

Bridges In Limbo!

Srinagar Boat Tragedy Draws Attention To Over 15 Unfinished Bridges In Kashmir

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: In the wake of a deadly boat capsizing incident in Srinagar, a glaring spotlight has fallen on the various unfinished bridges scattered across Kashmir. The tragedy, which claimed lives, has reignited concerns about the safety of residents who have to rely on boats to cross rivers.



of over 15 crucial bridges and around 07 footbridges in the Kashmir valley remains unfinished, despite commencing

According to an official from Roads and Building department (R&B), the construction

'Don't Let Us Be Next!', Cry Samarbugh Residents

Majid Nabi

A day after six persons lost their lives and three others went missing in a tragic boat capsizing incident at Gandbal-Batwara, residents of Samarbugh in Lasjan area of Srinagar, on Wednesday hit streets against inordinate delay in completing footbridge in the locality. The protesters, mainly women, blocked the main road as a mark of protest against the

more than a decade ago. The official told Kashmir Observer that over 50 percent of the work on most of these

bridges have been completed and efforts are on to finish the work on all the bridges in this financial year.

"The work on the bridges got stalled due to multiple factors including paucity of funds, issues with the contractors and land acquisition," the official said.

The work on a number of bridges were taken-up by the Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) that

MeT Predicts Rain On April 18,19

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Weather department here has forecast "widespread light to moderate rain and thunders" on April 18 and 19 even as night temperatures recorded a rise at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

"On April 18-19, generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain and light snow over higher reaches is expected at most places with thunder/lightning during April 18 evening to April 19 late evening/night," a meteorological department official said, as per news agency GNS.

He said on the weekend, light rain is expected at scattered places while from April 21-25, generally dry weather is expected but at the same time afternoon thunder-shower activity at isolated places can't be ruled out.

Bihar Resident Shot Dead In Anantnag



2nd Incident In This Month

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A worker from Bihar was shot dead by terrorists in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials here said.

They said the terrorists fired upon Raja Shah from point blank range at Jablpora in Bijbehara area, resulting in critical injuries.

He was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries, they said.

The incident has taken place in the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency which is going to polls in the third phase on May 7.

Earlier on April 8, terrorists shot and injured a non-local tourist cab driver in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Monday evening. In February this year, two non-locals from Punjab were shot dead by terrorists in old city of Srinagar. A week later, Jammu

Gandabal Boat Tragedy: Search Operation Enters Day 3



Agencies

Srinagar: The joint rescue operation for the missing bodies, including those of a father-son duo and another minor boy, entered its second

day on Wednesday in the aftermath of the tragic boat capsizing incident at Gandabal area of Batwara on Tuesday. Teams from SDRF, NDRF, Indian Army's MARCOS, Fire and Emergency,

6 WE HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE AROUND 6 AM, continuing our search. Initially, we started from the Batwara area in the morning where the boat capsized. We first scanned the incident spot and soon moved forward to search other areas in the river for the body."

Schoolgirl Fights Trauma

Srinagar: Lying flat on a hospital bed in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (SMHS) Srinagar, Ansa's eyes fluttered open, the sterile white ceiling of the ICU a harsh contrast to the swirling brown torrent she fought through just yesterday. The memory of the boat capsizing wasn't a linear path, but fragmented shards of terror. One moment,

Father's Final Act Of Love!

Srinagar: "It was a father's love for his son that made him jump back into the Jhelum, after battling with the high tides of the river, to save his life. As he jumped back to save his son, he started to swim towards the rope of one shore, while he slowly started losing energy and eventually drowned along with his son," recounted an eyewitness about Showkat Ahmad, a

LG Announces Ex-gratia For Victims' Families

Agencies

Srinagar: Reaching out to the families who lost their dear ones in the tragic boat capsizing incident at Gandabal area of Batwara on Tuesday, the Lieutenant Governor-led administration provided financial assistance to the families of the deceased and those who sustained injuries in the incident.

As a gesture of support, the next of kin of the deceased were provided an ex-gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh each, while Rs 50,000 each was given to the four injured individuals.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay

UDHAMPUR LS SEAT

Over 1,400 PS To Have Webcasting Facilities

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A total of 1,472 polling stations out of 2,637 will be equipped with webcasting facilities in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on April 19, officials said.

More than 16.23 lakh voters will decide the fate of 12 candidates, including Union Minister Jitendra Singh, in the fray from

the constituency consisting of 18 assembly segments spanning five districts — Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua.

The constituency, which was reshaped with three assembly constituencies of Reasi district carved out on the recommendations of the delimitation commission, had recorded 70.2 per cent polling in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Encompassing an expansive area of

SRINAGAR LS SEAT

Nomination Process Begins Today

Agencies

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) will issue a notification for the high-profile Srinagar Lok Sabha segment on Thursday (April 18).

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the poll-body will tomorrow issue a notification for Srinagar Lok Sabha segment spread over five districts—three of central Kashmir and two of South Kashmir. All major political parties

Azad Opts Out of Anantnag-Rajouri Seat

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad will not contest the Lok Sabha elections from Anantnag-Rajouri seat in Jammu and Kashmir, his party said on Wednesday.

DPAP's provincial president, Kashmir, Mohammad Amin Bhat said the party has now decided to field its leader Mohammad Saleem Parray from the seat. PDP president Mehbooba



Mufti and National Conference senior leader Mian Altaf are contesting from the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat. "Azad will not



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

GO FOR VOTE



LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

Udhampur

POLL DATE: 19th APRIL 2024

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS

16,23,195



MALE
8,45,283



FEMALE
7,77,899



TRANSGENDER
13



PwD
23,637

BE INFORMED | GET INVOLVED | MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ISSUED BY: CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, JAMMU & KASHMIR UT



Study Links Being Online With No Sleep, Exercise To Higher Risk Of School Absence

Press Trust Of India

Spending too much time online to the point of giving up necessary activities, such as eating, sleeping and exercising, is linked to heightening the risk of school absence among teens, new research conducted in Finland has found.

Girls are more vulnerable to using excessive internet than boys, possibly because they tend to use social media more than boys, researchers said.

However, more boys were found to report truancy or absence from school than girls, while girls were found to report more of absences due to medical reasons.

The team of researchers, including those from the University of Helsinki, found that getting the recommended 8-10 hours of sleep and exercise, and a trusting relationship with parents with whom they could share concerns seemed to be protective.



Their findings are published in the journal Archives of Disease in Childhood.

For the study, the researchers analysed the data of more than 86,000 adolescents aged 14-16, taken from the School Health Promotion study, a national biennial survey. The teens were asked about their relationship with parents, including how often they shared concerns with them, along with their sleep and physical activity.

The internet use of the teenagers was measured using a validated scale -- Excessive Internet Use (EIU) -- which is based on

aspects, such as neglect of family, friends, and study, and not eating or sleeping because of being online.

The researchers found that girls were 96 per cent likelier to use the internet excessively than boys, who were 79 per cent likelier to do so. They also found that about a third slept for fewer than eight hours over the weekdays, and roughly the same fraction of the participants reported low levels of physical activity -- less than three days a week.

The research team found that spending too much time online was associated with a 38 per cent

higher risk of truancy and 24 per cent higher risk of school absence due to medical reasons.

They also found that being able to share concerns with parents was strongly associated with the lowest risk of both truancy and school absence due to medical reasons, with close to 60 per cent being less likely to play truant and roughly 40 per cent less likely to be absent from school because of an illness.

Good relations with parents, longer night sleep over weekdays and physical activity were all found to be significantly protective, the team said.

Being an observational study, however, a cause-and-effect relationship could not be established, they said.

"Our results are relevant for professionals organising and working in school health and wellbeing services, especially when professionals meet students whose school absences raise concern," the authors wrote.

'2 Brain Systems Found Malfunctioning In People With Psychosis'

Press Trust Of India

Two brain systems have been found to function improperly in people experiencing psychosis, where they have trouble distinguishing between what is real and what is not, according to a new research led by Stanford University, US.

These systems were found to be - one, a 'filter' directing attention towards what is important externally and internally, and two, a 'predictor' involved in anticipating rewards.

The filtering system, or the salience network, helps us dismiss irrational thoughts so that we can focus on what's real and meaningful to us, such as paying attention to traffic while driving, researchers explained.

The reward predicting system, driven by dopamine, is critical to anticipating what will be rewarding or important, they said.

Together, they malfunction in a way such that thoughts not linked to reality capture the brain's cognition networks, said Vinod Menon, a professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences, Stanford University, US.

"This process derails the normal functioning of cognitive control, allowing intru-

sive thoughts to dominate, culminating in symptoms we recognise as psychosis," said Menon, senior author of the study published in the journal 'Molecular Psychiatry'.

In psychosis, patients experience hallucinations, such as hearing voices, and hold delusional beliefs, such as

and the ventral striatum, which is the 'reward predicting' one.

The findings provide a good model for understanding the development and progression of schizophrenia, according to lead author Kaustubh Supekar, clinical associate professor of psychia-



thinking that people who are not real exist, the researchers said. The state is known to occur either on its own, or as a symptom of mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

For the study, the researchers analysed brain scans of people aged 6-39 years with psychosis. They found the two brain regions contributing the most to psychosis were the anterior insula, which is a key part of the salience or 'filtering' network,

try and behavioral sciences.

"In schizophrenia, by the time of diagnosis, a lot of damage has already occurred in the brain, and it can be very difficult to change the course of the disease," said Supekar.

"What we saw is that, early on, functional interactions among brain regions within the same brain systems are abnormal," he said adding, "The abnormalities do not start when you are in your 20s; they are evident even when you are seven or eight."

“Our results are relevant for professionals organising and working in school health and wellbeing services, especially when professionals meet students whose school absences raise concern

'Blinking May Be Helping Us Process Big, Slow-Changing Patterns'

Press Trust Of India

Along with keeping eyes moist, blinking may be helping us better notice big, gradually changing patterns, according to new research. Blinking provides information to the brain about the overall big picture of a visual scene, researchers said.

The act of blinking changes the visual input to the retina, thereby effectively re-arranging the visual information being processed, according to Michele Rucci, a professor in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, the University of Rochester, US.

"By modulating the visual input to the retina, blinks effectively re-format visual information, yielding luminance signals that differ drastically from those normally experienced when we look at a point in the scene," said Rucci, corresponding author of the study published in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences'.

For the study, the researchers tracked eye movements in humans. Combining this data with computer models, they studied how blinking affects what the eyes see compared to when the eyelids are closed.

They found that the rapid eyelid movement while blinking changes the light patterns that activate the retina. This created a different kind of visual information for the brain to process, compared to when our eyes are open and focused on a specific point.

"We show that human observers benefit from blink transients as predicted from the information conveyed by these transients," said Bin Yang, a graduate student in Rucci's lab, and the study's first author.

"Thus, contrary to common assumption, blinks improve -- rather than disrupt -- visual processing, amply compensating for the loss in stimulus exposure," said Yang.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It has come to our attention that an error occurred in recording my daughter's name/parentage in the school records. She was mistakenly listed as Syed Dafiyah Aazim, mother name, Syed Fouzia Aazim, father name, Syed Aazim Zaffar. Whereas her actual name is Syed Dafiyah Azim, mother name, Syed Fouzia Fayaz, father name, Azim Zaffar. We are seeking to rectify this mistake. Anyone with objections to this correction is requested to contact concerned authority within seven days from the date of this publication. After that period no further objections will be entertained.
AZIM ZAFFAR inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Parveez Ahmad Paray, currently serving in the Jammu and Kashmir Police, have identified an error in the recording of my parentage within my service records. It has come to my attention that my father's name has been recorded as "Ab. Aziz Paray" instead of the correct "Abdul Aziz Paray" in both my Character Roll and Appointment Order. I hereby request the rectification of this discrepancy. Any individual who may have objections or concerns regarding this correction is kindly requested to contact the Commandant of the 9th Battalion within the next seven days. Following the expiration of this period, no further objections will be entertained.
Parveez Ahmad Paray S/o Abdul Aziz Paray R/o Bonagam, Kunzer, Baramulla (J&K) inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my DOB certificate somewhere during the shifting our residential house from Dalgate Srinagar to Housing Colony Ompora Budgam. 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 concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Neelofar Jan D/o Mohd Maqbool Khan R/o Ompora Budgam Kashmir iqb

From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present: Mr. Jawad Ahmad
 Lareeba Manzoor Malik (Daughter) Aged 21 yrs D/o: Late. Manzoor Ahmad Malik
 Rio Shahi Mohalla Awanta- bawan Soura Srinagar Petitioner
 V/S
 1. Riyaz Ahmad Malik, 2. Khurshid Ahmad Malik
 Both Sons of: Late Ghulam Ahmad Mir
 Both residents of: Shahi Mohalla Awantabawan Soura Srinagar
 3. Rafiq W/o: Syed Gazanfar Shah R/o: Broadway Shivpora Srinagar.
 4. Public at Large Respondents
 In the matter of Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)
Notice to public at Large
 Whereas the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 6,26,010 as debts and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Late Mohammad Manzoor Ahmad Malik s/o Ghulam Ahmad Malik R/o Shahi Mohalla Awantabawan Soura Srinagar who died on 08-02-2017. A notice in this regard was published on 29-03-2024
 Whereas the petitioner has filed application seeking amendment in the petition, stating therein that instead of Rs 6,26,010/- as net gratuity, it should be read as Rs 20,34,440/- on account of "arrears of pension/family pension" and gratuity The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 24-04-2024
 Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the medium of this proclamation that at any time anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she/they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 24-04-2024 failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same in case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal of this court.
Jawad Ahmad mko Principal District Judge, Srinagar

ذہنی صحت کی حفاظت کے لئے
مفت مشاورت
 ہمارے کلینک پہ روزانہ میسر ہے۔
 اور ساتھ ساتھ ہم آن لائن موڈ میں بھی
 مشاورت کے لئے دستیاب ہیں

HAPPY AND HEALTHY MINDS
خوشحال اور صحت مند ذہن

ہمارے پاس پیشہ ور اور تربیت یافتہ ماہرین کی ٹیم تجربہ کار ماہر نفسیات کی سربراہی میں مختلف اقسام کے نفسیاتی اور منشیات امراض سے چھٹکارہ پانے کے لیے سماج کے متاثرہ افراد کی مدد کے لیے دستیاب ہیں۔

درج ذیل ذہنی صحت سے وابستہ مسائل پہ قابو پانے کے لیے رجوع فرمائیں:

- عصبانیت اور زہنی تناؤ کا درمان
- بھیانک حادثات اور واقعات کے بعد آنے والا ذہنی عارضات، مثلاً بد خوابی، شدید تشویش اور واقعات کے بارے میں قابو میں نہ ہونے والے خیالات - (PTSD)
- انفرادی ترقی اور مثبت تبدیلی کی خاطر اپنے فیصلوں پر عملدرآمد کرنے کا عمل
- اداسی کی کیفیت۔
- ذہنی پریشانی کے آثار
- منشیات کی لت پر قابو پانے کے لیے مشاورت
- خودکشی کے انتہائی اقدام سے روکنے کی مشاورت

مفت ذہنی مشاورت کے لئے پیر سے ہفتہ، صبح 10 بجے سے شام 5 بجے تک رابطہ کریں۔

9070806160

HPVT فارمیسی بلڈنگ، دوسری منزل - دریش کدل چوک، سری نگر، جموں و کشمیر

Mirwaiz For Integrated Moral Upbringing With Contemporary Education

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq underscored critical integration of moral upbringing with conventional education during the inauguration of the Arsh coaching institute in the Seki Dafar area of Srinagar on Wednesday.

Mirwaiz in a statement emphasized on the need for educational reforms that incorporate both intellectual and moral training to cope with the pressures of contemporary competitive environments.

"Our institutions must instill a caliber of quality and resilience in students, enabling them to excel in various fields at both local and international levels," he stated.

Mirwaiz stressed the importance of fostering Islamic and Kashmiri cultural values within educational frameworks, advocating for a balanced approach that nurtures students' cultural identities along with academic achievements.

"It is crucial that training programs not only prepare students to thrive in competitive conditions but also ground them in their rich cultural traditions," Mirwaiz added.

He expressed concern over the declining literacy rate in Kashmir, which has fallen by 10% in recent years, coupled with a rise in drug addiction among the youth.

He called on educational institutions and parents to intensify their efforts in combating these issues robustly. "Both educators and parents have a pivotal role in curbing the spread of this dire addiction," he remarked.

Reflecting on the recent boat tragedy due to an incomplete bridge at Gandabal Batwara, he criticised the local administration's negligence.

He expressed his deep sorrow and extended condolences, reaffirming commitment to visit the affected families once permitted by the authorities, who denied him permission today.



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Gandbal Boat Capsize: Local Schools Declare Two-Day Mourning

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a touching display of solidarity and empathy, local schools in Gandbal and its adjacent areas have declared a two-day mourning to express solidarity with the affected families.

A tragic incident unfolded in Gandbal, Srinagar, as a boat carrying primarily school children capsized in the River Jhelum on Tuesday, resulting in at least six fatalities. Three persons including two children are still missing and a rescue operation is underway.

The neighboring areas of Gandabal—Soiteng, Lasjan, Padshahi Bagh, Batwara, and Shivpora—are united in mourning, their hearts heavy with sorrow for the families torn apart by this unfathomable tragedy.

Messages of condolence and sympathy pour in from all corners, echoing the shared grief and profound sense of loss.

The local schools at Gandbal and its adjacent areas have declared two day mourning to express solidarity with victim families. Some schools have also announced to hold special prayers for the deceased especially for school going children who lost lives in this tragedy.

"We are deeply saddened about the recent tragic incident that happened in the nearby area (Gundbal) Soiteng on 16/4/2024. We have lost many precious lives. Our hearts ache for the immeasurable loss, their families are enduring and we extend our most sincere condolences to their families during this difficult time," wrote one of the local schools in its message to parents.

"The loss of their lives has left an indelible mark on all of us. Regarding this matter, the

school will remain closed for two days, i.e. Thursday and Friday. With heartfelt sympathy from our side," it added.

The closure of schools for two days serves as a poignant reminder of the lives lost and the irreplaceable void left behind.

grapples with the heart-wrenching aftermath of a devastating boat tragedy.

The toll of the tragedy stands at six young souls lost, while the agonizing wait continues for the safe return of three more, including two children. Rescue op-

APSCC Grieved Over Loss Of Lives

Srinagar: All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) on Wednesday expressed grief and sorrow over the death of civilians in the tragic boat mishap at Gandbal in Srinagar.

APSCC in a statement demanded adherence to the proper mechanism so that such incidents are not repeated in future.

The APSCC Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina while welcoming the government's move to ensure life jackets for the people boarding a boat or shikara said the move needs to be implemented in letter and spirit.

He said that in the past such initiatives were not

taken seriously as a result of which tragic incidents continue to happen.

"It is important that life jackets are made mandatory for the people who row a boat or shikara and also for the people boarding the same. This would ensure human lives are not lost and safety standards are met," said Raina, adding that stern action should be taken against the people who violate the norms in this regard.

The APSCC Chairman also expressed concern over the non-completion of the bridge that led to this disaster. He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for peace for the departed souls.

DGP Greets People On Rama Navami

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the auspicious occasion of the Ram Navami, Director General of Police, J&K, R.R Swain has extended heartfelt greetings to the people, the families of police martyrs, all ranks of J&K Police, security forces, and their families.

The DGP said that the teachings of Shri Ram have always guided humanity regarding righteousness, truthfulness, sacrifice, valor and respect for traditions and values. He has expressed hope that this festival will further foster the spirit of unity, harmony and brotherhood among the people.

Wishing the people a happy Ram Navami, the DGP called upon people to be aware of anti social, anti national elements, whose only motive is to disturb the hard earned peace and destroy the lives of new generations. J&K Police, Security agencies are committed to protect the prevailing peaceful atmosphere and also to secure the future of generations, he said in his message.

The DGP J&K has appealed to the people to continue their support in the fight against the terrorism, narcotics, and gangsters to provide a secure environment for peace and development of the UT.

KPs Celebrate Ram Navami In Srinagar, Take Out Shobha Yatra

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Ram Navami was celebrated Wednesday by the Kashmiri Pandits by taking out a Shobha Yatra in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir amidst tight security.

The Shobha Yatra started from the Zaindar Mohalla in the old city and culminated at Tankipora after passing through Habakadal, Barbarshah, Lal Chowk, Hari Singh High Street and Jehangir Chowk.

"We have been taking out this yatra and 'jhanki' every year for the past 17 years. Earlier, it was stopped due to turmoil in the Valley," said one of the participants.

He said that despite being a minority, the Kashmiri Pandit community takes out the procession with great enthusiasm through the city centre. He expressed gratitude to both Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmir Pandits for their support in carrying out the procession.

Prof GSI, Germany, Delivers Expert Lecture On 'Ion Trap' At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS), Tuesday organized an expert talk featuring Prof. Wolfgang Quint, a senior professor, from GSI Helmholtz-zentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Darmstadt, Germany.

Prof. Quint, an esteemed academic researcher from Heidelberg University and his expertise spans various topics, including Penning trap and Antiproton research.

HOD Department of Physics, Prof. Mohammad Ikram expressed his gratitude to Prof. Quint for accepting the invitation and delivering the expert talk on the Ion Trap. He said Ion traps are important today because they help scientists do precise work in fields like physics and chemistry.

Prof. Ikram praised Dr. Vijay Kumar for setting up talks by experts on campus. He said these talks are really important and students should take the chance to learn and get inspired from them.

During his speech, Prof. Wolfgang Quint talked about how he studies really tiny particles using special tech-



The session concluded with a vibrant Q&A segment, during which attendees engaged Dr. Quint in stimulating discussions on various topics, from quantum entanglement to the search for new physics beyond the Standard Model.

niques. He showed traps and controls these tiny particles, and also demonstrated methods he has developed.

Dr. Quint explained how his research helps us understand the basic rules of the universe better. He talked about how his work can reveal secrets about how everything works at the smallest level.

The session concluded with a vi-

brant Q&A segment, during which attendees engaged Dr. Quint in stimulating discussions on various topics, from quantum entanglement to the search for new physics beyond the Standard Model.

Earlier Dr. Vijay Kumar, a Member of INYAS and Assistant Professor at Department of Physics welcomed the guest speaker.

He commended Dr. Wolfgang Quint for his enlightening presentation and emphasized how these experiences inspire students to pursue research in various cutting-edge fields.

Earlier Dr. Vijay Kumar extended a warm welcome to Prof. Quint and other dignitaries. The purpose of such sessions is to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Dr. Vijay said such initiatives are instrumental in advancing research and education, promoting a culture of continuous learning and innovation within academic institutions.

He expressed deep gratitude to all the participants, and other dignitaries who made the session a resounding success.

The session was attended by students, researchers, and faculty members from NIT Srinagar, University of Kashmir and other institutions.

KTMF Grieved Over Srinagar Boat Tragedy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) is deeply saddened by the tragic incident that occurred in Srinagar, where a boat carrying passengers capsized in the Batawara area.

"Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those affected by this heart-breaking event.

Chairman Abrar Khan, on behalf of the KTMF, extends heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families during this difficult time," a spokesperson said in a statement. The loss of lives in such a tragic manner is truly devastating, and our thoughts are with all those impacted by this unfortunate incident.

In light of this tragedy, Chairman Abrar Khan has raised pertinent questions regarding the water transport policy implemented by the government. He has questioned why more people were allowed on the boat when there was evidently no adequate space available.

Such lapses in adherence to safety regulations demand urgent attention and accountability from the authorities.

The KTMF urges the government to conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to this tragedy and to take immediate measures to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

- 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)

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:30
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:12
Magrib	7:07
ISHA	8:33

This Day In History

- 310 - St Eusebius begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 387 - Bishop Ambrosius of Milan baptizes Augustinus
- 1025 - Boleslaw Chrobry is crowned in Gniezno, becoming the first King of Poland
- 1506 - The cornerstone of the current St. Peter's Basilica is laid in the Vatican
- 1518 - Bona Sforza is crowned queen consort of Poland
- 1521 - Diet of Worms: Cardinal Alexander questions Martin Luther
- 1552 - Mauritius of Saksen occupies Linz
- 1663 - Osman declares war on Austria
- 1666 - Peace of Kleeef: Netherlands & bishop Von Galen of Munster
- 1676 - Sudbury, Massachusetts, attacked by Indians
- 1688 - "Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery": Francis Daniel Pastorius authors 1st formal written protest against African-American slavery in English colonies in Germantown, Pennsylvania

From KO Archives

And A Golden Era Comes To An End Admirers Bid Tearful Farewell To Nazki

Observer News service

Srinagar: Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki, a legend of Persian, Urdu and Kashmiri, besides being well versed with Arabic and English, who bid adieu to this world yesterday evening, was laid to rest at his final abode in Malakhah grounds, amidst recitation of verses from holy Quran.

Large number of people from different walks of life were present when the body of Nazki, draped in white shroud, was lowered inside the grave. Many of them, were seen sobbing, some with swollen red eyes, wiping their tears.

Almost all the sections of the society were present at the funeral. There were poets, scholars, writers, critics, religious leaders, activists of different political parties, journalists, media personnel and last but not the least the poor and ordinary people of Khatidarwaza locality, where Nazki spent most of his lifetime. "We have been orphaned" said Mohammad Ismail, around 60, adding that "Baday Nazki sahib hamari her tarah say madad kiya kartay thay" (The elder Nazki would always help us).

The funeral procession started this morning from Nazki's Shivpora house and jenaza was offered at Syed Sahib's shrine at Sonawar. From there the funeral procession left for Malakhah cemetery, but not before another jenaza being offered at Khatidarwaza, with Nakzi's old neighbours insisting on that.

The burial took place well before Friday prayers and thus came an end to an era which in Kashmir literature will be written in golden letters, not be forgotten ever.

Hardly few minutes before his end came, Nazki, who had written epitaph of thousands of men of letters, politicians and friends, penned his own epitaph down, in Kashmiri and handed it over to his poet son Farooq Nazki. The epitaph not only communicates his date of death but also of his infinite love for Prophet Mohammed (SAW) as he begged of His mercy. "The end is nearing, and this sweating on my body, this is the last time you will see it" Nazki is said to have told one of close friends Qazi Ghulam Rasool, who happened to be with him at the time of death. In his epitaph, Nazki is said to have written about all the details regarding his last rites, asking his son Farooq to abide by his directions strictly.

(Kashmir Observer, 18 April, 1998)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 18-04-2024

PSA debate

In a welcome decision, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday nullified the detention of one Jaffar Ahmad Parray under the Public Safety Act (PSA). The ruling has highlighted the imperative of safeguarding civil liberties in a democratic society while reigniting the debate over the controversial legislation.

The court's decision, delivered by Justice Rahul Bharti, is a rebuke to arbitrary detention and the overreach of authority under the guise of security measures. It categorically rejects the notion that India is a police state, affirming instead the fundamental principles of justice and due process. By scrutinizing the grounds of detention, which relied heavily on hearsay and unsubstantiated claims, the court stressed the necessity of concrete evidence and lawful procedure in matters of preventive detention.

The case of Parray serves as a stark reminder of the alarming trend of using vague affiliations as justification for curbing individual freedoms. Despite the petitioner's lack of involvement in any registered criminal activity, the detention order was predicated on assertions of association with militant outfits. The misuse of authority not only violates the principles of justice but also perpetuates a culture of fear and intimidation.

The ruling resonates deeply with voices across the political spectrum, including former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who has recently advocated for the repeal of the PSA. Abdullah's pledge to abolish this draconian law, if elected to power, reflects the widespread sentiment among the people that views the PSA as a tool of repression rather than security.

The debate over the PSA extends beyond mere partisan politics; it speaks to the core of democratic governance and the protection of individual rights. Enacted with the purported aim of curbing timber smuggling, the PSA has morphed into a means of indefinite detention without trial, fostering a palpable sense of discontent among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

As we reflect on the implications of the court's decision, it is incumbent upon both the judiciary and the legislature to heed the call for reform. The repeal of the PSA is not only a symbolic gesture but a concrete step towards nurturing a society built on the pillars of liberty, equality, and justice for all.

The J&K High Court's decision to invalidate the detention under the PSA serves as a call for introspection and reform. It underlines the indispensable need for a legal framework that upholds the dignity and rights of every individual, irrespective of their affiliations or beliefs.

OTHER OPINION

A Good Augury

A good monsoon, assuming the IMD's forecast is borne out, is welcome on many counts.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a "most likely to be above normal" southwest monsoon this year. Rainfall over the country during June-September is expected to be 106 per cent of the "normal" long period average for this four-month season. The optimism is based on most global climate models indicating a weakening of the current El Niño conditions to "neutral" in the first half of the monsoon and then developing into a La Niña during the second half.

El Niño — an abnormal warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean waters towards South America — is generally known to suppress cloud formation and rainfall activity in India, while La Niña has the opposite effect. La Niña apart, the IMD is deriving hope from "positive" Indian Ocean Dipole conditions — warmer temperatures in the Arabian Sea waters relative to that in the eastern Indian Ocean — developing, again during the latter part of the monsoon season.

A good monsoon, assuming the IMD's forecast is borne out, is welcome on many counts. To start with, growth. While India's overall gross value added growth has gone up from 6.7 per cent in 2022-23 to 6.9 per cent in 2023-24, the same for agriculture has slowed from 4.7 per cent to 0.7 per cent. Given that the farm sector employs nearly 46 per cent of the country's workforce, a second consecutive not-so-good monsoon can turn out to be a major drag on already stressed rural incomes and consumption. Secondly, the monsoon matters for availability of drinking water (think Bengaluru) and reservoir levels for hydel power generation. The third impact is on sentiment. For the government taking over in June after the Lok Sabha elections, a good monsoon would be manna from heaven — providing just the right start.

But for both the government and the Reserve Bank of India, there is an immediate concern. It has to do with retail food inflation, which, at 8.5 per cent year-on-year in March, was higher than the 4.9 per cent increase in the general consumer price index. With government wheat stocks, at 7.5 million tonnes on April 1, depleting to a 16-year-low for this date and subpar production in most rabi crops, food inflation may remain sticky. That practically rules out any policy interest rate cuts. Everything, therefore, hinges on the monsoon and a bumper kharif harvest about six months from now. The government's options are limited: It has done both right (slashing import tariffs on pulses and edible oils) and wrong (banning/curbing exports of wheat, rice, sugar and onions, besides imposing stocking limits). The one thing it could do is to abolish the 40 per cent import duty on wheat.

The Indian Express



Aabid Bhat for Kashmir Observer

Boat Capsize Tragedy

Where is Accountability?

Ikkz Ikkal

In a heart-wrenching incident that happened this week at Batwara Gandbal area of Srinagar, tragedy struck as a boat capsized, claiming the lives of seven individuals. Among the victims were two brothers and their mother, adding to the profound grief gripping the community. The incident, which occurred around 7:45 a.m., has left the locality reeling with shock and sorrow.

For the past decade, the residents of Batwara Gandbal have been pleading for the construction of a bridge to connect their area. Their calls for this vital infrastructure have fallen on deaf ears, leaving them vulnerable to the dangers posed by the lack of safe passage across water bodies. Today's devastating event serves as a grim reminder of the urgent need for action.

The absence of a bridge has forced locals to rely on alternative means of transportation, such as boats, to navigate their daily lives. However, this makeshift solution has proven to be perilous, as evidenced by the tragic loss of lives in today's accident. Despite assurances of progress and development, the fundamental requirement for a bridge has been neglected, with dire consequences.

In the aftermath of the boat capsizing, the exact number of passengers onboard remains uncertain, adding to the anguish of the community. As rescue efforts continue and the bodies of the deceased are recovered, the collective mourning deepens, underscoring the devastating impact of inadequate infrastructure on human lives.

The loss of two brothers and their mother serves as a poignant reminder of the irreplaceable void left behind by such tragedies. Their untimely demise amplifies the

urgency of addressing the longstanding demand for a bridge in Batwara Gandbal. It is a stark wake-up call to authorities to prioritize the safety and well-being of communities by fulfilling their basic infrastructure needs without delay.

As the community grapples

with the aftermath of the tragedy, the construction of a bridge connecting the locality. This vital infrastructure project is not merely a matter of convenience but a crucial element of ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. It is imperative that promises of progress are translated into tangible results,

with a focus on prioritizing the needs of marginalized areas.

Furthermore, strict regulations and safety protocols must be enforced to govern the use of alternative transportation methods, such as boats. Adequate training and certification for boat operators, regular maintenance checks, and adherence to passenger capacity limits are essential measures to mitigate the risks associated with water transport.

Equally important is the empowerment of local communities to actively participate in safeguarding their own interests. Through community-led initiatives and advocacy efforts, residents can amplify their voices and hold authorities accountable for delivering on their promises. By fostering a culture of collaboration and engagement, communities can become proactive partners in shaping their own destinies and ensuring a safer future for all.

This tragedy serves as a somber reminder of the consequences of neglecting basic infrastructure needs and disregarding the voices of the marginalized. Let us honor the memory of the victims by turning this moment of grief into a catalyst for meaningful change. Together, let us commit to building a future where tragedies like this one are not merely headlines of the past but lessons learned for a better tomorrow.

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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Aabid Bhat for Kashmir Observer

with grief and loss, their voices echo with a resounding plea for action. The promise of progress must be met with tangible measures to ensure the safety and security of every individual. Until then, the shadow of today's tragedy will loom large over Batwara Gandbal, a poignant reminder of the cost of neglecting the cries of the marginalized.

In the aftermath of the devastating boat capsizing, there is a pressing need for decisive action to prevent such tragedies from recurring. Both authorities and communities must come together in a concerted effort to address the root cause of this avoidable loss of life.

First and foremost, authorities must heed the longstanding plea of the residents and expedite the con-

This vital infrastructure project is not merely a matter of convenience but a crucial element of ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. It is imperative that promises of progress are translated into tangible results, with a focus on prioritizing the needs of marginalized areas



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Downfall of Textile Industry and Employment Drought

The onslaught of the Coronavirus has had a drastic impact on the global as well as the Indian textile industry. Even though several sectors like industrial, medical, education, etc. were subjected to a major setback during the pandemic, the textile industry in India was massively affected in terms of productivity, functioning and employee relations,

since the entire work-force involves the supply chain.

In the last few years, the Indian textile industry has witnessed a huge downfall, particularly in the domestic garment market with plenty of cancellations in orders, and no fresh orders coming through either. This has resulted in the work-force getting hugely affected, leaving millions of skilled and unskilled labourers with

no option but to migrate to their natives. The Union government should consider the industry's demands and take steps to support it. This should include providing temporary relief from the import duty on cotton, especially during off-season. The government should also invest in research and development to help the industry produce cotton more efficiently and sustainably, which will enable create

more job opportunities, boost exports and grow the economy. One really hopes that the Union government will support this industry to the maximum and revive it soon to get back to its halcyon days. After all, 'cloth' is one of the three immediate and fundamental needs for human life.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Copper and Copper Work in Kashmir

Peer Faizan Bashir

Copper was discovered by early humans when they stumbled upon copper nuggets lying in streambeds. Fascinated by its reddish-orange color, they recognized its malleability and usefulness. As time elapsed, people learnt the art of making objects from copper. (An interview with Zareef Ahmed Zareef.)

Historical data suggests that copper-work started in Egypt somewhere around 5000 BC. When people lit fire on mountains, it produced small red bubbles of fire on rocks, which were extracted and hammered thereof. The first object made of copper was a hammer, followed by weapons and jewelry. The people of Egypt used to bury copper objects with the deceased, as a token of love or as a matter of belief in supernatural entities or life in the hereafter. Copper was one of the materials that the ancient Egyptians used in making Pyramids, which still exist. (An interview with Zareef Ahmed Zareef.)

In the context of India, the usage of copper could be traced back to the ancient coins. We have references from the literary as well as archaeological sources pointing to the use of copper coins by Toramana. A large number of Toramana coins have been found at as distant places as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, showing the brisk trade going on between Kashmir and the rest of India during this period. (Kalhana's Rajatarangini Volume I: Culture and Political History of Kashmir, PNK Bumzai Volume I.)

Copper pieces of Kanishka and Huvishka have been found in swathes at several sites combined with the Buddhist records. Use of copper plates for writing treatises by the king has been recognized by the historians. References point to the substantial number of copper coins of Sankarvarman as well. Some copper coins of Mihrukul as well his successors show the emblem of a sun-wheel either alone or with the Saiva symbols. (Kalhana's Rajatarangini Volume I: Culture and Political History of Kashmir, PNK Bumzai Volume I.)

A colossal statue (Great Buddha) built by Lalitaditya at Parihaspur has been in copper. In Jayapida's time, references point to the mountain of copper ore. Harsa's Gold and Silver money coupled with the copper coins are pointed out to in the literary sources struck on a very large quantity. (Kalhana's Rajatarangini Volume I.)

Mythical or otherwise, the story of the Naga deity of the Wular Lake directing Jayapida to a copper mine nearby shows the king's anxiety to secure funds for running the administration and paying his army. In times of emergencies, the king would direct their attention to copper statues of gods and goddesses which they melted for purposes of coinage. (Culture and political history of Kashmir, PNK Bumzai, Volume I.)

Imported articles included precious metals and copper and brass for coinage, etc

The only denomination of coins, which can be traced throughout, is the copper coin representing 25 dinars. Taking into consideration also the vast preponderance of these coins in

quantity, the old currency of Kashmir must be described as one in copper. During the Kushan period, we find a bi-metallic currency of gold and copper in use. (Culture and political history of Kashmir, PNK Bumzai, Volume I.)

Smithery, of course, exists in Kashmir from ancient times, with cooking vessels and other utensils made of brass and copper. Ancient images in brass and copper of gods and goddesses have been discovered during excavations and this also presupposes the existence of a highly advanced industry of casting and molding metals. (Culture and political history of Kashmir, PNK Bumzai, Volume I.)

Historians have found sculpture in brass and copper. Daggers, lamps, metal sword, dagger worn by Vishnu, bell, censer, pot, copper lamp 17th century (arabesque design), jug (resembling samovar, 18th century), foliated tray, portable Hindu domestic shrine have been discovered by experts, pointing to the use of copper way back into the past.

Medieval Period

We have references from the geologists of the extraction of copper from the mountain on which Aishmakam in the Liddar valley stands during the Shah Mir dynasty. Zain-ul-Abideen defraying all his private expenditure from the proceeds of a copper mine which he discovered in Kashmir. It is pleasant to turn to the more enlightened reign of Zain-ul-Ab-ul-din, who was virtuous in his private life, self-controlled and frugal, paying all the expenses of his establishment from the income of a copper mine which he had discovered. (Walter Lawrence, The valley of Kashmir.)

Jonaraja records the Sultan Zain-ul-abidin provided his subjects with a code of laws and had them all engraved on copper plates and placed in public markets and halls of justice. Importantly, the Sultan, as a way of boosting economy and making Kashmir a hub of cultural activities, invited several Persian and Central Asian artisans, including copper workers, to Kashmir. He appointed them in different areas of the old city, Srinagar – including Zain-Kadal, Mehraj Gunj, Kaid Kadal, Saraf-Kadal. Gaedbazaar, an area around Mehraj-Gunj, which is still renowned for the crafting of big copper objects – such as water containers used in mosques. The craftsmen adorned the copper objects with intricate carvings. Most of the copper objects made here were then consigned to the rural areas for selling purposes. (Culture and Political History of Kashmir, PNK Bumzai, Volume II; an interview with Zareef Ahmad Zareef.)

The coppersmiths of Srinagar work with a hammer and chisels, and many of the present coppersmiths are men who used once to work in silver. They also work in brass. Their designs are very quaint and bold, and they are very ready to adopt any new pattern that may be offered to them. The copper-work of Srinagar is admirably adapted for electro-plating, and some smiths now turn out a finer kind of article especially for electro-plating. A large demand has arisen for the beautiful copper trays framed as



tables in carved walnut-wood, and the carpenter is now the close ally of the coppersmith. Of the enamel work, the enamels on brass are, I think, the best, though the enameled silver-work is very pretty. Copper does not lend itself to enamel. (Walter Lawrence, The Valley of Kashmir.)

In the past, due to the paucity of human innovation, which is to say, machines, Charakking was done using hands. Machines came later. This sped up the production process and reduced human labour. However, there is an increase in the number of variegated machines that make copperware. It's not good

Shah Hamdan, a Sufi saint and scholar, had also invited and brought many Persian artisans to Kashmir. However, Zain-ul-Abidin would give so much emphasis on this craft that he immensely relied on the income that the copperwork generated. (An Interview with Zareef Ahmad Zareef.)

Copperwork in Kashmir is of different types which include Padri (copper objects made completely by engraving on them), Kandkari (intricate designs crafted on copper objects), Shafaqdar (cut-work), Kamii Khanith (objects made

complete by engraving on them shallowly.) (An Interview with Zareef Ahmad Zareef.)

Zain-ul-Abideen would make metal money from copper. The making of which was done at Toonk-Sarai, Mehraj Gung. Srinagar has remained the hub of copperwork for a long time. It's pertinent to mention that downtown copperware is desired even in Iran and elsewhere. (An Interview with Zareef Ahmad Zareef.)

Copper utensils in use for centuries include Tash-Naar (a pair of copper items used for washing hands), Samovar (a metal urn), Chai-Naar (a tea-pot) Daeg (a big pot-like object made from copper), jugs, Traem/Sarpapsh (Traem is a round plate-like copper item used to eat rice in; Sarpapsh – a conical copper artefact that covers it), Ezbandh-Sooz (an incense burner) and so forth. (An Interview with Zareef Ahmad Zareef.)

Interestingly, roofing at certain places of the Jamia Masjid was also done using copper in 1955. People would also attach a layer of copper on the roofs of their houses in Kashmir. (An Interview with Zareef Ahmad Zareef.)

Practitioners Speak: Personal Interview with an Artisan

It first comes in the form of rectangular-and-round sheets of copper. Rectangular sheets are used to make items such as Samovar (a metal urn made of copper), Steamers, and Water-containers. And circled sheets are used to make utensils like Toor (a copper item bulged inwards with a base, which is used to keep delicacies in), Kenz (a copper item which is used by Kashmiri women to eat rice in) and several other small items.

Firstly, these sheets of copper are marked with a sharp object, and then they are cut into small chunks of copper: spoons need a certain cutting of copper sheets; Samovar needs a different cutting of copper sheets, and so is the case with the other copper items.

A large number of families give copperware to their daughters as part of the dowry.

Let's take a look at how Toor is

made: the artisan makes a rough draft of it on a sheet of copper with a stylus, then it's accordingly cut with a sharp instrument (quite similar to scissors), which is used manually. These small chunks of copper are then formed into a Toor by affixing it with the material having adhesive features, followed by heating it in a furnace to the point the adhesive material dissolves into the copper and creates a durable bond.

After acquiring its desired shape, it's hammered. Hammering gives the object a strong edge. And when the object is crafted, it is tied to a machine which moves circularly at bullet speed. The machine is used to clear the thick layers of dirt off the finished objects of copper. The machine is firmly installed in a certain place in a factory. A handle, on the other hand, sharp at the tip, is pointed at the copper object (which keeps on moving circularly as a result of tying it to the machine) to clear the dirt, without any damage done to the object in discussion. This machine is locally known as Charakh, the cleaner, who operates the machine, Charakhdar.

After the copper object is done, it's cleaned further with water. The artisan then dries it, resulting in it acquiring a smooth and shiny finish. All circular copper articles – hollow in their structure – are to be Charakhed. As a copper item rotates with the machine, its inner surface remains exposed for cleaning. The other copper objects of varying shapes and sizes are cleaned by washing them with a brush, using a solution of water and sulphuric acid.

Thereafter design-makers, who adorn the copperware with intricate carvings, come into the picture. There are different designs that the craftsmen are skilled at creating, and some of them are as follows:

Naqashi: It's the art of carving copper objects with chisels and hammers to create intricate designs on them. This design is inspired by Islamic art and architecture which feature floral and geometrical designs. It can be seen on a Kashmiri Toor (a utensil which is used to keep the Kashmiri delicacies in), Samovar (urn made of copper) and so forth.

Tracing: It's the technique of

creating designs on a sheet of paper, and then the sheet of paper is traced on a sheet of copper using the stylus. Thereafter the traced piece of copper is carved using chisels and hammers, resulting in a beautiful design.

Embossing: It's the art of creating designs on copper by hammering it from the back. Some trays bear this technical work on them.

Engraving: This is the art of engraving a copper object with a burin to create a design. Then the design is filled with ink to give it a nice, soothing and cultural look.

Filigree work: It's a process of twisting and bending thin strips of copper to make intricate designs. Examples of which are some of the ear-shaped handles of trays.

Kalai (nickel coating) is an integral part of a copper object. It's finally done to the copper object to make it look clean. It's believed – and backed by science as well – that eating in copperware not coated with nickel causes health issues. As a matter of the acidic foods that the copper is reactive to. That nickel-coating doesn't let the small remnants of copper creep into the food. In Kashmir copperware was used by Muslims and brass by Hindus. Muslims would go for nickel-coating and Hindus for brush-cleaning.

Expert Speaks

His name is Ghulam Qadir Baba. His copper shop is located at Zainakadal. He has been selling and making objects of copper for a long time. Copperwork has been his ancestral occupation. He makes many copper items such as Samovar (a metal urn), Toeer (a small copper item in which Kashmiris keep delicacies), Thalbana (a copper item in which Kashmiris eat rice), Traem-Sarpoosh Tash-Naer, plates, tumblers, spoons, water-containers and so forth.

Copperwork is no easy task. It needs one to have a strong grasp of the minute details of it. You need to be trained first for a period of 20 years to become adept at crafting such artefacts. Unlike Dairy Farming, copperwork is a profession of skilled people. Those who make copper objects are called Thanthur. And those who carve intricate designs on a certain copper article are called Naqshgaar. Thanthur is derived from the word Thathyar, which is used in Persia. This little tweaking to the word occurred due to the local dialect of Kashmir: as in Surlaa (nickname) for Sultaan. There are several other objects made of either aluminium or steel, challenging copperware and its makers. Be that as it may, copperwork has continued and is fairly preferred by the people so far.

In the past, due to the paucity of human innovation, which is to say, machines, Charakking was done using hands. Machines came later. This sped up the production process and reduced human labour.

However, there is an increase in the number of variegated machines that make copperware. It's not good. We hammer copper constantly, the machines do it in a single blow. The copperwares we make by using our hands are strong.

We should keep this tradition of making copper objects using our hands alive.

Four Dangers Lurking In Your Garden – And How To Protect Yourself

Stephen Hughes

Many people see gardening as a relaxing pastime – an easygoing way to spend hours outdoors when the weather's nice. But as a consultant in emergency medicine, I deal with all manner of medical emergencies and injuries arising from what may appear to be a harmless hobby. Over the years, I have seen hand wounds from cutting implements and foot wounds from lawn mowers and garden forks. In recent weeks, I have seen falls from ladders, head wounds from falls on concrete – and, sadly, confirmed the death of a person in their later years whose enthusiastic shovelling proved too much.

Even in times past, the garden could be quite the health hazard. One of the first patients to be treated with penicillin was a police officer who had apparently contracted sepsis after a scratch from a rose thorn. In those days, the most minor of wounds could have the deadliest of consequences – and it turns out this can still happen, with a UK woman recently dying from sepsis after scratching her

hand while gardening. But these aren't the only dangers lurking in your garden. Here are just a few things to look out for before you next head out to tend your plants:

1. Tetanus

Tetanus is a particularly nasty disease. The muscles go into spasm due to the effects of the toxin from the bacteria, Clostridium tetani. The suffering is almost indescribable, causing painful muscle spasms and a locked jaw.

Many associate tetanus with objects such as rusty nails. But this surprisingly common organism is also found in the soil, particularly if manured, because clostridia are found in the gut. Roses like soil with manure, so this could turn these beloved flowers deadly if you get cut by contaminated thorns or if the soil gets into a cut.

Luckily, I have yet to see any cases in the emergency room because the UK immunises against tetanus. And I never want to see a case, because of how nasty it is. The case fatality rate can exceed 50% in people who aren't immunised. This is why it's important to



check that your tetanus jab is up to date.

2. Bacteria and fungi

Lurking in a humble bag of compost is an ingredient many of us wouldn't expect: Legionella.

This bacteria can cause an infection called Legionnaires' disease which is particularly harmful for the elderly and

people with a compromised immune system. It can lead to a nasty and often fatal pneumonia when inhaled. Warm, stagnant water involved in the composting process may account for its presence.

It isn't only pre-packaged compost that's hazardous. Your own compost heap is also be filled with various

bacteria and fungi, which, if properly maintained, should cause you no trouble. But often the mould Aspergillus can grow when it's hot outside. This can give rise to some nasty lung lesions and may even become more widespread in the body – especially in the elderly and immunosuppressed and can be fatal.

Mould spores can also trigger allergies in some people, a condition known as extrinsic allergic alveolitis or "farmer's lung". This condition was classically due to exposure to mouldy hay, but compost heaps can also do the same because of the presence of organisms such as Aspergillus and the bacteria Actinomyces.

3. Leptospirosis

Leptospira is a bacterium that may be found in water contaminated with rat urine. With rats often building habitats near humans, it might be best to take care near the pond or rainwater barrels when gardening.

Leptospira can cause leptospirosis, a rather unpleasant infection that causes headaches, fevers, chills, vomiting, jaundice and then later,

liver failure, kidney failure and meningitis.

4. Power tools

While power tools can make our work easier in the garden, they can also make it much easier to injure ourselves, too. Hedge trimmers may be a great way to tame trees and bushes, but they can also amputate digits and inflict wounds very efficiently. Be sure to wait until the hedge trimmer is fully turned off before clearing any branches you've removed.

Hedge trimmers and lawn mowers can also easily cut through electric cables, which can lead to electrocution. Power tools can also be disastrous if you fall while up a ladder and if you have power lines crossing your garden, then please avoid them.

Stay safe

While these hidden dangers are certainly a risk, luckily there are many simple things you can do to avoid harm from them, including:

1. Cleaning and covering wounds while gardening.
2. Make sure your immunisations are up to date (es-

pecially for tetanus). Keeping compost bags away from your face when you open them.

4. Deter rats by not putting cooked food on compost heaps, covering water butts and setting up traps if you have an infestation.
5. Set up ladders firmly on even ground away from power lines.
6. Enjoy having wildlife but leave it alone (snakes can be just as much a danger as rats).

And one last piece of advice from me. Every year the burns unit at my hospital sees a number of people who have tried to speed up the process of lighting their barbecue or bonfire by using petrol. Not all survive. So if you are planning to cook the fruits of your labours on a barbecue in your garden, make sure you don't use inflammable liquids to get the flame started, and have a fire extinguisher on hand just in case.

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that has many health benefits. Just be sure to take sensible precautions.

By arrangements with The Conversation

High-Voltage Campaigning Ends In Udhampur Lok Sabha Seat

Agencies

JAMMU:- The high-voltage electioneering came to an end on Wednesday evening in Udhampur parliamentary constituency in Jammu and Kashmir which is witnessing its first major electoral battle since it was bifurcated and downgraded to the status of a Union Territory in 2019.

The polling is slated in Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in the first phase on April 19 and will decide the fate of 12 contestants, including Union Minister Jitendra Singh who is seeking a third term and is facing a major challenge from Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh.

The presence of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) candidate and former Jammu and Kashmir minister G M Saroori makes the contest a triangular one.

"No untoward incident was reported during the campaigning by the candidates of political parties and Independents. The electioneering ended this evening (at 6 pm) and the advance parties of the security and polling staff along with election logistics and materials have been dispatched to the remote pockets including snow-bound areas to ensure free and fair polling," an official said.

Over 16.23 lakh electorate including 7.77 lakh women are going to vote at 2637 polling stations across the constituency which is spread over five districts of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua.

After Udhampur, Jammu parliamentary constituency will go to polls on April 26 followed by Anantnag-Rajouri constituency on May 7, Srinagar on May 13 and Baramulla on May 20. The counting of votes will be held on June 4.



The contestants, especially the BJP, the Congress and the DPAP, left no stone unturned to woo the voters, bringing back the focus on Article 370 that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir and which was abrogated by the BJP-led central government in August 2019.

The BJP also came in for severe criticism by the rivals for continuing its "proxy rule" by not holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and dividing the erstwhile state into two Union territories.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who reached Udhampur on April 12 and took the campaigning to its crescendo, reassured the people about holding of assembly elections and restoration of statehood.

Modi highlighted the achievements made in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years and said this is for the first time in decades that the upcoming elections are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir without the fear of terrorism, strikes, stone-pelting and cross-border firing.

The BJP, which also brought a galaxy of high-profile leaders, including defence minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Anurag Thakur, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

and national spokesperson Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain, to the constituency, boasted about the restoration of peace by ending Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, stone-pelting and frequent strikes besides ensuring record-breaking tourist arrivals and massive development.

Home Minister Amit Shah, during his election rally in Jammu on Tuesday, reiterated that the assembly elections will be held in accordance with the deadline of September 30 set by the Supreme Court.

The campaigning by the Congress, on the other hand, saw their star campaigners, including actor-turned politician Raj Babbar, former deputy chief minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot and chairman of minority department AICC Imran Pratapgarhi, addressing a series of rallies in the constituency to bolster the chances of their candidate.

The National Conference (NC), which is a part of the Congress-led INDIA bloc, also hit the campaign trail in support of Lal Singh. Its president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah, both former chief ministers, undertook a whirlwind tour of Chenab valley region.

The two leaders went full throttle against the DPAP, ac-

BJP Eyes Hat-Trick In Udhampur, Jammu

Agencies

JAMMU: The BJP has gone full-throttle with a high-voltage campaign, while the Congress seems to have adopted a subdued approach as the parties gear up for a three-cornered contest -- scheduled on April 19 and 26 -- in the Udhampur and Jammu constituencies.

In both the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the ruling BJP secured the Udhampur and Jammu seats with Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore emerging triumphant, respectively.

Now, seeking a hat-trick of wins in the two constituencies, the safe party is vigorously working to fortify its support base. It, however, faces stiff competition from the Congress, which has nominated two-time MP Lal Singh in Udhampur and its working president Raman Bhatta in Jammu.

Campaigning for the first phase draws to a close on Wednesday.

The BJP's campaign in Jammu and Kashmir included rallies by top party leaders, such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Anurag Thakur, and senior leader Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain.

In contrast, the Congress had only former deputy chief minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot and

actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar addressing two rallies in the region since the announcement of the polls.

The BJP is banking on the 'Modi factor' and its promises delivered, including the abrogation of Article 370, the passage of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, and the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, along with various welfare schemes and infrastructure projects, to bolster its narrative of development.

Modi, while campaigning for Dr Jitendra Singh in Udhampur on April 12, said that assembly elections will be soon held in Jammu and Kashmir and the statehood will be restored.

The Congress, on the other hand, is focusing on the issues of unemployment and safeguarding secularism besides restoration of statehood.

The grand old party is being backed by the National Conference (NC) with former chief ministers of the erstwhile-state of Jammu and Kashmir Dr Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah campaigning for the INDIA bloc candidates Lal Singh in Udhampur and Raman Bhatta in Jammu.

"Your vote will have a bearing for the next five years, so you have to choose wisely. Don't allow votes to get divided," Omar had said in Doda.

ing it of being a proxy of the country to divide the secular votes in the constituency.

Omar Abdullah also slammed the BJP for the August 2019 development and questioned its claims about massive development, saying almost all the major projects including four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway and the prestigious railway line to connect

Kashmir with rest of the country were given to J-K by the Congress governments before 2014.

However, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which is also part of the INDIA bloc, was missing from the scene as it fielded candidates on three seats from Kashmir after it was sidelined in the seat-sharing agreement on the six seats of J-K and Ladakh.

Leh Apex Body Call Off Proposed 'Intra-Country Road March'



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk have announced the cancellation of the proposed 'Intra-Country Road March,' scheduled for Wednesday. This decision was confirmed during a press conference held on Tuesday evening, where LAB leaders and Sonam Wangchuk addressed the media.

As per the info received by the news agency, cancellation comes amidst concerns raised by the administration, indicating potential repercussions if the march proceeds. LAB leaders and Wangchuk expressed apprehensions that the administration's warnings of imposing Section 144 and shutting down internet services could adversely impact the local tourism industry. Fearful of financial losses, particularly for tourism businessmen, the decision to call off the march was deemed necessary.

Sonam Wangchuk raised allegations against the administration, accusing them of resorting to intimidation tactics to deter

the march. While acknowledging Ladakh's sensitive geo-political position, Wangchuk emphasized the need for understanding the government's concerns regarding law and order, especially in light of the region's proximity to China and Pakistan.

Highlighting the primary motive behind the proposed march, Wangchuk stressed the importance of addressing the grievances of local shepherds in Skangchu-Thing, who have reportedly faced challenges related to land acquisition by industrialists. Despite the cancellation of the march, Wangchuk reiterated his commitment to advocating for the rights of Ladakhi people, indicating that discussions would continue with LAB and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).

Initially announced to commence on April 17th, the 'Intra-Country Road March' aimed to traverse towards Skangchu-Thing on the Ladakh-Himachal Pradesh border, facilitating direct engagement with local communities affected by land acquisition issues--(KNO)

Omar Has Habit Of Humiliating People: Sajad Lone

Agencies

KUPWARA: People's Conference (PC) chief Sajad Lone on Wednesday said National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah has a "habit of humiliating people and he needs to get out of the habit of labelling his opponents adversely".

The PC president slammed Abdullah's assertion that his fight in north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency -- where Abdullah and Lone are pitted against each other -- is against Delhi and not against any specific candidate.

Lone questioned the implications of labelling his supporters as "agents of Delhi or manipulated by agencies".



"Omar has a habit of humiliating everyone. I want to ask him that are the people supporting us mere agents of Delhi? Are they manipulated by agencies? Why do you habitually demean and insult the people of Kashmir? Do you hold a license to label and question people's choices, humiliating them in the process?" Lone said.

He also addressed a block meeting with workers from Qaziabad in Langate assembly segment.

ter) Omar Abdullah or someone else has said," Mufti told reporters in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Will Highlight Ongoing 'Attack' On Dignity Of People: Mehbooba

Agencies

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said she will highlight the ongoing "attack" on dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and its land and other resources, instead of indulging in blame game with rival parties.

"Our aim is not to play the blame game. We are passing through very tough times. Our resources, our land and our dignity is being attacked every day. I think we should talk about it. I don't want to go into what (former J-K chief minister) Omar Abdullah or someone else has said," Mufti told reporters in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The PDP president was campaigning in the south Kashmir district which is part of Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency. She is up against National Conference candidate Mian Altaf Ahmad and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad among other candidates. Addressing a rally at Kund in Kulgam, Mufti reiterated that her party was forced to take the electoral plunge against the National Conference (NC).



Addressing a rally at Kund in Kulgam, Mufti reiterated that her party was forced to take the electoral plunge against the National Conference (NC).

Illegal Property Of Peddler Attached In Shopian

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In continuation of its unwavering efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Shopian attached property worth Rs 25 lacs belonging

ment issued to the news agency-- Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985 & is linked with case FIR No.21/2024 U/S 8/20 of NDPS Act of Police Station Shopian, police said.



to a notorious drug peddler.

Police in Shopian under the supervision of SSP Shopian Tanushree attached property (Double story residential house worth Rs. 25 lacs) measuring 1769.635 Sqft belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Mahjabeen Banoo wife of Farooq Ahmad Najar resident of Stadium Colony Batapora Shopian constructed over Shamlat Section 5 land measuring 6.5 marlas (1769.63 sqft) falling under Survey No. 952/1 at village Batapora District Shopian, a police spokesman said in a state-

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Shopian Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler, police said.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of the Police, police added--(KNO)

3 Powerful IEDs Seized In Poonch

Agencies

MENDHAR: Three ready-to-use improvised explosive devices (IED), each weighing between three to 20 kgs, were recovered from a terrorist hideout in the border district of Poonch on Wednesday, officials said.

They termed it a "major breakthrough" ahead of Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The IEDs, planted inside steel containers of five-kg, 10-kg and 20-kg capacity, were found hidden inside a cave hideout during a joint search operation by the police, CRPF and Rashtriya Rifles in the forest area of Sana-Gursai in the Mendhar subdivision, the officials said.

They said the bomb disposal squad later destroyed all the three IEDs in a controlled explosion, scuttling terrorists' plan to carry out blasts in the Union Territory.

"We received an input about

the likely hideout and suspicious movement in the upper Sana at 4 am and subsequently launched a joint search and destroy operation with the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police and Rashtriya Rifles.

"Three IEDs, one weighing 15 to 20 kgs, second eight to 10 kgs and third three to five kgs, having two mechanisms for initiating charge were recovered and destroyed," CRPF officer Rajesh Yadav said.

Yadav, who is second-in-command of the 246th battalion, said the seizure of the IEDs foiled terrorists' plan to carry out an attack.

"This is an election time and terrorists are always on the lookout to disrupt elections by carrying out any sensational act," he told reporters at the scene.

The officials said no one was arrested during the operation which concluded with the safe disposal of the seized IEDs.

Ram Navami Celebrated With Religious Fervor Across Kashmir



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ram Navami was celebrated with religious fervor across the valley on Wednesday while Kashmiri Pandits performed 'pooja' at the historic Shankaracharya Temple, located on Shankaracharya Hill in Srinagar.

On the occasion, the Kashmiri Pandits took out a procession during the festival celebrations at historic Ghanta Ghar where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Bilal Mohi-ud-Din along with Senior Superintendent of

Police (SSP) Srinagar, Ashish Mishra also participated.

The Shankaracharya Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, witnessed a large gathering of devotees who offered prayers and participated in various rituals to commemorate the birth of Lord Rama.

As per the news agency--Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the atmosphere at Shankaracharya Temple today was uplifting, with local residents and devotees expressing their joy, saying that Ram Navami holds special significance for them.

"It's a day when we come together to celebrate our shared heritage and faith," they added.

A local resident, Meena Devi, shared her sentiments saying, it's heartening to see people from all walks of life coming together to celebrate Ram Navami. The spirit of unity and brotherhood is what makes Kashmir truly special, she said.

"The celebrations at the Shankaracharya Temple serve as a reminder of the rich cultural tapestry and religious harmony that exists in Kashmir," she said--(KNO)

Tourism Revival Boosts Kashmir Handicrafts Sales

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With the revival of tourism in the valley, the region's handicrafts industry is experiencing a notable surge, signaling promising economic recovery and cultural resurgence.

In recent years, Kashmir has witnessed a resurgence in tourism, with travellers from across the world visiting Kashmir during different seasons to witness the breathtaking landscapes. This revival in tourism has not only brought a sense of hope to local businesses but has also provided a significant impetus to the handicrafts sector, which has long been a cornerstone of Kashmir's economy.

As per news agency--Kash-

mir News Observer (KNO), artisans and craftsmen in Kashmir have been renowned for their exquisite craftsmanship for centuries, producing a wide array of traditional handicrafts such as intricately woven carpets, fine pashmina shawls, intricate wood carvings, and colorful papier-mâché artifacts.

The sector during the recent past suffered immensely with artisans switching to other trades to earn livelihood following reduced demand.

With government's initiatives and revival of tourism, the handicrafts sector has again thrived in Kashmir.

Mohammed Ali Bhat, a third-generation wood carving artisan in Srinagar, expressed



his delight at the recent upswing in business. "For years, our livelihoods were affected by the decline in tourism. But now, with more visitors coming to Kashmir, we are seeing a steady increase in our sales of wooden items. It gives us hope for the future," he remarked.

A number of authentic handicrafts outlets and showrooms have emerged in Kash-

mir during the last few years signalling the growth of the sector.

Junaid Ahmad Khan, a handicrafts showroom owner, said the tourism boom in Kashmir has scaled up the sales of handicrafts items at various tourist destinations of the valley.

"From Srinagar to Pahalagm and Gulmarg, we have witnessed that various authentic

Kashmir handicrafts showrooms have emerged. Apart from that, small stalls are also being established by the locals to sell the handicrafts items to tourists. Flow of tourists has always proved beneficial for various businesses, be it handicrafts, transport and others," he said.

The growth in the handicrafts sector has also been facilitated by efforts to promote Kashmiri crafts on digital platforms, allowing artisans to reach a wider audience beyond the confines of the region. E-commerce platforms and online marketplaces have provided a valuable avenue for artisans to showcase their creations and connect with customers worldwide, further fuelling the growth of the industry--(KNO)

India's T20 WC Squad: No Fresh Faces; Shivam v Rinku, Gill v Jaiswal Possible

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The national selection committee is unlikely to blood any rookie IPL performer during the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas but a couple of tried-and-tested faces might have to brace up for disappointment when the squad is finalised by the end of this month.

With the ICC making it mandatory to announce the provisional 15-member squad by May 1 cut-off date, Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues have some straightforward choices to make if every member of the team is fit.

"There would not be any experimentation or left-field selections. All those who have played for India and have done well consistently in T20 Internationals and the IPL will be rewarded," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. It is understood that one



among Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal might miss out but in case both proven performers are selected in the final 15, then only one among two finishers -- Kolkata Knight

Riders' Rinku Singh and Chennai Super Kings' Shivam Dube -- will get the nod.

The other close call could be for the second wicketkeeper's slot where Sanju Samson has

which makes it difficult for the selectors to analyse their impact down the order.

Although Hardik Pandya's bowling fitness remains a concern, there is no immediate doubt on his selection. Much like him, Virat Kohli's inclusion is also a formality.

The other automatic selections are skipper Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav. These 10 names, if fit, will definitely be on the flight across the Atlantic.

The reserve spinner's slot could also be a three-way battle between Axar Patel, a handy batter apart from being an accurate left-arm spinner, Yuzvendra Chahal, who is yet to play a single T20 World Cup match in his nine-year international career, and Ravi Bishnoi, who plays for Lucknow Super Giants.

competition from Jitesh Sharma, KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan.

Rahul and Kishan bat at the top of the order, and they haven't tried batting in the middle order in this IPL so far,

Faltering PBKS, MI Desperate To Resurrect IPL Campaign



Press Trust of India

MULLANPUR: Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Mumbai Indians (MI) will be desperate to resurrect their faltering campaigns in the Indian Premier League when the two bottom-rung teams face-off here on Thursday.

Only a few decimal points separate the two teams after six matches each with Punjab's marginally better net run rate of -0.218 keeping them at the seventh spot in the IPL points table, one above Mumbai Indians (-0.234).

Both Punjab and Mumbai have lost four matches each and are coming off defeats in their respective last outings, which means pressure will be high on both the camps to get their act together.

For Punjab, the challenge of getting the best out of their top order has compounded with regular skipper Dhawan being sidelined for 'seven to 10 days' due to a shoulder injury.

The only bright spot for PBKS this season has been resolute displays from their unsung Indian players Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma, who both bat lower in the order and have had to make up for the shortcomings at the top more than once.

The form of Prabhsimran Singh -- 119 runs in six matches at 19.83 -- is a concern and the same can be said

for India wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma.

With selection for the World Cup squad on the horizon, Jitesh, who has managed a mere 106 runs in six outings at 17.66, would be under the pump too.

PBKS will have to find more support for their overseas bowling duo of Sam Curran (126 runs and 8 wickets) and Kagiso Rabada (9). The Indian pair of Arshdeep Singh (9) and Harshal Patel (7) have both been easy targets for batters.

Mumbai Indians would know they have enough firepower in the camp to turn the tide but a collective effort on a consistent basis is the need of the hour.

Two wins at home against Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru did end their three-match losing run, but a loss to Chennai Super Kings despite Rohit Sharma's century meant the five-time winners have forced them to go back to the drawing board.

It starts with Hardik Pandya's form and role in the side. The all-rounder has looked to share responsibility in the bowling department but his economy rate of 12 is alarming. On the same parameter, Gerald Coetzee (9) and uncapped Akash Madhwal (4) have given away more than 10 runs an over.

Time: 7:30 pm IST.

Real Kashmir's Muhammad Hammad Wins I-League Award

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir captain and central defender Muhammad Hammad was on Wednesday awarded the Jarnail Singh Award for the Best Defender of the I-League 2023-24 season.

Srinagar-born Hammad has become the first player from J&K to achieve this feat. The 26-year-old is set to join Indian Super League team FC Goa for the 2024-25 ISL season.

The Snow Leopards were on a stupendous run in the just concluded I-League campaign. The Srinagar club was at one point in contention to win the league title this year. However, a run of draws and last-minute defeats derailed the team's title charge, as they finished fifth, picking up 40 points in 24 matches.

Real Kashmir, coached by legendary J&K footballer



Ishfaq Ahmad, had the most clean sheets in the I-League this year. Muhammad Hammad formed the core of the team's defense and will now ply his trade at the highest level of professional football in the country.

The Jammu & Kashmir

Football Association also congratulated Hammad on his brilliant achievement.

"Your dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and we are immensely proud to see you rise to new heights in your football journey," the FA said in a statement.

JKSC Distributes Sports Kits To KICs

News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Sports Council's sports kit distribution drive reached Khelo India Centers of Ganderbal, Budgam and Srinagar on Monday during an event held at Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex here.

The sports kits were distributed to trainees of Khelo India Thang-Ta, Badminton, Kabaddi, Hockey, Wushu, Volleyball and Cycling Centers.

Around 280 trainees from these Khelo India Centers were in attendance. The kits were distributed by Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir JKSC



Nusrat Gazala and Divisional Sports Officer Central JKSC Javid Ur Rehman (JKAS), in the presence of Incharge Managers of Sports Council of these Khelo India Centers.

Trainees were accompanied by their respective Mentors including Saima of Thanga-Ta

in Ganderbal, Rabiya of Badminton in Ganderbal, Shahnaz Akhtar of Kabaddi in Budgam, Maqsood of Wushu in Budgam, Khavir Suhail of Volleyball in Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad of Hockey in Srinagar and renowned Cyclist Akbar Khan of Budgam.

Short TAKES

DC Bundle Out GT For 89 As Bowlers Come To Party

Delhi Capitals bundled out Gujarat Titans for 89 in their Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday, the bowlers finally having a say after being blasted all over the park in the last few matches.

Mukesh Kumar was the most successful bowler for DC with figures of 3/14, while there were two wickets apiece for Ishant Sharma (2/8) and Tristan Stubbs (2/11). As far GT batting is concerned, only Rashid Khan put up a semblance of resistance with a 24-ball 31.

Sports YouTuber 'Angry Rantman' Dies After Multiple Organ Failure

Popular sports YouTuber Abhradeep Saha, popularly recognized as 'Angry Rantman', passed away at the age of 27 on Wednesday. Saha gained fame for his distinctive commentary style on football, cricket, and other sports.

He was admitted to Narayana Cardiac Hospital in Bengaluru due to severe health complications, as reported. Saha underwent open-heart surgery but subsequently experienced multiple organ failures, requiring life support. His condition deteriorated over the following days, as indicated by various social media accounts.

Shreyas Iyer Fined Rs 12 Lakh For First Slow Over-Rate Offence

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) captain Shreyas Iyer has been fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during their IPL game against Rajasthan Royals here. It was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct.

KKR lost to Royals by two wickets here on Tuesday with Jos Buttler smashing an unbeaten 107 off 60 balls. It was the Royals' sixth win in seven matches while KKR suffered their second loss in six games.

Wrestler Sakshi Malik Among Time's 100 Most Influential People



Olympic medallist Indian wrestler Sakshi Malik has been listed among the 100 most influential people of 2024 by Time magazine.

Sakshi, India's only female Olympic medallist in wrestling, has been honoured for her relentless fight against alleged sexual harassment of female wrestlers by former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The protest, which began in January last year, became a year-long battle against Singh drawing support and attention both in India and abroad.

Brazil Great Romario To Play For Rio De Janeiro Team At 58

Retired Brazil striker Romario has registered as a player for America-RJ, the Rio de Janeiro state second division side the 58-year-old is now president of, and is set to make a return to the sport 15 years after he stopped playing.

Romario, who retired in 2008 and became America's sporting director in 2009, played for Brazil in two World Cups, scoring five goals to guide them to victory in 1994. In 2009, he briefly came out of retirement to play 22 minutes for America.

Barca Find Pride Despite Another Champions League Collapse

Agencies

BARCELONA: Barcelona woke up with a familiar sinking feeling on Wednesday, another Champions League hangover, after Paris Saint-Germain thrashed them 4-1 at home to eliminate them in the quarter-finals.

After a string of painful European exits the five-time champions extended the list, meaning their wait to lift the trophy again will stretch to at least a decade, although this time around Barcelona can find shards of hope and pride among the wreckage.

Leading by two goals in the tie after their 3-2 win in Paris and Raphinha's early strike, the outcome hinged on Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo's red card after 29 minutes that left his team unable to cope with the quality of PSG's attackers.

Ousmane Dembele, Vitinha and then Kylian Mbappe's brace helped PSG rout Barcelona and progress 6-4 on aggregate, cutting short the Catalans' revival, snapping their 13-match un-

beaten run.

Madrid-based media were gleeful, celebrating Mbappe's role in the knock-out, ahead of his expected move to the Spanish capital in the summer.

"Mbappe kills Barca," ran the headline in AS. In Catalonia the focus was instead on Araujo's red card after 29 minutes which turned the tide in PSG's favour.

"Dismissed from Europe," wrote Diario Sport, while Mundo Deportivo said it was a "lethal red".

Beyond the taste of defeat from being dusted up by Mbappe on home soil, and despite the ugly-looking scoreline, there were differences.

When Barcelona threw away huge leads against Roma and Liverpool in 2018 and 2019, mentally they had caved.

That same fragility was on show in 2020 when Bayern Munich hammered them 8-2, and the years since have somehow been more ignominious.

PSG thrashed them 4-1 in the last 16 first leg in 2021 in a match which was barely a con-



test, while in the subsequent two seasons, they failed to escape their group.

In this campaign, Barcelona battled well against Europe's best sides and were it not for Araujo's dismissal, might have

progressed.

"We are a club, a team in construction, constructing something that could be fruitful and beautiful," Xavi told reporters.

"We've competed against top-level teams, Porto, Napoli,

PSG, and we've been better -- at least until certain decisions or circumstances that we cannot control.

"From these situations is when you learn most, unfortunately, in life, and in football too."

'BACK STRONGER'

Although PSG had more of the ball and were pressing Barca well, with the brilliant Bradley Barcola making inroads down the left, the hosts had defended solidly until Araujo's red card.

"Today playing with 10 against 11 is practically impossible," said Xavi.

"I'm very proud of the fans, we've got a bit of the excitement and hope back in the Champions League -- the club will be back, stronger still."

Xavi will not be, he says, having decided in January to leave at the end of the season. Despite rumblings that he might change his mind following the team's dramatic improvement, so far he has not.

Although Mbappe's 89th-minute strike turned PSG's triumph into a rout, this was not a night on which Barcelona were exposed.

Araujo's mistake in bringing down Barcola and Joao Cancelo's defensive errors cost them, while young defender Pau Cubarsi, 17, did his best to hold the

fort after that.

Lamine Yamal, 16, helped set up Raphinha brilliantly for the first goal but was sacrificed after Araujo's red card, leaving Barcelona without oxygen in attack.

In those two young talents, along with Pedri and injured duo Gavi and Alejandro Balde, Barcelona have the potential to come back strongly.

The only embarrassment came from Xavi's fit of pique which saw him sent off, and his insistence on criticising a referee he described as "very bad".

And a handful of Barca supporters who threw stones at the team's own bus upon arrival, mistaking it for PSG's.

Otherwise, as they dust themselves down, Barcelona will consider this season's Champions League campaign evidence they are returning to Europe's elite.

Whether they can establish themselves there permanently is another matter, given their financial woes and no clear plan for Xavi's replacement next season. (AFP)