand Slam champion told a news conference.

"Tomorrow I'm going to be on the court."

Scottie Scheffler Wins Again, Taking Second Masters In 3 Years

World no 1 Scottie Scheffler lived up to his billing with a four-shot victory at the Masters Tournament to win a second Green Jacket in three years at Augusta National Golf Club. Scheffler who started as a big favourite, entered the final day with a one-shot advantage.

Scheffler pulled away to sign for a 68 and finish at 11 under, while Swede Ludvig Aberg carded 69. Indian Americans, Akshay Bhatia (73) and Sahith Theegala (75), finished T-35 and T-45.

Bayer Leverkusen Wins First Bundesliga Title, Ending Bayern Munich's 11-Year Reign

Agencies

LEVERKUSEN: It's "Neverkusen" no more.

Coached by Xabi Alonso, Bayer Leverkusen won the Bundesliga title for the first time Sunday to end Bayern Munich's 11-year reign as champion. In the end, it wasn't even close -- Leverkusen leads second-place Bayern by 16 points after stretching its German record unbeaten run to 43 games across all competitions this season. Florian Wirtz scored a hat trick as Leverkusen routed Werder Bremen 5-0 and the game ended with a pitch invasion Sunday to secure the club's first-ever German league title with five games remaining.

"It's indescribable ... I don't think it's possible, or I personally can't even realize it yet," Wirtz told broadcaster DAZN.

"I need a little more time in the locker room to really get my head around what we've achieved. But yeah, so far it's just been nice to party outside with the fans and also have a bit of a party in the locker room."

Fans had already stormed onto the field when Leverkusen scored its fourth goal with seven minutes to go, and the final minutes were played in thick red smoke from supporters' pyrotechnics while play-



ers on Leverkusen's bench clapped along to songs, danced and hugged one another.

The fifth goal in the 90th brought more fans onto the field -- hun-

dreds this time -- and the referee ended the game amid confusion and jubilation. Thousands of supporters crowded the field waving flags, flares and cardboard copies of the

Bundesliga trophy.

Leverkusen finally shed its reputation as perennial runner-up after five second-place finishes in the league and one in the Champions

League. Alonso, who took over as coach when Leverkusen was in the relegation zone in October 2022, reflected on ending Bayern's dominance.

"Perhaps it's healthy for the Bundesliga, also for German football, for another team to win," said Alonso, who won three Bundesliga titles with Bayern as a player from 2015-17.

"It's a great joy and we have to enjoy it. We need a bit more time to realize what we've achieved. But it's a super moment and yes, we'll see what happens next," Alonso said, referring to the penalty spot before Granit Xhaka hit an audacious long-range shot to make it 2-0 with half an hour to go.

Bremen folded after that with substitute Wirtz scoring a goal very similar to Xhaka's, then another on the counter in the 83rd and a third to end the game, his first career hat trick.

Leverkusen is aiming for a historic treble of trophies. Alonso's team will play second-division Kaiserslautern in the German Cup final in Berlin

on May 25 and has a 2-0 lead over West Ham after their Europa League quarterfinal first leg. The title puts the spotlight firmly on an industrial city of just under 170,000, which has been overshadowed by larger, more famous neighbors.

"Not in Cologne and Duesseldorf, no, we're at home here," is the third line of the club song played just before kickoff. Soccer is how Leverkusen stands out.

The club started as a workers' team for the Bayer pharmaceutical giant 120 years ago and is a rare exception in Germany, where most clubs are majority-controlled by members under the so-called 50+1 rule.

Twelfth-place Bremen was in difficulties even before kickoff as the club accused midfielder Naby Keita of walking out on the squad after he was disappointed not to be in the starting lineup. Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky dealt with the few chances Bremen created.

In the early game, Ritsu Doan's first-half strike was enough for Freiburg to win 1-0 at last-place Darmstadt, which moved closer to automatic relegation.

Darmstadt, with 14 points, was 12 points from the relegation playoff spot with five matches to play. No team in the Bundesliga has ever overcome such a deficit at this stage of the season to survive.