

SRINAGAR BOAT TRAGEDY

Second Missing Minor's Body Recovered



Agencies

Srinagar: The lifeless body of the second missing minor boy of Gandbal was found from River Jhelum near Noorbagh, Srinagar, on Saturday morning.

With the recovery of the body of Farhan Parray, the death toll in the Gandbal tragedy rises to eight, while one person – the

father of little Hazik whose body was found on Friday from Jhelum near Rajbagh – remains missing.

The locals from Gandbal informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the body of Farhan was sighted by some residents of Noorbagh, floating near the bridge. Acting swiftly, they retrieved the body | More on P6

Grandson Laid to Rest, Mother Awaits Missing Son

Wracked with grief, Tajaa Begum laid her grandson Haziq to rest. Yet, the agonizing wait for her son Showkat, missing since the Jhelum River capsized their boat two weeks ago, continues. Showkat, the sole provider for his family, had tried to save Haziq, but both were tragically swept away by the current. | More on P6

6 HIS CONTINUED ABSENCE HAS LEFT HER DEVASTATED AS SHE IS UNABLE TO OVERCOME the shock of the tragedy. The lingering uncertainty surrounding her son's fate adds to her grief, with the haunting memories of the tragic incident lingering in her mind,"

Azad Dismisses Pre-Poll Alliance With Apni Party, PC

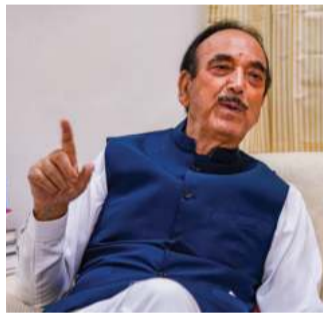
Agencies

Srinagar: DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad has categorically ruled out the possibility of entering into any pre-poll alliance with Apni Party's Syed Altaf Bukhari or Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Gani Lone.

In an interview with a news channel, Azad highlighted the inherent disparities in political agendas and regional influences as significant impediments to such partnerships.

"They have their agendas, and everyone has their own area of influence," Azad said. "Let me tell you a political thing... alliances happen when the influence of the two parties are the same in a particular area. When one's influence is in the south and the other's is in the north, how could an alliance happen?"

"If I have influence on 40 homes and you have on 60, and if we make an alliance, the



number will surge to 100. But if I don't have influence on any home, and you have no influence in my area, how could we join hands?," Azad asked.

The veteran politician urged further against allowing emotions to govern decision-making processes, cautioning that unchecked emotional responses could lead to societal decline and turmoil. "This is why Allah has given us brains, so that we think and then accordingly decide what is | More on P6

Rains Lash J&K, MeT Predicts More Till April 30



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Agencies

Srinagar: Rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir with the weather department on Saturday predicting more in the next few days.

The back to back Western Disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir resulted in

snowfall at multiple places including the famous ski-resort Gulmarg, Machil while the rains continued to lash plains including Srinagar, bringing down the mercury across the Valley.

The intermittent moderate rains caused water logging at multiple places,

which simultaneously leads to the sufferings of commuters and pedestrians alike.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of light to moderate rain. | More on P6

Hospitals Asked To Stay Prepared

In view of the forecast of inclement weather conditions, the health department in Kashmir has directed the hospital authorities to remain prepared to cater any kind of medical emergency. As per a circular issued by the Director Health Services Kashmir, the hospital authorities have been directed to keep sufficient stock of medicines and other life saving drugs available at all hospitals.

The measures that need to be taken as per circular of DHSK include that all the hospitals, that are in flood prone areas will be asked to activate their emergency plans consisting of shifting the major medical equipments to the higher floors, stocking additional medicines, consumables, supplies, fuel and mess | More on P6

Mughal Road Shut After Fresh Snowfall

The Mughal Road was closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday following fresh snowfall in the higher reaches, including Peer Ki Gali, along the alternative route connecting Jammu's Poonch and Rajouri districts to south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said. More than six inches of fresh snow has been recorded at the 11,433-feet high Peer Ki Gali, also known as the Pir Panjal pass, on the Mughal Road, prompting authorities to suspend vehicular traffic as a precautionary measure, they said. It is still snowing from Dubjan to Peer Ki Gali, a distance of 45 kilometres, and there is apprehension of landslides and shooting stones from the hillock overlooking the road, they said. No vehicular traffic will be allowed on the | More on P6

'RESTORING ARTICLE 370'

Won't Contest Polls If NC Gets INDIA Bloc's Commitment: Sajad Lone

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court might have been a mistake but not doing so would have made things worse politically for the mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone has said.

The apex court in December last year upheld the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In an interview with PTI, Lone said the Centre could have propped up anyone to take the case to the apex court had the mainstream parties stayed away from taking legal recourse.

"I do not know, it could be," Lone told PTI when asked whether approaching



the court was a mistake as the verdict has left almost no chance of getting the special status back.

"You see we (mainstream political parties in Kashmir) could have worked together and said let us save it for a rainy day. But, that could not have stopped somebody else from going to the Supreme Court," he added.

Lone said the Centre could have propped anyone to take the case to the court and had

the mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir stayed away from taking legal recourse, it would have made things worse politically for them.

"Say tomorrow, they select someone to go to the court... getting a court judgement is not that difficult. Our staying away would have made things worse politically for us at home.

"But, saying that there could not have been a judgement had we not gone to the court is not true either, they (Delhi) could ask a person to go to the court," he said.

Hearing a batch of petitions filed by several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Peoples Conference, National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, the top court held that Article 370 was a temporary provision putting a | More on P6

Bukhari Blames NC, PDP For Permanent Loss Of Art 370

Syed Altaf Bukhari has said that the case pertaining to abrogation of Article 370 was taken to the country's supreme court under a well planned conspiracy by NC and the PDP and that the dismissal of the case served as a severe blow to Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Addressing a rally in Srinagar, Bukhari said that in 2019, abrogating | More on P6

Man Commits Suicide Over 'Police Harassment' SHO Attached After Family Stages Protest

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A 47-year-old man allegedly committed suicide here, officials said on Saturday, as a purported video of the deceased and a suicide note accused police of harassment.

The concerned station house officer (SHO) was attached and an inquiry was ordered to the incident.

Rajesh Kumar was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his Janipur residence in the city late on Friday evening, the officials said.

They said the family of the deceased staged a protest outside the Janipur police station after a suicide note was allegedly found from the deceased's possession, claiming that he was ending his life due



to "police harassment".

Later, a video clip, which the deceased had allegedly shot before taking the extreme step, also went viral, claiming that he was fed up with his life as the police were harassing him even though he was acquitted by a court of law in a "false case" registered against him more than 19 years ago.

As the body of the deceased was handed over to his family after its | More on P6

LAND SINKING IN RAMBAN

Over 500 Relocated To Safer Places

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: More than 500 people have been relocated to safer places after over 58 houses were completely damaged due to land sinking in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said on Saturday.

An official said the assessment of damages due to the land subsidence in Pernote village over the past three days has also started on war-footing to facilitate speedy release of compensation to affected families under the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) norms.

The natural calamity hit the village on Thursday evening, also damaging four transmission towers, a power receiving station and a section of the road connecting the Gool subdivision with Ramban district headquarters.

The Ramban district administration under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, who is also Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), has relocated all the affected families, the official said.

A total of 100 households were affected as 58 houses got completely damaged due to the land subsidence. | More on P6

This Election About Issues Like Unemployment: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the people, irrespective of their religion and region, have to move together and raise a united voice to seek redressal of their issues.

The former chief minister is currently on a week-long tour of Poonch and Rajouri districts to garner public support and addressed a road show in Poonch town despite pouring rain.

The border districts of Poonch and Rajouri are part of the Anantnag parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the third phase on May 7 to decide the fate of 21 candidates, including Peoples



Democratic Party Mehbooba and National Conference leader and former minister Mian Altaf.

Mehbooba reached Buzliaz in Poonch via Mughal road – an alternate link connecting the border districts in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district on April 25.

She held | More on P6

'Fighting For People's Voice, Not Against NC'

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu & Kashmir, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Youth President and candidate from Srinagar-Pulwama parliamentary constituency, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra on Saturday said, "We are not fighting against the NC, but for the people's voice." He criticized the NC, saying that even with three MPs, they failed to raise the | More on P6

6 I AM AWARE OF THE DEMANDS of the people of Poonch which include a medical college, extension of the rail link and completion of the under-construction Parnai hydro-electric project."

Delhi Publisher Tenders Apology For Insulting Imam Khomeini

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Acuber Books International has publicly apologized after it found itself embroiled in controversy following the inclusion of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in a list of the "most evil" individuals in one of its sixth-grade general knowledge book.

The public apology comes following an outcry in Kashmir and elsewhere for the inaccurate portrayal of a revered religious leader acknowledging the profound offence caused to



what it called 'many individuals and communities.'

The Director, Acuber Books International conveyed apologies for insulting the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledging the need for

accuracy and sensitivity in educational materials.

"We write to you with utmost sincerity and regret regarding the recent controversy surrounding our publication's portrayal of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It has come to our attention that labelling him among the 'most evil men in history' is not only inaccurate but also deeply offensive to many individuals and communities. We acknowledge the gravity of our mistake and recognize that such mischaracterizations not | More on P6

No 'Objectionable' Content Prescribed: SED

Amid controversy over objectionable content in a textbook, Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department Saturday clarified that no such book was prescribed or developed by the board. In a post on X, the School Education Department, also said that no such book or content has been developed by the NCERT. "There is some objectionable content from a book being circulated on social media. As verified, from | More on P6

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'Deferment of Polls' BJP, Allies Have Admitted Defeat: JKPCC

Agencies

Srinagar: Stating that the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) and its teams have admitted their defeat by seeking the deferment of elections for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Vikar Rasool Wani on Saturday said that the INDI Alliance will emerge victorious from all the six seats of J&K and Ladakh Union Territories.

Addressing a news conference, Wani said that he is confident that the candidates of INDI Alliance will win all the six seats of J&K and Ladakh. "Some parties, who are A, B, C and D teams of BJP have written to the Elections Commission of India (ECI) and

sought deferment of polls for Anantnag-Rajouri seat. They have already admitted their defeat from the constituency and thus are trying to ensure the deferment of the polls," he said.

Wani further stated that the people of Kashmir will show their anger against these parties in the elections, adding that the defeat of BJP and its allies is certain.

About the issue of INDI Alliance's candidate for Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Ruhulla, it is just a rumour; he has been with him in the house and is a three-time MLA. "He is contesting the polls and will win as well," he said.

Wani also demanded rehabilitation of the victim families, whose house got damaged in a road sinking | More on P6



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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1 Sydney Scholars India Scholarship Program 2024

Description: Sydney Scholars India Scholarship Program 2024 is an opportunity offered by the University of Sydney to Indian students who want to pursue their undergraduate or post-graduate studies in Sydney.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to \$40,000 annually
Last Date to Apply: 02-06-

- 2024
Application mode: Online Applications Only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SSISA

Scholarship Name 2 Aspire Leaders Program 2024

Description: The global Aspire Leaders Program is a fully funded 14-week online leadership program offered by the Aspire Institute. It has been designed to help students unlock their potential and become well-rounded professionals.

- Eligibility: This program is open for students within the age group of 18-29 years. The annual household income of the applicants should be less than 8,00,000. Only first-generation learners are eligible to apply for the program.



undergraduate program in the last three years can apply. Applicants must have an intermediate level of proficiency in English.

- Prizes & Rewards: Free access to training modules, live sessions by Harvard faculty, and much more

2024-25

Description: Cadence Design Systems Private Limited & Concern India Foundation invites applications from students pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate courses in the Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Pune, or Ahmedabad regions to continue their education.

Eligibility: Open to applicants residing and studying in Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Pune, or Ahmedabad (Indian nationals only) pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

- Last Date to Apply: 03-07-2024
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ALPS1

Scholarship Name 3 The Cadence Scholarship Program

- Prizes & Rewards: Financial support for key educational expenses
Last Date to Apply: 30-05-2024
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TCS4

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No.01of2024-25

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

اڑنیات پٹن عنوان:- درخواست منجانب رفیقہ بیگم زبیرہ زوجہ فیاض احمد لکھنؤ نوبت حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2016 issued by the Board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12 th session Annual Regular 2018 issued by the Board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Public Notice I, Firdous Ahmad, son of Ghulam Mohi Uddin Dar, resident of Ghat Palhallan, Pattan Baramulla, J&K, have applied for a change in my name, father's name, and address in my driving license as per Aadhar details.

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth Public Notice

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Cyber Police Srinagar Traces, Recovers Smartphones Worth Lakhs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Cyber Police Kashmir Zone Srinagar has recovered and returned 30 missing smartphones worth lakhs of rupees to their rightful owners.

In a statement, issued here, a spokesperson said that to enhance public service and address grievances, the cyber police is now accepting applications and reports from the public regarding missing cell phones.

The statement reads that the dedicated technical team of the Cyber Police has been relentless in their efforts, tracing 30 missing smartphones of various makes and models worth lakhs of rupees.

"These devices were promptly returned to their rightful owners today at the Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone."

It reads that in addition to tracing missing mobile phones, the cyber police continues to assist citizens with various technological challenges encountered in their daily lives, including addressing online frauds, scams and other cyber-related crimes reported in the cyber police station on a routine basis.

"Under the guidance of the Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, the cyber police Kashmir has initiated various awareness campaigns and programs to educate the public about contemporary online frauds and scams.

The cyber police strongly advise the general public against sharing bank details, account information, personal details, OTPs, or any sensitive information with anyone."

DEO Organizes Human Chain Event To Raise Awareness On Importance Of Voting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Election Office Srinagar organized a Human Chain event under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at historic Polo Ground, Srinagar to generate awareness about the importance of voting in a democratic system.

The event was attended by 450 participants; out of which 250 were young first time voters. College going students besides teachers and other staff.

On the occasion, an election mascot, locally made by first time female voters (USHA trained tailors) was also displayed that captivated the participants and enthused them for voting.



KO Photo by Majid Nabi

Bereft Of Manpower, LCMA Unable To Prevent Greenbelt Infractions

Several Illegal Structures Dismantled In Shalimar

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Insufficient resources, lack of manpower and required backing from allied departments, make it difficult for the enforcement wing of Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA)—an autonomous body entrusted with monitoring, managing water bodies, to address infringements in Dal Lake.

Delays in demolition drives within the greenbelt, according to officials, are caused by allied departments, such as the police, being reluctant to offer support to the LCMA demolition squad, consisting of 10 members.

"Without manpower, we may not be able to stop illegal constructions in the Greenbelt. How on earth can a team of ten people stop infractions? When it comes to demolition drives, we never get support from the police," Abdul Rashid, In-Charge demolition, told Kashmir Observer.

We are attacked, mistreated, and humiliated every time we carry out a demolition drive because we don't have the necessary support from allied departments, he claimed.

"Because there is always a fear for law and order, demolition drives are conducted in presence of a magistrate and the

"We are attacked, mistreated, and humiliated every time we carry out a demolition drive because we don't have the necessary support from allied departments, he claimed."

Station House Office (SHO) in question. Thus, it's virtually difficult to execute such drives with a handful of staff," he added.

Meanwhile, a demolition drive was conducted in the Shalimar area from Syed Meerak Shah Road to Foreshore Road, during which a number of illegal structures, including fences and tin sheds, were dismantled.

"The drive would continue throughout the upcoming week and that the department hopes to receive appropriate police support," the official said.

Zahid Hassan Samoon, the Deputy Superintendent Enforcement wing, said they seldom

receive police backup during demolition drives.

"We lack the manpower and equipment necessary to address the issue of unlawful constructions. The police at the moment are preoccupied with the elections, which makes it difficult for us to carry out demolition drives well on time," Samoon told Kashmir Observer.

He said those running small enterprises on government property seldom bother to obtain LCMA authorization for fencing, which frequently leads to the demolition.

"Who would touch them if they had authorization, but instead of obeying rules, they accuse the department of rendering the poor jobless. Public awareness regarding conservation of lands is necessary to stop encroachments in the notified areas," he added.

The LCMA Enforcement wing head said that an extensive demolition drive will be carried out in the Shalimar area next week and every single illegal structure will be demolished.

"Since the weather was not favorable, we couldn't conduct a drive in the interiors of Shalimar, but as soon as the weather improves, a massive drive will be carried out in the area," Samoon added.

KTA Fumes Over Erratic Power Supply Despite Installation Of Smart Meters

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) Saturday strongly criticized the power department for "failing" to provide reliable electricity supply, even after installing smart meters and revising load agreements for consumers.

In a statement issued here, KTA President Aijaz Shahdhar said the government has a responsibility to ensure regular power supply, as it is a basic ne-

cessity for running daily affairs.

"Never have we seen such a worse power scenario in the spring months," Shahdhar said. "It is unfortunate that on one hand smart meters are installed, and on the other side, those very areas where smart meters are in place are reeling under 10 to 12 hours of power cuts per day."

The trade leader noted that the prolonged outages are severely impacting businesses as well as daily life. He urged the government to procure additional elec-

tricity to meet the demand.

"The government should take immediate steps to procure additional power to meet the requirements, as the current situation is harming businesses and negatively affecting people's day-to-day lives," Shahdhar added.

The KTA's criticism comes amid growing frustration among Kashmiri's over the erratic power supply, despite assurances from authorities on improved infrastructure and metering systems.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

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PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 4:16 |
| ZUHR | 12:28 |
| ASR | 5:16 |
| Magrib | 7:15 |
| ISHA | 8:43 |

This Day In History

- 1920 - Azerbaijan SSR joins USSR (1st time)
- 1925 - Kurdish rebels surrender to Turkish army
- 1925 - Netherlands & Great Britain return to gold standard
- 1937 - 1st animated cartoon electric sign displayed (NYC)
- 1949 - Former Philippine First Lady Aurora Quezon, 61, assassinated while en route to dedicate a hospital in memory of her late husband; her daughter and 10 others also killed
- 1951 - Mohammad Mosaddegh elected Prime Minister of Iran by the Parliament of Iran (Majlis)
- 1952 - WW II Pacific peace treaty takes effect
- 1956 - Last French troops leave Vietnam
- 1958 - Great Britain performs atmospheric nuclear test at Christmas Island
- 1958 - Vanguard TV-5 launched for Earth orbit (failed)
- 1965 - US marines invade Dominican Republic, stay until October 1966
- 1967 - Muhammad Ali refuses induction into army & stripped of boxing title
- 1969 - Charles de Gaulle resigns as president of France
- 1971 - Samuel Lee Gravely Jr becomes 1st black admiral in US Navy
- 1972 - Courts award 1968 Kentucky Derby prize money to 2nd place winner due to the winner being given drugs before the race
- 1973 - Over 6000 Mk. 82 500 pound bombs detonate over 18 hrs in a railway in northern California. 5500 structures damaged, town of Antelope destroyed, with every building reduced to foundations. Leads to Transportation Safety Act (1974)
- 1975 - South-Vietnam Gen Duong Van Minh sworn in as president till April 30
- 1977 - Andreas Baader and members of terrorist group the Red Army Faction (Baader-Meinhof Gang) jailed for life after a trial lasting nearly 2 years in Stuttgart, Germany
- 1977 - The Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure is signed.
- 1983 - Argentine government declares all 15-30,000 missing persons dead
- 1983 - NASA launches Geos-F
- 1986 - Soviet TV news program Vremya announces a nuclear accident at Chernobyl nuclear power station, 2 days after the event
- 1987 - NBA announces expansion to Charlotte NC & Miami Fla in 1988 & Minneapolis Minn & Orlando Fla in 1989
- 1988 - Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 roof tears off in flight; kills stewardess.
- 1989 - Argentina, hit by rocketing inflation, runs out of money
- 1989 - Iran protests sale of "Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie
- 1991 - Space Shuttle STS 39 (Discovery 12) launched
- 1993 - Carlo Ciampi forms Italian government with ex-communists
- 1993 - Zambian plane crashes at Libreville, Gabon, 30 soccer players die
- 1994 - Aldrich Ames, former CIA officer & wife Rosario plead guilty to spying.
- 1994 - Freddy Thielemans sworn in as Mayor of Brussels, Belgium
- 1995 - Gas explosion in South Korean metro, 103 die
- 1995 - Sri Lankaan BAE748 crashes at Palaly, 52 die
- 2001 - Millionaire Dennis Tito becomes the world's first space tourist.
- 2003 - Andre Agassi recaptures the world no. 1 ranking to become the oldest top-ranked male in the history of the ATP rankings (33 years, 13 days)
- 2005 - The Patent Law Treaty goes into effect.
- 2013 - 8 people are killed and dozens are injured after Taliban attacks on election candidates in Pakistan

Office of the Headmaster Govt Boys High School Akad (Zone Mattan) Anantnag

اعلان برائے نیلامی

بذریعہ نوٹس ہذا ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اسکول ہذا میں لکٹری پلاسٹک اور ٹین کے فرنیچر کی

نیلامی ہونے والی ہے جس کا تاریخ 30 اپریل 2024 صبح 11 بجے رکھا گیا ہے

اسلئے تمام لوگوں کو شامل ہونے کی دعوت دی جاتی ہے وقت مقرر ہونے کے بعد کسی کوئی سنوانی پر غور نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

Headmaster
Govt Boys High School
Akad

IN MEMORY OF

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved
Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh
S/O: Ali Mohammad Sheikh
R/O: Lane no: 12, S D Colony, Batamalo, Srinagar.
Fateh Khawani will be held at their Graveyard
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Coexisting with Wildlife

Embracing Harmony in Kashmir

Malik Seerat

“
By leveraging diverse perspectives and expertise, we can develop comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of human-wildlife conflicts and promote sustainable solutions

As a resident Kashmir, I have witnessed firsthand the delicate dance between humans and wildlife that unfolds in our midst. Recent reports of leopard sightings in Srinagar and Budgam have sparked conversations about the challenges and opportunities inherent in sharing our habitat with wild creatures.

In light of these developments, it is imperative that we reexamine our relationship with the natural world and strive to foster greater understanding and empathy towards our wild neighbors. The recent incident involving multiple sightings of leopards serve as a poignant reminder of the unpredictability of wildlife presence in our urban landscapes.

While such encounters may evoke fear and uncertainty, they also present an opportunity for reflection and growth. As a community, we must recognize that we are not the sole inhabitants of this land and that our actions have consequences for the myriad creatures that call Kashmir home.

In navigating the complexities of human-wildlife interactions, it is essential that we adopt a proactive and holistic approach. This includes investing in education and awareness initiatives to empower residents with the knowledge and tools to coexist peacefully with wildlife.

Additionally, we must prioritize habitat conservation and restoration efforts to ensure that our wild counterparts have access to the resources they need to thrive. By preserving natural habitats and wildlife corridors, we can create spaces where humans and animals can coexist harmoniously.

Furthermore, community engagement plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of stewardship and responsibility towards our shared environment. By working together to address common challenges and concerns, we can build a stronger, more resilient community that values and respects the biodiversity that surrounds us.

However, achieving harmonious coexistence with wildlife in Kashmir is not without its challenges. Limited resources, bureaucratic hurdles, and competing interests often hinder efforts to implement effective wildlife management strategies.

Nevertheless, it is imperative that we remain steadfast in our commitment to finding creative and sustainable solutions to these challenges. By harnessing the collective wisdom and ingenuity of our community, we can overcome obstacles and pave the way towards a future where humans and wildlife thrive in harmony.

In conclusion, the recent leopard sightings in Srinagar and Budgam serve as a sobering reminder of the importance of embracing our role as stewards of the natural world. As residents of Kashmir, we have a responsibility to protect and preserve the rich biodiversity that defines our region. By working together with empathy, compassion, and determination, we can build a brighter future for all inhabitants of Kashmir, both human and wild.

In the face of adversity, it is our shared responsibility to safeguard the ecological integrity of our region and ensure that future generations inherit a world teeming with life and wonder. Let us seize this



moment as an opportunity to forge a path towards a future where humans and wildlife coexist in harmony, bound together by a shared reverence for the beauty and diversity of our natural world.

Expanding on this sentiment, it is crucial to acknowledge the interconnectedness of all living beings and the profound impact that our actions can have on the delicate balance of ecosystems. As stewards of the land, it is incumbent upon us to tread lightly and with respect for the natural world, recognizing that our choices today will shape the world of tomorrow.

In the pursuit of sustainable coexistence, education emerges as a powerful tool for fostering awareness and understanding of the complexities of human-wildlife interactions. By empowering individuals with knowledge about local wildlife species, their behaviors, and habitat needs, we can promote responsible stewardship and reduce the likelihood of conflicts.

Furthermore, fostering a culture of appreciation and reverence for the natural world is essential for nurturing a sense of connection and belonging among residents of Kashmir. Through initiatives such as nature walks, wildlife photography workshops, and environmental education programs, we can cultivate a deeper appreciation for the intrinsic value of biodiversity and inspire a collective commitment to its preservation.

At the same time, it is essential to recognize the role of government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community leaders in facilitating dialogue

and collaboration on wildlife conservation efforts. By leveraging diverse perspectives and expertise, we can develop comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of human-wildlife conflicts and promote sustainable solutions.

In addition to conservation efforts, it is crucial to address the underlying drivers of habitat loss and fragmentation, such as unplanned urbanization, deforestation, and agricultural expansion. By promoting sustainable land-use practices and advocating for the protection of critical wildlife habitats, we can create a more resilient landscape that supports both human livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

Ultimately, the journey towards harmonious coexistence with wildlife requires collective action, empathy, and a shared commitment to preserving the natural heritage of Kashmir for generations to come. By embracing our role as stewards of the land and working together to find innovative solutions, we can create a future where humans and wildlife thrive in harmony, enriching our lives and our shared environment.

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

The author is an academician

The 127-year-old story of the Rs 1.76-trillion Godrej business conglomerate as a unified family business that lasted five generations has ended. The group was vertically split across two family branches headed by Adi and Nadir Godrej on one side and cousins Jamshed and Smita Crishna-Godrej on the other. Not long ago, in 2020, the highly-diversified TVS group, with a Rs 70,000 crore revenue, also split branch-wise, ending its 113-year-old legacy built across five generations. In 2016, the Munjal family that built up the Rs 35,000-crore Hero two-wheeler company announced a split across family branches, thus ending its 40-year-old history across three generations. These three well-known Indian family businesses practised sound governance and maintained cordial relationships among family members while managing their businesses professionally. They innovated and built multiple businesses competitively. Then why did they all split, making each branch much weaker in several ways? Is this a signal that business empires are no longer stable and are prone to break up? More fundamentally, can't Indian family businesses be built as lasting institutions or is a split inevitable?

There are several common features across the three cases discussed above. We can draw important lessons from a closer look at some of them.

Strong entrepreneurial leadership

The survival and growth of any venture is a certificate of the entrepreneurial acumen of the founders and their ability to take their start-up through the early growth stage. Many of them build their organisations further and manage the later growth stages through professionalisation. That involves not only the introduction of organisational structure, systems and processes, but also building a team to implement the strategies. All along, the founder entrepreneur is committed to the success of the organisation, whether it has one or more businesses. They consider them all equally as their children and give attention and care as they require. As a result, there is a unified and synergistic decision-

making at the top across the businesses that may be related or unrelated from a product-market angle. Resource allocation is also balanced with passion shared across businesses.

Operational leadership always with family

Most successful Asian family businesses allow the younger generation to step into the operational leadership of their preceding generation. Alternatively, children are encouraged to pursue their entrepreneurial ideas, often in unrelated areas, partly to make them independent, and partly to avoid possible fights among them. In any case, the next-generation leaders build their own constituency that they fiercely protect. Over a period of time, their loyalty, commitment, and involvement get restricted to their own fiefdoms. With the younger generation concerned mostly with their "own" businesses, there is none like the founder to think synergistically about the group and its corporate strategy. The challenge gets harder when each family member's performance is measured against the goals specific to the individual business he or she manages. In many families, next-generation champions do not have goals and targets fixed at the group level. While the founder was a great integrator of the various businesses of the group, later generations do not have a group-level champion to think comprehensively. Slowly, the vacuum thus created grows bigger and individuals fiercely try to pro-

Are Empires Crumbling?

Kavil Ramachandran,

“
The survival and growth of any venture is a certificate of the entrepreneurial acumen of the founders and their ability to take their start-up through the early growth stage. Many of them build their organisations further and manage the later growth stages through professionalisation

tect their operational territories (strategic business units). This is akin to states flexing muscles at the cost of the federal governance entity.

Absence of group-level strategy and governance
The split gains momentum when the third

generation ascends and cousin bonding wanes compared to that of siblings. The casualty is the absence of a strong group-level strategy that was the hallmark of the founder leader's entrepreneurial leadership. The implicit presence of a group and shared family governance principles gradually evaporate, leading to simmering differences among family units that may end up in a gridlock and split. In fact, the need for explicit policies and processes of governance is much greater at this stage to keep the growing flock together and united.

Avoiding the gridlock trap

Visionary family businesses set clear expectations from family members, especially from the second or third generation onwards, when economic factors outweigh emotional bonding. In general, families define themselves as the custodians of the wealth of the entire unit and limit their role to strategy and governance. In some cases, families expect the next generation to drive entrepreneurship by spotting opportunities and initiating ventures with clear policies for funding. Those who join operations never become the CEOs of any one vertical. In any case, family members do not steer operational responsibilities and ensure practice of merit and professionalism. It never becomes an employment exchange or a platform to meet the ego needs of family members. In the process, the individuals do not become myopic. They recognise that their surnames alone do not make them the most competent to manage the business competitively.

Family members always remain custodians of their inherited wealth. Across the world, leaders with stewardship values have built and preserved institutions, business or otherwise. Such families know that several silos do not add up to a great lasting structure.

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

Ambani's Fortune, Anant's Health

A Stark Reminder that Money Cannot Buy Everything

Ikkz Ikbal

Life on this earth, designed by the Almighty Allah, is perfect for none. Despite all the success and achievements, a perfect existence eludes us all. The canvas of life, painted by the divine hand, forever retains an unfinished quality, a perpetual reminder that completeness remains a mirage in the grand scheme of our earthly journey.

March 2024 kicked off with a global buzz surrounding the pre-wedding extravaganza of Anant Ambani, the younger scion of Mukesh Ambani's empire, and Radhika Merchant. The event had tongues wagging among both the young and the not-so-young, igniting dreams of a wealth so colossal that even inviting Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk to one's pre-wedding celebration seemed like a plausible aspiration. Oh, the sighs of admiration echoed worldwide as minds wandered into the realm of unimaginable opulence.

Mukesh Ambani, father of Anant Ambani, not only reigns as the richest man in Asia but also claims the 9th spot on the global wealth chart (Forbes: March 2024). As the mastermind behind the Reliance Group of Industries, his financial prowess knows no bounds.

Now, let's talk about the spectacle that was the pre-wedding ceremony – a financial fiesta of epic proportions. Billions of rupees flowed like a majestic river, creating an atmosphere of unparalleled extravagance. The mind is blown after reading about the arrangements made in this grand ceremony. According to The Daily Mail (March 04, 2024) approximately 120 million dollars (1259 Crore) rupees were spent in the ceremony. 2.5K dishes, a gastronomic marvel, graced the tables throughout the day – from Breakfast to Midnight Dinner. Top chefs from



India descended upon Jamnagar, Gujarat, conjuring a feast fit for a king to satiate the appetites of around 50 thousand guests. And here's the kicker – not a single dish dared to repeat itself in this culinary symphony.

As the sun set, the stars of Hollywood and Bollywood illuminated the event. Mark Zuckerberg, the Facebook Founder; Elon Musk, the owner of X; and Ivanka Trump, the daughter of Donald Trump, graced the celebration with their presence. Gold garlands were bestowed upon the esteemed guests, and they were paid hefty fees for the attendance. Rehana was paid crores to perform at the event, whose musical magic enveloped the venue. As if that wasn't enough, the three Bollywood



In those heartfelt words, the paradox of immense wealth coupled with a health battle unfolded, laying bare the reality that even the richest amongst us cannot escape the capricious nature of life

Khans took the stage, dancing like celestial beings on a podium adorned with opulence. The air buzzed with the symphony of wealth and glamour, leaving no room for a dull moment in this grand ceremony.

In the dazzling spotlight of fame and fortune, the focus of this grand spectacle was the groom, Anant Ambani.

Anant, the beloved son of Mukesh Ambani, the tycoon with trillions in assets, is suffering from a serious type of Asthma, not possible to treat with nor-

mal medicines. He was treated with steroids and corticosteroids, a double-edged sword that not only battles the ailment but also triggers a hunger surge. The result: a voracious appetite met with a slowed metabolism, leading to the accumulation of weight, leading to obesity, and a host of other health woes.

In a world where wealth seems boundless, Anant's health became an unforeseen chapter of vulnerability. Mukesh Ambani, driven by paternal devotion, spared no expense in the pur-

suit of his son's well-being. The vast coffers were opened to fund Anant's treatments and entertainments, revealing a poignant truth – even boundless wealth can't buy a perfect cure.

Makesh Ambani spent a huge amount of money for Anant Ambani's treatment. He also spent huge amounts for his entertainment.

He built an Animal Safari Park spread across 3000 acres crafted especially for Anant's affection for animals. The Park has hospitals, amusement parks, spa and massage centers for around

2000 animals (including 200 Elephants). This is a testament to the lengths Mukesh Ambani would go to ensure his son's happiness, even in the midst of health challenges.

Anant Ambani's candid words at the pre-wedding event resonated with the depth of his journey. "My life has never been a sage of flowers, but I have lived life on the path full of thorns," he declared. In those heartfelt words, the paradox of immense wealth coupled with a health battle unfolded, laying bare the reality that even the richest amongst us cannot escape the capricious nature of life.

The tears in Mukesh Ambani's eyes as his son spoke echoed the universal theme of parental helplessness in the face of adversity. The narrative transcends the boundaries of wealth, touching a chord with every parent who has grappled with the pain of seeing their child endure challenges beyond their control.

In the grand mosaic of existence, this narrative unveils a universal truth – life, for anyone, remains incomplete. Anant's journey, a tapestry of wealth and health struggles, serves as a stark reminder that even amid abundance, perfection remains elusive.

Rather than lamenting the opulence of the Ambani dynasty, the tale urges gratitude for what we hold in our lives. In the face of desires, wisdom lies in thanking Allah for the blessings we've received. A powerful reminder echoes – you reap what you deserve, not merely what you desire. Almighty Allah, in His infinite knowledge, discerns what each soul truly merits in the intricate dance of existence.

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Nearsightedness Is At Epidemic Levels

And The Problem Begins In Childhood

Andrew Herbert

Myopia, or the need for corrected vision to focus or see objects at a distance, has become a lot more common in recent decades. Some even consider myopia, also known as nearsightedness, an epidemic.

Optometry researchers estimate that about half of the global population will need corrective lenses to offset myopia by 2050 if current rates continue – up from 23% in 2000 and less than 10% in some countries.

The associated health care costs are huge. In the United States alone, spending on corrective lenses, eye tests and related expenses may be as high as US\$7.2 billion a year.

What explains the rapid growth in myopia?

I'm a vision scientist who has studied visual perception and perceptual defects. To answer that question, first let's examine what causes myopia – and what reduces it.

HOW MYOPIA DEVELOPS

While having two myopic parents does mean you're more likely to be nearsighted, there's no single myopia gene. That means the causes of myopia are more behavioral than genetic.

Optometrists have learned a great deal about the progression of myopia by studying visual development in infant chickens. They do so by putting little helmets on baby chickens. Lenses on the face of the helmet cover the chicks' eyes and are adjusted to affect how much they see.

Just like in humans, if visual

input is distorted, a chick's eyes grow too large, resulting in myopia. And it's progressive. Blur leads to eye growth, which causes more blur, which makes the eye grow even larger, and so on.

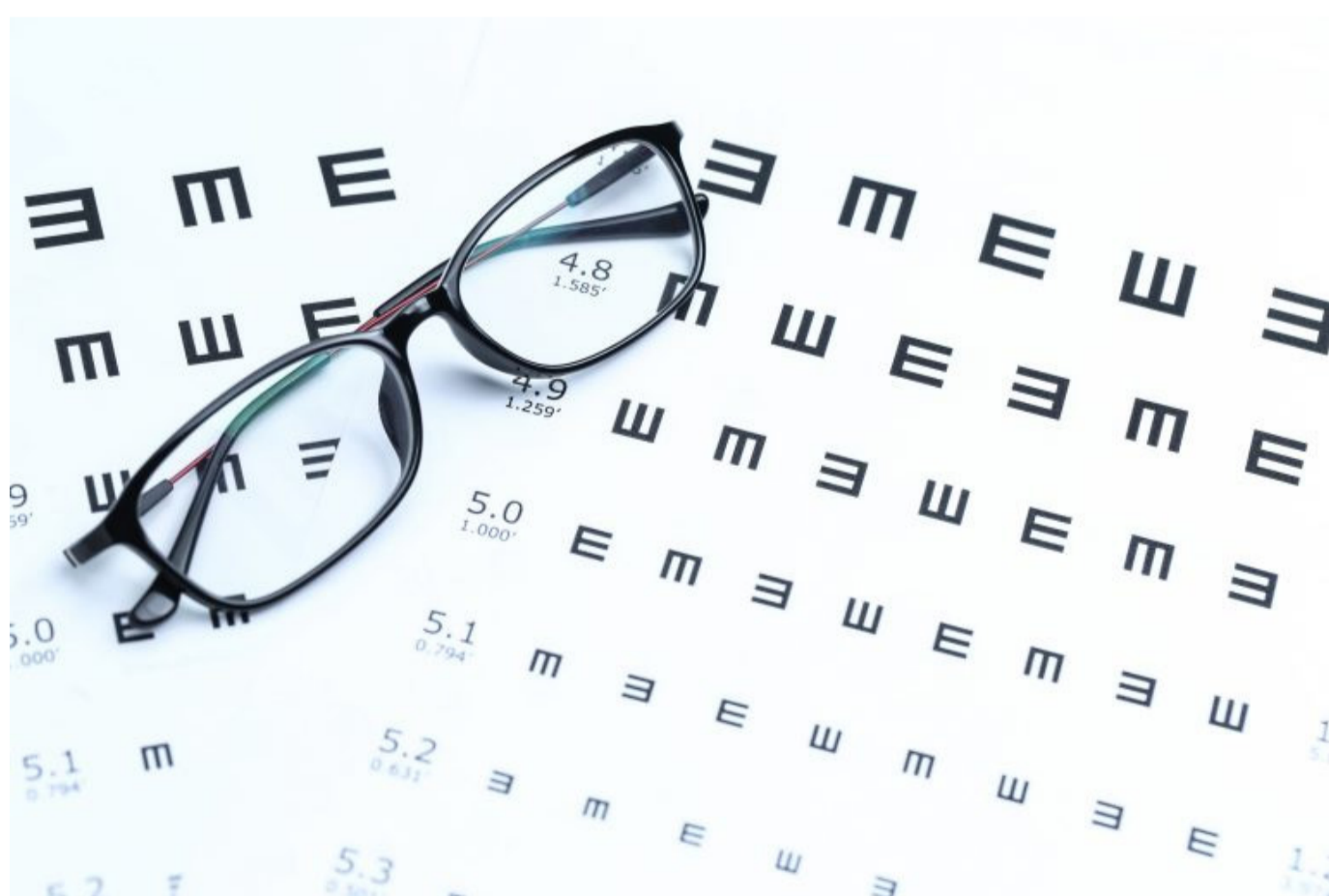
Two recent studies featuring extensive surveys of children and their parents provide strong support for the idea that an important driver of the uptick in myopia is that people are spending more time focusing on objects immediately in front of our eyes, whether a screen, a book or a drawing pad. The more time we spend focusing on something within arm's length of our faces, dubbed "near work," the greater the odds of having myopia.

So as much as people might blame new technologies like smartphones and too much "screen time" for hurting our eyes, the truth is even activities as valuable as reading a good book can affect your eyesight.

OUTSIDE LIGHT KEEPS MYOPIA AT BAY

Other research has shown that this unnatural eye growth can be interrupted by sunlight.

A 2022 study, for example, found that myopia rates were more than four times greater for children who didn't spend much time outdoors – say, once or twice a week – compared with those who were outside daily. At the same time, kids who spent more than three hours a day while not at school reading or looking at a screen close-up were four times more likely to have myopia than those who spent an hour or less doing so.



In another paper, from 2012, researchers conducted a meta-analysis of seven studies that compared duration of time spent outdoors with myopia incidence. They also found that more time spent outdoors was associated with lower myopia incidence and progression. The odds of developing myopia dropped by 2% for each hour spent outside per week.

Other researchers have reported similar effects and ar-

gued for much more time outdoors and changes in early-age schooling to reduce myopia prevalence.

WHAT'S DRIVING THE EPIDEMIC

That still doesn't explain why it's on the rise so rapidly. Globally, a big part of this is due to the rapid development and industrialization of countries in East Asia over the last 50 years. Around that time, young people began spending more time in classrooms

reading and focusing on other objects very close to their eyes and less time outdoors.

This is also what researchers observed in the North American Arctic after World War II, when schooling was mandated for Indigenous people. Myopia rates for Inuit went from the single digits before the 1950s to upwards of 70% by the 1970s as all children began attending schools for the first time.

Countries in Western Eu-

rope, North America and Australia have shown increased rates of myopia in recent years but nothing approaching what has been observed recently in China, Japan, Singapore and a few other East Asian countries. The two main factors identified as leading to increased myopia are increased reading and other activities that require focusing on an object close to one's eyes and a reduction in time spent outdoors.

The surge in myopia cases will likely have its worst effects 40 or 50 years from now because it takes time for the young people being diagnosed with nearsightedness now to experience the most severe vision problems.

TREATING MYOPIA

Fortunately, just a few minutes a day with glasses or contact lenses that correct for blur stops the progression of myopia, which is why early vision testing and vision correction are important to limit the development of myopia. Eye checks for children are mandatory in some countries, such as the U.K. and now China, as well as most U.S. states.

People with high myopia, however, have increased risk of blindness and other severe eye problems, such as retinal detachment, in which the retina pulls away from the back of the eye. The chances of myopia-related macular degeneration increase by 40% for each diopter of myopia. A diopter is a unit of measurement used in eye prescriptions.

But there appear to be two sure-fire ways to offset or delay these effects: Spend less time focusing on objects close to your face, like books and smartphones, and spend more time outside in the bright, natural light. Given the first one is difficult advice to take in our modern age, the next best thing is taking frequent breaks – or perhaps spend more time reading and scrolling outside in the sun.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Second Missing

and handed it over to the police. Later, it was confirmed that the deceased was Farhaan Waseem (12), son of Waseem Ahmad Parry, a resident of Gandbal, who had gone missing after a boat capsized incident at Gandbal on April 16. In that incident, six people lost their lives, and three went missing.

Despite heavy rains and the sorrowful cries of grieving women, Farhan's body was laid to rest amid heavy hearts.

Eyewitnesses from Gandbal recount the heart-wrenching scene of Farhan's mother bidding a tearful farewell to her son, with half of her body leaning out of the window, holding a scarf in one hand, as she cried out for her beloved.

People, wearing raincoats, were seen heading to the graveyard, holding umbrellas in their hands as little Farhan was buried amid heavy rains.

As the people mourn the loss of Farhan, they hold onto hope for the retrieval of the last missing person, Showkat Ahmad. Despite the continued search efforts, Showkat's body remains untraced, leaving the community anxiously waiting for closure to the Gandbal tragedy.

Grandson Laid

Days have turned into weeks, and Tajaa's gaze remains fixed on the unforgiving Jhelum. Her eyes, clouded with desperation, search for any sign of her dead son. "Showkat," she rasps. "My heart aches for a final goodbye, my son."

The tragic incident occurred when the boat they were travelling in capsized in the river on April 16. In that incident, six people lost their lives, and three went missing.

Showkat had managed to save himself and reached for the rope, but upon seeing his son Haziq drowning, he jumped back into the river to try and save him. Both Showkat and Haziq eventually drowned.

However, on Friday, the body of young Haziq Showkat was retrieved, and on Saturday morning, the missing body of the second boy, Farhan Parry, was also found. Unfortunately, Showkat Ahmad remains unaccounted for in this tragic incident.

Eyewitnesses recount the heart-wrenching scenes of Tajaa Begum bidding farewell to her grandson Haziq, only to be consumed by renewed grief for her missing son. Her cries echo in the air as she yearns for closure and the chance to bid a final goodbye to her beloved son.

"If Taja could get her son's body back, she might find some solace," locals said.

"His continued absence has left her devastated as she is unable to overcome the shock of the tragedy. The lingering uncertainty surrounding her son's fate adds to her grief, with the haunting memories of the tragic incident lingering in her mind," they said, adding that the traumatic scene will remain etched in the minds of the locals from Gandbal for a long time, and the river Jhelum will haunt them as well.

Despite her age and health, she visited the nearby river Jhelum daily, pleading for the safe return of her loved ones. According to locals, her determination is a symbol of the deep emotional toll this tragedy has taken on families in their area.

Rains Lash J&K

snow (light snow over higher reaches) at most places with thunder, lightning, hailstorm, gusty winds at few places with possibility of heavy rain over isolated places of Jammu & Kashmir division particularly on April 28 and 29.

He further stated that the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy on April 30 with possibility of light rain with thunder at many places.

However, he added that the weather is expected to remain dry from May 01-05.

In a detailed advisory, the MeT has advised the farmers to suspend farm operations till 30th April.

Temporary disruption of traffic over higher reaches of Zojila, Sinthan Pass, Mughal Road, Razdan pass etc is expected while water logging in low lying areas is also possible, the advisory reads, adding that there is a possibility of landslides & shooting stones and also temporary increase in water level in Jhelum & tributaries and other local streams & Nallas can also be witnessed.

With fresh snowfall and rains today, the maximum temperature has plummeted across Kashmir valley.

Compared to 23.0 degree Celsius yesterday, Srinagar has recorded a maximum temperature of 11.5 degree Celsius today, an official in the Meteorological department said, adding that Qazigund also recorded a maximum temperature of 17.6 degree Celsius compared to yesterday's 23.6 degree Celsius.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 13.6 degree Celsius compared to 20.7 degree Celsius yesterday while 10.1 degree Celsius was recorded in Kupwara compared to yesterday's 21.0 degree Celsius.

Hospitals Asked

requirements, so that they are able to function in even in case of floods, activating Disaster Management Cells at District/Block level and in all Hospitals to cater any kind of medical emergency that may arise, initiate measures required taking control of Outbreaks, Epidemics including enhanced surveillance and management to be coordinated by the District IDSP and strengthen the Primary Health Centres to improve the capacity of surveillance and control of epidemics, Organize medical camps at the time of requirements and mobilizing the resources for the same at the District headquarters, Establish adequate number of District level mobile units with trained personnel, testing facilities, communication system and emergency treatment facilities, ensure the availability of survival/emergency kits during disaster situation including additional fuel, mess arrangements, etc, Arrangement of Rubber Boats with requisition of Live Jackets from SDRF Department to provide hassle free medical services during the floods and Stock sufficient medicines and life

saving drugs at the district/sub-district/PHC and CHC level hospitals.

"An emergency plan needs to be chalked out, in case the Territory Care Hospitals are sub-merged by the adjacent Districts viz Pulwama, Gandbal, Srinagar and Budgam, Ensuring the availability of secondary power sources at all levels of Health institutions, May require conducting regular IEC activities to sensitize the common masses about the disaster (in case of floods, the consumption of boiled water), Ensuring that trained medical staff is in operation to attend all types of sick and injury cases, with creation of backup teams. Can create teams of specialists at district level, who can be deployed at short notices in the affected areas and will include additional surgical supplies and mobility support, As a first step updating of available medical staff with their contact information, Obtain and transmit information on natural calamities to the higher central sites, Disinfecting water sources to prevent spread of water borne diseases, Arrangement of treatment and transportation of the injured to the hospital in coordination with emergency services, SDFR, Transport Department and other line Department, In case of landslides in hilly areas, action plan needs to be framed to tackle the medical emergency well in time, Mapping of volunteers for Blood donation, Steps for vaccination against Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Cholera, etc, and management of epidemics, if required, Availability of Mortuary facilities at local hospitals to be ensured, Conduct situational assessment and review the status of response mechanisms in the known vulnerable pockets. Treatment and socio-medical rehabilitation of injured or disabled persons and Coordinates the identification of risk prone sites, to set up respective relief centers" the circular reads.

"Ensure the dispatch of both personnel and medical supplies to areas requiring disaster relief measures, as per requirements only post assessment at the central level, oversees the arrangement of ambulance services. In the absence of transport facilities, adequate mapping plans to the nearest health units and local transport facilities need to be networked, including the requirements of water transport (Rubber Boats) and track the locations of pregnant mothers through ANC registrations and those due for childbirth for transport to safer and adequately equipped comprehensive emergency obstetric care units with neonatal facilities," it added.

"In the backdrop of above, all the Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents & Block Medical Officers are enjoined upon to ensure that the above mentioned points are followed & implemented in a timely manner and also points discussed in today's meeting held under the chairmanship of Director Health Services Kashmir in case forecasted floods are occurred," the circular reads.

Mughal Road Shut

road till the weather improves and the road is cleared, the officials said.

The weather office has predicted wet weather till April 30, with moderate to heavy rainfall in the plains and light snowfall in high-altitude areas.

A Traffic department official said the 270-kilometre Jammu-Srinagar National Highway -- the only all weather-road connecting Kashmir with rest of the country -- was lashed by moderate to heavy rain, resulting in mudslides at several places, including Dalwas, Mahar, Gangroo and Hingani in Ramban district.

"The highway is open for traffic on both ways in a regulated manner in the affected areas due to a single-lane stretch and slippery conditions of the road," the official said and advised commuters to temporarily avoid travel on the highway.

Over 500 Relocated

the official said, adding that so far 500 people have been evacuated and provided shelter at safer places.

The district administration carried out the evacuation amid the inclement weather. Most of the affected families have been relocated to community hall Maitra, with relief and support services operating from Pernote Panchayat, he said.

The deputy commissioner, who is overseeing the restoration efforts in the village, ensured the deployment of teams from Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited and Sub-Trans sub Division to resume the disrupted power supply.

Additionally, a 24x7 control room, supervised by Ramban Block Development Officer Yasir Wani, has been established to aid the affected individuals, alongside the mobilisation of national and state disaster response forces, police, civil volunteers, and other organisations for rescue operations, the official said.

Furthermore, a health camp, staffed with dedicated medical personnel, has been set up to address the healthcare needs of the displaced, he added.

With sanitation and hygiene being paramount, the district administration is rigorously maintaining cleanliness standards at the health camps and relocation sites. Moreover, a community kitchen has been started to provide timely and hygienic meals to those affected.

The revenue, horticulture, sheep husbandry, animal husbandry, agriculture, rural development, roads and buildings and other departments concerned have been tasked to assess the

damages to facilitate speedy release of compensation to the victims under SDRF norms, the official said.

Meanwhile, the National Conference (NC) on Saturday urged the Centre to send a team of its top experts to assess the recent land sinking in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district and take measures to prevent recurrence of such disasters.

Won't Contest Polls

stamp on the Centre's decision.

Lone, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from north Kashmir's Baramulla constituency, said he understands the importance of Parliament in the backdrop of what happened on August 5, 2019.

He said he believes that the voices of the people of Jammu and Kashmir should resonate in Parliament.

"I honestly believe that the people of J&K deserve that their voices be heard post-2019. If I am elected, I would be (that) voice," he said.

"We live in a digital world, and Parliament is the highest, the supreme constitutional platform that you can probably have and I see it as more of a medium to communicate with the rest of the country. You have MPs from all across the country, you have a lot of untold stories of Kashmir, of the anger that is here, of the atrocities, of the wrongs.

"Of course, there are many good ones also, I am not saying that everything is wrong, but there are many things which I believe that even the people of India, through their representatives, deserve to hear," he added.

Lone, who is pitted against former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah in the Baramulla seat, said the NC was "fooling" the people by talking about restoring Article 370 without explaining how.

"They are not explaining how they will be able to get that identity back if the people of Kashmir will give the mandate of three seats to them. To make any big changes in the Lok Sabha, you need a two-thirds majority.

"They (NC) are a part of the INDIA bloc. The alliance made it clear that they will restore the identity if they get a two-thirds majority (or) that they will restore (Articles) 370 or 35A or internal autonomy?" he asked.

Lone said if the NC gets the INDIA bloc to make a public commitment to the restoration of Article 370, he will not contest the polls.

"Mark my words, if they issue a statement today, I will withdraw my (nomination) papers," he said.

"But, if they don't, then they (NC) should stop lying."

This Election

roadshows in Surankote and Mendhar before moving to Poonch city this morning.

"I am thankful for the warm welcome by all sections of the society including Paharis, Gujjars, Hindus and Muslims. I am the one who is uniting people and not dividing them. We all have to move together for redressal of our problems," she said as rain forced her to cut short the address.

She said everyone is affected in case there is an issue while in times of ease, everyone gets benefited.

"This election is not for roads and electricity, there are problems like unemployment that need to be raised besides other issues, which we are facing post-2019 development," Mehbooba said referring to the centre's move to abrogate Article 370 and bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

Seeking the support of the voters, the PDP leader said she is aware of the demands of the people of Poonch which include a medical college, extension of the rail link and completion of the under-construction Parnai hydro-electric project.

"I am not the chief minister to immediately accept your demand but I am not going to make any false promise. I have to face you again and in case I am elected to the parliament, I will raise your issues and will utilise the MP local area development fund to address your minor issues," she said.

'Fighting For People's

concerns of Kashmiris in the past five years in the Parliament of India.

Parra addressed numerous public meetings in various areas of Pulwama and Shopian districts.

"Only Mehbooba Mufti is standing firm and raising people's issues from Kashmir to Delhi, which led to the splintering of the PDP, with 40 main leaders being forced to leave due to our party president's clear stance," he said.

He said that his campaign isn't about winning votes; but about igniting healing and dismantling suffocation.

"When a son suffers in prison, a mother's heart shatters. Our unwavering pledge: to bring them home and offer amnesty for youngsters to start anew. We are here to address the youth of Kashmir. We are here to address the population of Kashmir who are suffering, who

are in tremendous trauma, who need healing and compassion."

"We are here to revive the idea of PDP's healing touch so that they feel a sense of belonging and they are stakeholders of the whole process, feeling a part of it. Mehbooba Mufti's contribution to Kashmir politics is about compassion and healing," Parra added.

Bukhari Blames

Article 370 was BJP's agenda. However, his party was concerned about the land and jobs of Jammu and Kashmir and that was the reason that they went to Delhi and ensured that Jammu and Kashmir's interests were protected. "They (NC and PDP) deliberately took the case to the Supreme Court under a well planned conspiracy and lost our claim, they are responsible for it. Political issues are not resolved in courts, they are resolved politically," Bukhari said.

He added that Union Home Minister Amit Shah unmasked NC and other parties by claiming that unknown gunmen were from NC, PDP and Congress and these parties were staging fake encounters. "I promise that if we form the government, we will unmask the unknown gunmen. This will provide solace to our dear ones who have been victims of this ruthless violence," Bukhari said.

Another senior leader of Apni Party, Ghulam Hassan Mir said that NC MPs should have resigned the moment special status was removed in parliament on August 5, 2019. "NC back in 2019 sought votes during parliamentary polls for the safeguard of Article 370. They won all three seats. Why couldn't NC save it then. NC MPs should have resigned there and then but they didn't want to lose their salaries. Dr Farooq Abdullah is deceiving people in the name of Islam now. He went to Umrah to showcase his religion and brand himself as a Muslim. I challenge Farooq Abdullah to ridicule Congress that played a vital role at the onset to erode Article 370. We had our own Prime Minister and Sadr Riyasat. The National parties who were against the Article 370 in 2019 are now aligning with NC at the national level including Aam Aadmi Party. What is Farooq Abdullah doing with them," Mir asked. (KNO)

Azad Dismisses

wrong and what is right for us," Azad remarked.

Delhi Publisher

only undermine truth and justice but also perpetuate harmful stereotypes. We understand the importance of rectifying this error swiftly and unequivocally," the apology letter received by Kashmir Observer states.

"On behalf of Acuber Books International, we extend our sincerest apologies to all those who have been affected by this oversight. It was never our intention to spread misinformation or contribute to the propagation of harmful narratives. In response to this issue, we are taking immediate steps to rectify the situation," the letter adds.

The publisher has also said it is committed to reviewing and revising their content to ensure accuracy, fairness, and sensitivity in their representations.

"Additionally, we will be issuing a formal correction and apology in our upcoming publications and online platforms," it said.

Pertinently, the publisher had drawn widespread condemnation for its portrayal of Imam Khomeini in negative light.

The Indian Muslim community, particularly Shia Muslims in Kashmir had expressed outrage over 'the disrespectful depiction of Imam Khomeini. People in Budgam town and Zadiyal quarter of the capital city took to the streets demanding action against the publisher.

Leaders from the Shia Muslim community had vehemently condemned Qconnect Books for its insensitive portrayal of Imam Khomeini, stating that it not only undermines the significance of his contributions to Islam but also deeply hurts the sentiments of millions of his followers worldwide.

Leading Shia cleric Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari expressed his anger and demanded cancellation of the publisher's license. Masroor smacked the conspiracy behind the move alleging that such misleading books were being included in the curriculum to hurt the sentiments of Muslims.

Idara-e-Falah-e-Aam, an NGO alleged that Imam Khomeini's negative portrayal was as a dangerous trend of using the sacred sector like education as a weapon for the impure agenda of strengthening religious hatred.

Former Srinagar Mayor & Apni Party leader Junaid Azim Mattu took to the social media platform X and condemned the move.

"In the strongest of terms I condemn the unjust, intolerable and unacceptable misportrayal of Ayatollah Imam Khomeini (RA) by Qconnect books. An FIR should be registered against those responsible for this shameful and intolerable act," Junaid wrote.

All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association issued

a statement stating the "reckless characterization not only disregarded historical accuracy but also perpetuated harmful stereotypes".

Meanwhile legal experts here said the act was detrimental to the public law and order of India and comes under the ambit of reasonable restrictions as enumerated in the constitution of India.

Mudasir Ahmad, an Advocate at J&K High Court, said that the derogatory depiction of Ayatollah Khomeini was clearly an attempt to hurt the religious sentiments of a prominent religious community in India.

"It looks like the publishers of the textbook have willfully done this act and can attract various penal provisions of law. The constitution of India clearly safeguards the religious sentiments of citizens of India," he said.

Ahmad further said the act of publishers clearly violates section 153-A and section 295-A of Indian Penal Code, as it was a deliberate act to insult the religious belief and religious sentiments of a class/prominent community of Indian citizens.

Meanwhile, the School Education Department J&K issued a statement saying that there was some objectionable content from a book being circulated on social media.

"As verified, from the textbooks prescribed and developed by JKBOSE, there is no such content in JKBOSE textbooks. Moreover, no book having such content has been developed by NCERT, nor has it been prescribed in any of JK schools. We are verifying the source of this video so that the law enforcement authorities can take strict action."

No 'Objectionable'

the textbooks prescribed and developed by JKBOSE, there is no such content in JKBOSE textbooks. Moreover, no book having such content has been developed by NCERT, nor has it been prescribed in any of JK schools," it said in a post on X.

It also said that the department was verifying the source of the video that was circulated on social media so that the law enforcement authorities can take strict action Administrative secretary for School Education Department, Piyush Singla said that it has already been clarified that JKBOSE or NCERT has not prescribed such objectionable content in any book. "We have issued a statement. Now law enforcement authorities are doing their job," he said. (KNO)

Man Commits

post-mortem, the family again blocked the main road at Janipur and demanded action against the policemen. They lifted the road blockade and left for their home along with the body only after civil and police officers assured them of justice.

"We have already attached the SHO (of the Janipur police station) and an inquiry is underway to look into the allegations," Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) DSP Zaheer Abbas Jafari told reporters.

He said the deceased was a "history-sheeter and was called to the police station as per routine".

"An inquest proceeding has also been launched into the incident since the death has taken place in a suspicious manner. A board of doctors performed his post-mortem," the officer said and assured action against anyone found guilty during the course of investigation.

BJP, Allies

incident at Pernote area in Ramban, saying that 30 houses have got completely damaged while the administration has shifted the families to local panchayat Ghar.

"How can these families live in the local Panchayat ghar? We request the administration to utilize the funds under disaster management and also the district administration should shift the families to other places," he said.

"The state land already taken over from the people recently should be identified as provided to these families so that they can start fresh immediately and also restore the essential services," he added. (KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in J&K Bank Account detail from Bilquees Nazir to Benish Wani. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LTD;REC (NIT) HAZARATBAL within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Benish Wani W/o Suhail Ahmad Wani
R/o 1st Lane Hazratbal, Srinagar
7006522436

27th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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OR SCAN

CS Reviews Flood Management, Mitigation Plan For Kashmir

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a meeting of Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department to review the flood management and mitigation measures being evolved for Kashmir valley.

ACS Jal Shakti, ACS Forest, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Secretary PWD, Secretary Health, Secretary Grievances, Secretary DMRR&R, IG Traffic, Deputy Commissioners, SPs, Chief Engineer I&FC/UEED, representatives of NDRF and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary asked for devising an effective strategy to deal with flood like situations in the valley. He maintained that floods are disasters which require prior preparedness to alleviate the damage caused by them. He called for evolving proper SOPs to deal with the floods as like the 'Code Blue' being followed in hospitals, where every concerned individual is fully acquainted with his/her role and responsibility in the times of emergency.

The Chief Secretary called for having a detailed flood mapping/inundation map of each area in the districts to act accordingly. He exhorted upon the DCs and Divisional Commissioner to have proper planning in place to deal



Admin Reviews Agriculture Scenario, Amid inclement Weather

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Amid prevailing inclement weather conditions in the region, the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today reviewed the agriculture scenario in Kashmir division.

Addressing the officers of the department through virtual mode, the Director reiterated Department's commitment to work for the welfare and wellbeing of the farming community.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure that the farmers following the advisories recently issued by the Department to manage different agriculture activities amid the prevailing weather scenario.

He asked the officers to visit farmers and work in a coordinated manner to address the issues and demands raised by the farming community.

Director Agriculture was also briefed by respective Chief Agriculture Officers, through virtual mode, about the agriculture scenario in their respective Districts and the interventions carried out by the Department.

It was informed that some short term and long term initiatives have been taken by the Department so that interests of the farmers are safeguarded.

effectively with the natural disasters.

Dulloo also asked for having a direct communication

link with the public in times of such disasters so that they do not panic and get actual information about rescue measures and places available for the public. He suggested mapping of mobile towers so that customized messages to people in case of emergencies can be sent. He also asked for identification of rescue centres in all flood prone areas having all the requisite amenities. He also asked for working out a proper backup strategy to augment the efforts of administration in case of any possible emergency.

The Chief Secretary also asked making training and exercises an important part of the preparedness plan. He took stock of the functionality of dewatering stations in Srinagar City and asked for periodically checking them for efficacy.

He reviewed the working of the Emergency Operation Centre and the vital installations present in the flood prone areas. He called upon the Divisional administration to carry out an exercise of creating backup for such installations.

During the meeting, ACS Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, threw light on all the measures taken by the department to deal with such kind of natural calamities in J&K. He said that the UT besides increasing the carrying capacity of the River Jhelum and Flood Spill Chan-

nel has adopted other state of the art technologies to have better information and coordination to mitigate its effects.

He revealed that the Department has installed the Early Warning System and automatic water sensors besides carrying out audits of embankments to deal with floods effectively. He said that the 'Kashmir Flood Watch' mobile app and website gives updated information about the water levels in rivers. He also revealed that other requisite information is also transmitted to the public through both traditional and social media handles simultaneously.

The meeting was apprised of the works carried out, so far, by the Department. It also laid out the future plans of the department besides the contingency plan it has devised for the eventuality. The meeting also presented the stock position of different flood mitigation items available with the Department in its stores.

The meeting was informed that the central flood committee is being headed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir while the District Coordination Committees are headed by respective DCs. The meeting discussed the river capacity, first overflow, danger level of water and level for declaration of flood as per the gauge readings at Sangam, Ram Munshibagh and Asham.

Homestay Owners In Kashmir Accuse StayVista For Booking Cancellations, Financial Losses

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: One of India's leading homestay aggregators StayVista has come under scanner after being accused of malpractice by owners of homestays from Kashmir.

One of the accusers, Babar Mian, the owner of Nazm Villa which features a cottage and a villa, has accused StayVista of malpractice. Mian claims to have listed his property with StayVista in December 2022, seeking to tap into the platform's extensive network of travelers. However, what initially seemed like a promising partnership soon turned sour.

Mian revealed a pattern of grievances he has experienced since partnering with StayVista.

"The first six months went smoothly, thereafter, guests encountering minor issues at the property were abruptly relocated by StayVista, leaving us with vacant accommodations and lost revenue," Mian said.

Mian further said that he entered into this partnership with StayVista with high hopes of boosting his property's visibility and bookings. However, their actions have only led to losses and frustration.

"StayVista frequently canceled bookings at the last minute, causing significant financial setbacks for me and my business. I have incurred losses up to Rs lakh rupees. I have also sent legal notices to them."

Another Homestay owner levelled similar allegations say-

ing that he is not in a position to lodge a complaint because of the contract policy but he will speak to the media once the contract ends.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Amit, Co-founder of StayVista, denied all these allegations. He attributed the disruptions to maintenance issues plaguing the property and ongoing customer complaints, particularly concerning the quality of food services.

"While we strive to maintain positive relationships with all our property partners, there are persistent concerns regarding the upkeep of Nazm Villa. Our primary focus remains on ensuring a seamless experience for our guests" Amit said.

Amit further said that the customers were refunded so the question of paying money to homestay owners does not arise.

Pertinently, the homestay scene in Jammu and Kashmir has exploded, boasting 1,485 homestays registered in Jammu & Kashmir and over 13,000 rooms up for grabs. This boom owes its thanks to the government's push to broaden lodging options by urging locals to turn their homes into tourist hotspots.

This initiative aims not only to ramp up tourism but also to give visitors a taste of local flavor by letting them crash in native homes.

Tourism in J&K has seen a staggering rise, with 1.88 crore tourists in 2022 and a whopping 2.11 crore in 2023, marking a historic surge.

Special Training Camp For Village Defence Guards Held In Poonch

Agencies

MENDHAR/JAMMU: A three-day special training camp for Village Defence Guards (VDGs) was organized by the army here, ahead of Lok Sabha elections, officials said on Saturday.

Poonch along with the adjoining Rajouri district is part of the Anantnag Parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the third phase of elections on May 7.

The training camp began on Thursday at Mendhar, Harni and Jaran to hone the weapon handling and firing skills of the VDGs, as part of efforts to maintain peace and stability in the forward areas, the officials said.

The training assumes significance given the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and efforts of security forces to maintain peace and provide assurance to the people in minority pockets as well as in far-flung areas, they said.

The training has helped the VDGs in reorienting their training prowess and skills in weapon handling and firing, they said.

Comprising of local volunteers, the VDGs are equipped with .303 and bolt action rifles and were enthusiastic in sharpening their skills, they said, adding the weapons were inspected, cleaned and firing practice was carried out during the camp under the supervision of army trainers.

They said a lecture cum demonstration on weapon handling, musketry and firing positions was also conducted as part of the training.

The Army assisted the members of VDGs in further improving their self-defence capabilities and emphasised their greater role in maintaining peace and harmony in the area of responsibility, particularly in the minority pockets, the officials said.

Beyond The Crowds: Tourists Opt For Serenity In Kashmir's Off-Beat Destination

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Forget Gulmarg and Pahalgam, tourists are increasingly turning towards lesser-known destinations of Kashmir to explore unseen Kashmir.

The shift towards offbeat destinations reflects a growing trend among travelers to seek out unique and authentic experiences, away from the typical tourist circuits.

As per news agency, with improved accessibility and infrastructure development in these lesser-known areas, more tourists are venturing off the beaten path to discover the hidden treasures of Kashmir.

Take an example of Rangmarg and Gogaldara in Tangmarg area of north Kashmir, these two offbeat places are receiving tourists in large numbers for the last few years.

Rangmarg, nestled in the picturesque Tangmarg area, has been attracting tourists with its lush green meadows, pristine streams, and breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains.

Away from the hustle and bustle of crowded tourist spots, Rangmarg offers a tranquil retreat for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts alike.

"This spot is becoming people's favourite now. Apart from locals, tourists now visit this place to enjoy the calm and serene atmosphere. The local ATV

service providers played an important role in the promotion of this place. They ferry tourists to this place for sightseeing," said Nazir Ahmad Khan, a local travel agent.

Bungus Valley, located in the northern part of Kashmir, has also been gaining popularity among tourists seeking off-beat experiences. The valley, known for its stunning landscapes, dense forests, and diverse wildlife, provides visitors with opportunities for trekking, camping, and birdwatching in a tranquil environment.

"Bungus valley is becoming famous for camping and trekking now. We get a large number of tourists, particularly foreigners, who express their will to explore this place," Umar Ahmad, a tour operator, said.

Similarly, Yusmarg, often referred to as the "Meadow of Jesus," has become a preferred destination for travelers looking to escape the crowds and immerse themselves in serene landscapes.

Surrounded by majestic snow-capped peaks and dense forests of pine and fir, Yusmarg offers visitors a chance to indulge in activities like horse riding, hiking, and picnicking amidst breath-taking scenery.

Pertinently, the government last year announced 75 offbeat tourism destinations for tourists in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

CBI Officer Dies In Jammu Road Accident

Was investigating high profile cases; PDP demands impartial investigation

Agencies

JAMMU: Friday night came as a shock for the family and friends of a deputy superintendent of police Prashant Sharma who died in a road accident near Bus stand area of Jammu city late last evening.

According to the police, the police officer was not wearing a helmet when his Bullet motorbike slipped during strong winds and due to which he died in the accident.

As per the news agency, Prashant Sharma, son of Dharampal Sharma, a resident of Paloura Jammu, was serving in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). While he was moving from Bus Stand towards Jewel, his bike skidded resulting in critical injury to the police officer.

He was immediately shift-

ed to Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu from where he was referred to DMC Ludhiana but succumbed to his injuries on the way.

As per police record, "On 26-04-2024 at about 2357 hrs, Dy. SP Prashant Sharma (posted in CBI Jammu) age 52 yrs S/O Dharam Pal Sharma R/O Paloura, Jammu was admitted in GMC Jammu due to RTA at



Jewel (Bullet motorcycle skidded off), further referred to DMC Ludhiana, Punjab where he died on way. Dead body shifted to GMC Jammu for medico-legal formalities".

Sources said that he was investigating high profile cases like police sub-inspector recruitment scam, junior engi-

neer (civil) recruitment scam and Rs 2200 crore (approximate) Kiru hydroelectric power project allotment scam.

The untimely death of the DySP has raised many eyebrows and some Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) after social media posts about his death in a road accident by his friends.

A senior journalist Tarun Upadhyay wrote on X, "Prashant Sharma, DySP, CBI Jammu, who has investigated Sub-Insp, JE and other FIRs died in a road accident last evening near Bus Stand Jammu. He was also investigating a case against IAS Navin Choudhary @JmuKmrPolice @OfficeOfLJandK @HMOIndia."

Replying to this tweet, senior PDP leader Naeem Akhter, wrote, "PDP @jk-pdp calls for impartial, time bound and credible investigation. Given the fact that the Late Dy SP has been investigating very crucial cases there should be no room for doubts about circumstances. We express our deepest sympathies with the family of the deceased officer."—(KNO)

Shopian Villagers Demand Bridge Over Ranbiara In Rakh

Agencies

PULWAMA: The residents of Darbagh Watchi area of Zainapora sub division of South Kashmir's Shopian district and Rakh area of Pulwama here have demanded the construction of a bridge over Ranbiara in Rakh Pulwama.

The residents of the area told the news agency, that the bridge will bring relief to the farmers of both the areas.

Sameer Ahmad, a local resident said that they are facing immense hardships in absence of the bridge, adding that every year locals come up with the makeshift arrangements, but it gets washed away frequently, leading to the sufferings of masses.

Altaf Ahmad, another local resident, said that elderly people, women and children are facing a lot of problems in absence of the concrete bridge. He said that they are facing a lot of problems, especially in case of an emergency and there is a need to come up with a concrete bridge for one time solution.

Locals said that students have been regularly crossing the river over a small unsafe bridge to reach their schools, which can lead to the unfortunate incident as well.

For the last several years, they have been approaching the concerned authorities to look into the matter, but all in vain, they said. "Government has spent lakhs of rupees in different works everywhere but so far have failed to construct the concrete bridge here," they said.

Mentally Unsound Person Behind Tral Shrine, Mosque Desecration: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday said that a mentally unsound person was behind the desecration of Shrine and mosques in Dadsara area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

In a statement, the police said that regarding yesterday's incident of disrespect to local shrine and mosques in Dadsara in Tral by damaging windowpanes and also act of displacing the Quran pak in a manner lacking respect, subsequently based on evidence, Police Awantipora during investigation has identified

the perpetrator of crime namely Manzoor Ahmad.

"The said person is found to be mentally deranged person from Tral involved in the incident."

The police further stated that investigation with his family and acquaintance indicated that the said person has proclivity of showing such behavior earlier also. Further investigation is going on.

"People are requested not to pay heed to any rumours and not fall prey to scrupulous elements and vested interests to vitiate atmosphere for their own interests," reads the statement.

4 Notorious Drug Peddlers Booked In Sopore: Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against the drug peddlers, smugglers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Saturday said to have booked four notorious drug peddlers under PIT NDPS Act in Sopore after obtaining formal detention orders from competent authority.

Pertinently, many cases are

registered against these drug smugglers and were still involved in drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to the local youth of the Police District Sopore and other areas of the district. Despite their involvement in many FIRs, they did not mend their activities and were again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth, police said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR
Email : dydirectorestates@gmail.com Tel/Fax 0914-2502279/2502281
E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 11748) (Fresh Short Term Auction Notice)

Sub: Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" of Restaurant & Coffee Shop at Nigeen Club, Srinagar through GeM Portal on license basis for a period of 05-Years.
Ref: Letter No: TSM-Estb/117/2023 dt 19.12.2023 of Tourism Administrative Deptt.
No: Acctt / NC / 04 / DTK / 1521 dated:- 26 / 04 / 2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-bids are invited for Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" of Restaurant & Coffee Shop at Nigeen Club, Srinagar through GeM Portal on license basis for a period of 05-Years. The details are as under:

| S.No | Particulars | Date / Amount | Remarks |
|------|---|--|---|
| 1 | PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date | 27.04.2024 10:00 AM | Nil |
| 2 | PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date | 30.04.2024 04:00 PM | Nil |
| 3 | PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment Date & Time | 01.05.2024 04:00 PM | Nil |
| 4 | EMD Start Date | 02.05.2024 10:00AM | Nil |
| 5 | EMD End Date | 03.05.2024 4:00 PM | Nil |
| 6 | EMD (Bid Security) Amount | Rs. 1,20,000/- (One Lakh and twenty Thousand Only) | To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir. |
| 7 | Bid Submission/Auction Start Date | 04.05.2024 10:00 AM | Nil |
| 8 | Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time | 04.05.2024 4:00 PM | Nil |
| 9 | Reserve Bid Amount | Rs.12,00,000/- (Twelve Lakhs Only) | Nil |
| 10 | Bidding Time Extension | No | No |

The e-auction shall be finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE-QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the e-bidding process.

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM PORTAL)

- The bidder shall have to upload Certificate of Registration for Hotel or Restaurant duly issued by the Tourism Department under J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act and/or Relevant qualification (Degree/Diploma/Certificate Course) in the Hospitality sector and/or having experience in the Hospitality sector with documentary Proof be uploaded.
- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC) or Police Station or alternatively copy of a Valid Passport.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.

Sd/-
Dy. Director Tourism
Estates
(For Secretary, Nigeen Club)

DIPK-258-24
DT: 27/04/2024

DC Dominate MI As Kashmir Pacer Rasikh Salam Leads The Charge

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Jake Fraser-McGurk produced a power-hitting master class as Delhi Capitals kept themselves in the race for IPL play-offs with a 10-run win over Mumbai Indians here on Saturday.

Bringing his big-hitting prowess to the fore, young McGurk gave the scorching Delhi heat competition with a sizzling 27-ball 84, powering DC to a massive 257 for four after being asked to bat.

Tilak Varma (63) and Hardik Pandya (46) played some lofty shots to give MI a glimmer of hope but Delhi bowlers, led by Rasikh Salam (3/34), kept striking at regular intervals to stop MI at 247 for 9.

The win elevated DC to the fifth spot while MI continued to occupy the penultimate place.

While McGurk sparkled up-front, Tristan Stubbs dazzled with an unbeaten 48 off 25



balls at the death overs as DC put up a superlative batting effort to register their highest-ever score in IPL.

In reply, MI's script didn't go as per plan as Khaleel Ahmed drew first blood in the form of Rohit Sharma (8). With more

than 250 runs to score, MI batters had to go from the word go and that led to Ishan Kishan (20) and Suryakumar Yadav's

(26) wickets.

Three wickets down and the required run rate increasing, Pandya took things in his own hands, plundering 19 runs of the ninth over by DC's star spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

He punched three fours before launching the ball for a towering six over long on. Tilak Varma joined in with a boundary and a six off Axar Patel as the duo stitched a 71-run stand.

But 'Impact Player' Salam not only broke the partnership, claiming Pandya's wicket but also got rid of Nehal Wadhwa in the same over.

Varma then found an ally in Tim David but he was run out in the final over.

Earlier, opening for DC for the second time this season, the 22-year-old Fraser-McGurk equalled his own record for the fastest fifty this season, getting the milestone off just 15 balls after the hosts were put in to bat by MI.

Indian Cricket Should Not Give Hardik Pandya So Much Priority: Irfan Pathan

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former seamer Irfan Pathan has insisted that Indian cricket must stop obsessing over Hardik Pandya's worth as an all-rounder at international level, saying he has failed to create an impact in ICC tournaments.

The Mumbai Indians all-rounder is battling poor form this IPL season, raising questions about his inclusion in India's T20 World Cup squad, which is to be announced soon.

"What I feel about Hardik Pandya is that Indian cricket needs to make it clear that they should not give him that much priority as they have given him so far, because we still haven't won the World Cup," Pathan said on Star Sports Press Room Show, Ticket to World Cup.

"If you think you are a primary all-rounder, you need to make that kind of an impact at the international level. As far as the all-rounder is concerned he hasn't made that impact at the international level, we are only thinking about the potential."

The former India left-arm seamer observed that there is a "big difference" between performance in the IPL and international cricket, and advised Pandya to play throughout the year instead of "picking" tournaments.

"We are getting confused between the IPL performances and the international performances. That's a big difference. First of all, he needs to play throughout the year. He cannot pick and choose."

"Indian cricket needs to stop doing that. Stop giving preferences to individuals, if you do that, you will not be winning major tournaments."

"What Australia has been doing for many years is that they are actually preferring the team game. Making everyone a superstar. Not



one superstar, everybody is a superstar in the squad. If you don't do that, you will not win big tournaments."

Pathan also opined on problems around finishers and the team's pace bowling unit.

"This is what I'm really scared about when it comes to the World Cup. Look, my worry is with the T20 World Cup, we are pretty much sorted as far as the top-order batting is concerned. We are pretty much sorted in the middle-overs as well."

"If we're thinking Ravindra Jadeja is a number seven batter, you need a good finisher. His numbers are not that great as far as the strike-rate is concerned at the international level. So, there is a worry for me there and the fast bowling."

"Apart from Bumrah, if I look at the guys playing in IPL, played before the IPL in the South Africa series, their numbers are not that great -- be that it's Arshdeep, be that it's Mohammed Siraj, you know, the guys who played last."

"So these two departments, it really makes me worry. These are the departments that are going to be very, very crucial," Pathan said.

IPL 2024: Inconsistent CSK Face Bruised SRH

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Smarting from back-to-back losses, defending champion Chennai Super Kings will be desperate to return to winning ways when they face a formidable but bruised Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match here on Sunday.

CSK had a good start to the season under new skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad but they have been toppled by the Lucknow Super Giants twice in the last two games.

It was an unfamiliar sight for the Yellow Brigade fans to see the Chepauk fortress being breached as LSG knocked down a target of 210 with ease, thanks to Marcus Stoinis' stunning hundred.

With four wins and as many losses in eight games, CSK are currently at fifth spot, tied with eight points with Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Ti-



tans and will be keen to find their mojo back as things can quickly go south as the race to playoffs get heated up.

Come Sunday, CSK will be up against third-ranked Sunrisers Hyderabad, who have twice broken the record of highest IPL total this season but are coming into the game following a failure of their ultra-batting approach.

CSK's batting has hovered

around skipper Gaikwad, who pulled off only his second IPL century the other day, and the in-form Shivam Dube, who once again impressed with yet another fifty.

A high-flying SRH, on the other hand, were brought to the ground by RCB when they suffered only their third defeat of the season at home by 35 runs on Thursday.

Match stats: 7.30 PM (IST).

GT Eye Collective Gains Against Resurgent RCB

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: In need of a total reboot, Gujarat Titans will be wary of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's newfound firepower in the middle-order when the two teams clash in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

The Titans are now seventh on the table with eight points from nine matches, and they require a victory to float above the growing pile, constituted by Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals who are also on eight points.

To begin with, the Gujarat side needs their pacers to step up. Their pace bowling unit has been underwhelming throughout this IPL.

Mohit Sharma (10 wickets, economy: 10.35), Umesh Yadav (7 wickets, 10.55),



Sandeep Warrier (5 wickets, 10.85) have leaked runs in plenty while backup quicks such as Spencer Johnson and Azmatullah Omarzai too have not inspired much confidence.

Their spinners - Rashid Khan (8 wickets), R Sai Kishore and Noor Ahmad (6 wickets each) - have been steady without being spectacular.

The trio's task will be even harder now considering RCB have found a flicker of hope in their middle-order consisting of Rajat Patidar

and Cameron Green.

They can take consolation from the fact that dew will not be a significant factor in a day game, but tackling Patidar, in particular, and Green need much more than help from conditions.

It has also helped RCB reduce their dependency on Dinesh Karthik and Mahipal Lomror down the order for a late thrust, besides freeing opener Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis of the burden of scoring in almost every match.

Match starts at 3.30 PM.

Short TAKES

Table Tennis, Chess & Carrom Events Held At Shangus

The DYSS Zone Shangus on Saturday held Table Tennis, Chess and Carrom events under SVEEP program at Degree College Uttersoo.

The competitions were part of the Systematic Voter's Education & Electoral Participation program. Before starting the competitions, Principal Degree College Uttersoo advised students to stay away from drugs and take part in upcoming elections. At the end of ceremony, certificates were distributed among winners and runner ups. A total of 42 boys participated in the competitions.

YSS Ganderbal Hosts Inter-School Cycle Race For U-14 Girls



YSS Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Election Officer Ganderbal and the Nodal Officer SVEEP, organised a grand cycle race for girls under the age of 14 in Zone Tullamulla of the district.

The race commenced from Baroosa Crossing, winding its way through the picturesque Central University of Kashmir, and concluded at GHSS Tullamulla.

In addition, Zone Hariganiwan organized inter-school chess and Yoga competitions for both boys and girls. Meanwhile, Zone Kangan hosted an enthralling inter-school chess competition for girls.

Archery WC: India's Jyothi Bags Historic Hat-Trick Of Gold Medals

Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam's incredible presence of mind helped her bag a stunning hat-trick of gold medals as she spearheaded India's dominance at the ongoing Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai here on Saturday.

The world No. 3 Jyothi fought past tournament top seed Andrea Becerra of Mexico in a tight shoot-off finish 146-146 (9*-9) to complete a rare feat during the season-opening global showpiece.

Pakistan To Embark On New Zealand Tour For ODI & T20I Series

The Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed that its national side will tour New Zealand next year to play three ODIs and five T20 Internationals.

The series was finalised during a meeting between PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and New Zealand Cricket CEO Scott Weenink in Lahore on the sidelines of the on-going five-match T20I rubber. During the meeting it was in principle decided to conduct the tour after the 2025 Champions Trophy, which is scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan.

Sheffield United Suffers PL Relegation After Newcastle Defeat

Sheffield United became the first team to be relegated from the English Premier League after losing at Newcastle 5-1 on Saturday.

The Blades were 10 points from safety with three games remaining, ensuring an immediate return to the Championship. They took the lead in the fifth minute at St. James' Park through Anel Ahmedhodzic, only to be overwhelmed by a home team on the charge for European qualification. Alexander Isak scored two of Newcastle's goals.

Bayern Sweat Over Musiala, Sané Fitness For Madrid Showdown

Associated Press

MUNICH: Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel says Jamal Musiala is unable to play against Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga on Saturday and that the German forward faces a race against time to be fit for the Champions League game against Real Madrid.

Bayern hosts Madrid for the first leg of their semi-final on Tuesday.

Asked why Musiala was again left out of the squad for Frankfurt's visit, Tuchel replied, "He can't. He had two days without pain and he felt it again yesterday. It's a strain, a tendon strain, and it really hindered him. He had to break off training yesterday. Now we're giving it all for Tuesday." Both Musiala and Leroy Sané, who is also recovering from injury, were omitted



from Bayern's squad in the 5-1 win at Union Berlin last weekend, when Tuchel made a host of changes with Madrid in mind.

The coach again rotated the squad Saturday with Alphonso Davies, Kim Min-jae, Aleksandar Pavlovic

and Mathys Tel dropping to the substitutes' bench in place of Noussair Mazraoui, Konrad Laimer and Matthijs de Ligt, who were to start against Frankfurt.

Bayern's only hope of avoiding its first trophyless season since 2012

is to win the Champions League. Bayer Leverkusen has already ended Bayern's 11-year reign as Bundesliga champion and the Bavarian powerhouse was knocked out by third-division Saarbrücken in the second round of the German Cup.

Liverpool Drop Points At West Ham, Dampening Title Ambitions

Associated Press

LONDON: Liverpool conceded Michail Antonio's late equalizer in a 2-2 draw with West Ham on Saturday that further dented the Premier League title hopes of Jurgen Klopp's team.

Liverpool is limping to the finish line in Klopp's final season in charge, recording just one win in its past five league games.

Antonio's header in the 77th minute at London Stadium tied the game after Andy Robertson's goal made it 1-1 early in the second half and goalkeeper Alphonse Areola's own-goal put Liverpool ahead.

The draw kept Liverpool in third place, two points behind leader Arsenal, which has a game in hand. Second-place Manchester City is one point ahead of Liverpool and has two games in hand over



Klopp's team.

Liverpool controlled the first half, dominating possession but getting only two of its 11 shots on target, as West Ham went into halftime with a 1-0 lead following Jarrod Bowen's header in the 43rd minute.

Klopp and star forward Salah were involved in a touchline confrontation. Salah was a substitute for the game and was preparing to come on in the 82nd minute when Klopp went over to speak to him. Salah answered back

with his arms outstretched then started to point at Klopp, who was nodding while looking out onto the field. Darwin Nunez, who was also about to enter as a sub, got in between Salah and Klopp and pushed away his teammate.