

10TH MUHARRAM PROCESSION Final Call At Right Time: Div Com

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Government has been monitoring the situation and that a final call vis-à-vis Ashura (10th Muharram) procession in Srinagar would be taken at the appropriate time, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, said on Monday.

The Div Com praised the Shia Muslims for their cooperation in ensuring the eighth Muharram procession in Srinagar proceeded smoothly. He said that the government could not have approved the event without the establishment of peace in Kashmir.

Elaborate arrangements, according to the Div Com, were put in place by the administration on the 8th Muharram in Srinagar, in accordance with the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to provide every single facility to the mourners on the occasion.

"Since the peace is evident on the ground in Kashmir, the fact that the 8th Muharram procession in Srinagar transpired peacefully is something we are happy about and all this happened due to support of the people," the Div Com told the media.

The government is currently monitoring the situation and would make a final decision at the appropriate time, the Div Com said in response to a question on whether the administration will allow the 10th Muharram procession in Srinagar in the same manner as it permitted the 8th Muharram.

"The people's convenience is the basis for government decision-making, and | More on P6

Commemorating Battle Of Karbala

Thousands Join 8th Muharram Procession In Srinagar



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration permitted the 8th Muharram procession on its traditional route in Srinagar on Monday for the second year in a row, prompting tens of thousands of mourners to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain (A.S) in the battle of Karbala.

Large number of Shia mourners assembled in the Guru Bazar locality of the city at the crack of dawn since the district administration had

granted the procession a short window of time to avoid disruptions to the daily routines in the summer capital.

The procession commenced from Guru Bazar at around 6 AM and made its way to Hussaini Hall Dalgate via Shaheed Gunj, Budshah Chowk and Maulana Azad Road with brief pauses.

Elaborate security arrangements were put in place in Srinagar with additional deployment of police and paramilitary forces on roads to ensure the day passes off peacefully.

Officials told Kashmir Observer that the situation

remained peaceful with no untoward incident reported from anywhere in the summer capital.

Notably, two major processions including 8th and 10th Muharram were banned in 1989 following the onset of militancy in Kashmir. Since then, only small mourning rallies and processions were allowed in a few pockets of Srinagar.

An important step forward was the UT administration's approval of the 8th Muharram procession for a second year running. It has been generally appreciated that major Muharram | More on P6

Largest Pro-Gaza Demo In South Asia

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a first for Kashmir's Muharram history, the traditional 8th Muharram procession which commences from Guru Bazar and culminates at Dalgate in Srinagar took an unexpected turn this year, transforming into a massive pro-Palestine rally.

Tens of thousands of mourners who rallied in the city centre carried and waved Palestinian flags alongside the usual Alam Sharief and chanted slogans in support of the oppressed of the world and in denunciation of their tormentors.

Mourners said that they carried the flags 'out of a natural will' to show solidarity with the oppressed, particularly the people of Gaza.

Authorities, who lifted the ban on 8th Muharram procession after 35 years last year, had this year directed organisers to conclude the procession within a two hours time period starting at 6 in the morning from Guru Bazar and conclude at Dalgate by 8 AM.

Procession did commence at 6 but concluded only in the late afternoon as the entire five kilometre stretch was clogged with people.

Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, who was leading the procession said the timeframe set by Govt was arbitrary and impractical for such a big | More on P6

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Shia-Sunni Unity Shines

As a heart-warming display of communal harmony, Shia and Sunni volunteers joined hands on Monday to distribute refreshments among the mourners during the traditional 8th Muharram procession, which started from Guru Bazar and culminated at Dalgate. The procession, marked by prayers and reflections, brought together people from diverse backgrounds to honor a significant occasion with reverence | More on P6

'Marriage Dead For Years' Omar's Wife Gets SC Notice Over Divorce Plea

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from Payal Abdullah, the estranged wife of Omar Abdullah, on a plea filed by the National Conference leader seeking divorce on grounds of cruelty.

A bench of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah issued a notice to Payal Abdullah and sought her response within six weeks.

At the outset, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Omar Abdullah, submitted that the marriage was "dead" as they have been living separately for the past 15 years.

The Delhi High Court on December 12, 2023, dismissed Omar Abdullah's plea seeking divorce, saying there was no merit in his appeal.

The high court had upheld the



2016 family court order refusing to grant a decree of divorce to Omar Abdullah, a former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

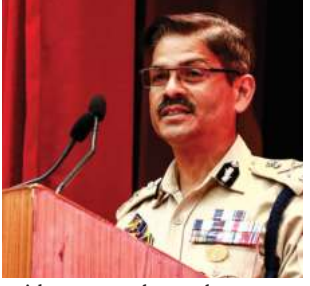
"We find no infirmity in the view taken by the family court that the allegations of cruelty were vague and unacceptable, that the appellant failed to prove any act which could be termed as an act of cruelty, be it physical or mental, towards him," the high | More on P6

J&K Parties Cultivated Terror Leaders For Votes: DGP

KO Web Desk

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain on Monday blamed regional politics in the Valley for Pakistan's 'successful' infiltration into the Kashmiri civil society. He even alleged that "so-called mainstream political parties" cultivated leaders of terror networks and sometimes directly to further their electoral prospects.

"Pakistan successfully infiltrated all important aspects of civil society, thanks to so-called mainstream or regional politics in the valley. There is ample



evidence to show that many had owned the art of running with the hare and hunting with the hound, which left both the common man and the security bewildered, frightened, and confused," ANI quoted Swain as saying. | More on P6

3 Foreign Terrorists Killed Along LoC Security forces on Monday said they eliminated three hardcore foreign terrorists who attempted to infiltrate across the Line of | More on P6

Encounter Reported From Doda A brief gunfight took place between the security forces and terrorists in a forest area in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir | More on P6

J&K Govt Offers Wild Animals For Adoption

KO Web Desk

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir wildlife protection department has initiated a scheme offering animals of endangered species up for adoption at Jammu Zoo in Jammu's Jagti.

Hindustan Times reported the additional director of Jammu Zoo, Anil Atri saying that the adoption programme is a novel way to show your support and care for wild animals. "The practice is in vogue in zoos abroad where they offer wild animals up for adoption to ensure participation of the community in their conservation," he said.

"Since the zoo recently completed a year, we have been mulling to come up with something like this. Jammu has several animal lovers and NGOs who want to contribute their bit but they don't get a suitable platform. Therefore, we decided to offer wild animals at the

zoo up for adoption." He pointed out the perils of people feeding monkeys and stray animals in the open causing nuisance and social conflicts.

"The government has notified the rates for their adoption. There are 150 animals in the zoo of which 18 species like lion, tiger, leopard, snakes, crocodiles, Himalayan black bear, porcupines and avians can be adopted," said Atri.

"Besides conservation, we want to bring a sense of belongingness and awareness among the people. Whoever adopts the animal, a plaque containing their particulars and photographs and of the animal as well will be put up outside the enclosure. It will give a sense of satisfaction and serving the animals as well," said Atri.

The department has fixed minimal feed charges to adopt animals at the zoo. "We have fixed | More on P6

'HOOKING, METER TAMPERING' Smart Meter Consumers To Face Remote Disconnection: KPDCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Monday advised its smart-metered consumers to shun the practice of unauthorized use of electricity by hooking which attracts punitive clauses under the Electricity Act.

During inspection drives, KPDCL has booked a large number of consumers in urban and semi-urban areas of Kashmir Division for bypassing meters and laying unbridled hooks with the sole intention of stealing power.

In a press statement issued, a KPDCL spokesperson stated that reports of hooking have been received from all city Subdivisions



and a few district headquarters where smart meters have been installed. "KPDCL is taking swift action against hooking which begins with remote disconnection of the consumer's electricity supply, followed by recovery of energy consumed illegally," he said, while outlining steps taken by KPDCL for combating power theft.

Some of the smart-metered areas badly affected by hooking include Mominabad, Batmaloo, Tengpora & Alocha Bagh in ESD Huzuribagh, Mini Housing Colony and Rose Enclave in ESD Chanapora, Bemina in ESD Watalkadal, KP Bagh in ESD Sheikh Bagh, Buchwara in ESD Dalgate, Nadroo and Old Baghat in ESD Baghat, the spokesman

said, adding that illegal hooking by consumers has also been reported from KK Moulla, Pather Masjid, Habba Kadal, Rainawari, Khanyar, Hawal, Zakura, Nishat, Anantnag, Baramulla I and Sopore I & II Subdivisions.

KPDCL, which has mapped all consumers found involved in hooking, shall also present challan in the Designated Courts under the Electricity Act for imposition of hefty fine on consumers habitual of meter tampering and hooking on bare conductor. "FIRs have also been registered against 35 consumers for tampering and bypassing of smart meters," he added.

The spokesman further stated that KPDCL has so | More on P6

J&K Gears Up for Private Universities With Policy Draft

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department is drafting a 'Private University Policy' for establishing the private universities in the region.

Top officials of the department said that it was in contact with all stakeholders for the clearance of all the related issues.

"In order to send a concrete proposal to the Ministry of Education (MoE) and to invite the private players to establish the universities, we are holding discussions regularly with all concerned stakeholders and we are seeking

suggestions from them," the official said.

He further said that the policy will be sent to various concerned departments for suggestions and discussions, including Finance, Law, Revenue, Industry, and Planning.

The policy draft, as per official sources, will address crucial issues such as land allotment and obtaining necessary permissions for setting up universities. Once finalized, the draft will be presented for approval at the Administrative Council meeting.

As per the official sources, the policy will include provisions for | More on P6

PM Crosses 100 Million Followers On X

J Singh Calls It Proud Moment



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The number of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's followers on his X handle crossed the 100-million mark on Sunday, registering an impressive growth of nearly 30 million in the past three years, officials said. He is already the most | More on P6

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Office Of The Principal Government Medical College Baramulla

principalmedicalcollegebla@gmail.com | www.gmcbaramulla.com | Tel:- 01952-238140

Advertisement for engagement of Faculty on academic arrangement basis under SO 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020 In Government Medical College Baramulla.

Advertisement Notice No.04(RA) Of 2024
Dated:- 12-07-2024

In terms of SO 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020, applications on plain paper are invited from non-PSC/retired persons along with duly filled information as per "Annexure A" enclosed to this notification for engagement as Professors/Associate Professors/Assistant Professors on Academic Arrangement basis in the various department of Govt. Medical College Baramulla, initially for a period of one year, extendable up to maximum of six years (one year at a time and subject to performance and good conduct) or till the selection/promotion is made in accordance with recruitment rules governing the respective posts, whichever is earlier.

The last date for submission of completed application forms in the office of Registrar Academics, CMC Baramulla is 02-08-2024 up to 5:00 PM.

Details of Vacancies/Posts (Department wise):

The details of the posts (vacant/likely to be vacant) are as under:				
S. No	Department	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor
01	Physiology	01	-	01
02	Pathology	01	01	-
03	Microbiology	01	-	-
04	Pharmacology	01	-	-
05	Community Medicine	02	-	-
06	Forensic Medicine	-	01	01
07	Medicine	01	-	01
08	Chest Medicine	-	-	01
09	Psychiatry	-	-	01
10	Surgery	01	-	-
11	Ophthalmology	-	-	01
12	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	-	01	01
13	Radio-diagnosis & Imaging	-	01	-
14	Radiotherapy	02	-	-
15	PMR	01	01	-
16	Dentistry	-	-	01
17	Blood Bank	-	-	01

Eligibility

The Minimum Qualification and Teaching Experience required for the posts of Assistant Professors / Associate Professors / Professor shall be as per the eligibility conditions prescribed vide S.O 285 Dated 18th August 2021 (available on www.gmcbaramulla.com). Maximum age at the time of submitting application form is (67) Years. Non-Domiciles are also eligible to apply for the said posts as per SO 296 dated 16th May 2024.

Application Fee:

Application forms complete in all respects, should be accompanied with a non-refundable bank draft for Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only) pledged to Chief Accounts Officer, Govt. Medical College, Baramulla and payable at J&K Bank, TP Baramulla.

Requisite Documents to be Submitted:

- The candidates shall submit the copies of the following documents with their applications:
 1. Date of Birth Certificate.
 2. MBBS Degree or equivalent degree.
 3. MBBS marks sheet
 4. State/MCI Registration Certificate.
 5. Domicile certificate.
 6. Post-Graduate Degree or Higher Qualification Certificate (D.M/M.Ch./Ph.D.).
 7. State/MCI Registration Certificate for Post-Graduate Degree or Higher Qualification.
 8. Experience Certificate issued by the Competent Authority/ Head of the institution.
 9. Professional publications, published in indexed/national journals as first and corresponding other.
 10. Proof of paper/poster presentations along with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar/conference/workshop.
 11. Proof of all other credentials claimed as per Annexure A.
 12. Two recent passport size Photographs.

Selection Criteria:

The selection will be made in accordance with the Government order no. 282-JK (HME) of 2023 Dated 04-04-2023 read with Corrigendum to Government Order No. 282-JK (HME) of 2023 Dated: 06.04.2023.

Other terms and Conditions:

- The Professor and Associate Professors so appointed on Academic Arrangement basis in new Government Medical College Baramulla shall also be entitled to additional monthly incentives of Rs. 50,000/- and Rs. 45,000/- respectively.
- The appointee shall also be entitled to house rent allowance (HRA), as applicable to in-service candidates carrying the minimum of pre-revised scale of the post subject to fulfillment of the conditions provided under the relevant rules in this regard.
- The appointments against the advertised posts shall and shall always be on academic arrangement basis only without conferment of any preferential right on the engagee for regular appointment against these posts, which shall be made strictly in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules.
- The appointment on Academic Arrangement basis shall by itself stand terminated on attainment of (70) years of age and (65) years by faculty in Dentistry department.
- The services of an appointee under these rules can be terminated before the expiry of the tenure of appointment with one month's notice from either side or on payment of one month's salary in lieu of notice by the appointing authority.

Agreement:

- The selected candidates shall execute an agreement that:
 - He/she will not leave the department before the completion of at least one-year contract.
 - That one-month salary will be withheld and shall be released after the successful completion of tenure. In case, the candidate leaves the assignment before one year, his/her one-month salary shall not be released. In case the candidate leaves the assignment after completion of one year he/she has to furnish one-month prior notice falling which one-month salary shall not be released on his/her behalf.
 - At the time of joining he/she is not on the rolls of other medical colleges/Institution of the country as required by NMC regulations, nor he/she is PSC confirmed.
 - The candidate is deemed to be relieved on successful completion of 06 years "or" till permanent faculty member through direct recruitment or promotion, joins on the same post, whichever is earlier.
 - Incomplete applications in any respect or not appended with required documents shall be rejected without any notice.
 - In case of any dispute, the decision of Chairperson of the selection committee shall be final.

Prof. (Dr) Ruby Reshi
Principal
Govt Medical College Baramulla

No: GMC/Bla/Acad/2024/1991-97
DIPK-2949/24 Dated:- 15-07-2024

Annexure A Checklist for the post of Professor in Govt. Medical College Baramulla

S. No.	Description	Response
Name & Residence:		
Specialty Applied for:		
D.O.B/ Contact No./email ID:		
Academic Qualification		
1.	Marks (Percentage) in MBBS/BDS/Equivalent Degree	
2.	Discipline of Post-Graduation (Ph.D. in case of non-clinical candidates)	
3.	Discipline of Super speciality degree (D.M/M.Ch.), if any	
Teaching Experience		
4.	Teaching experience as Professor/Associate Professor in a Govt./Govt. recognized Institution including the institutions authorized/recognized by MCI/DCI/NMC <i>Note: The weightage shall be given only to the teaching experience attained beyond minimum teaching experience of 13 years (out of which minimum of 03 years should be as Associate Professor from an MCI/NMC/DCI recognized Medical College or Institute as a full-time faculty member) required for the post of Professor as per S.O 285 Dated 18th August 2021)</i>	
Research Publications		
5.	Number of Publications (only original papers, meta-analysis, systematic reviews and case series that are published in journals indexed in Medline, PubMed, Central Science Citation Index, Science Citation Index, Expanded Embase, Scopus, Directory of Open Access Journals (DoAJ) will be considered). <i>Note: These publications should be beyond minimum required publications i.e., Four Research publications out of which at least two publications should be as Associate Professor.</i>	
Presentations		
6.	Number of oral presentation including invited for lectures/guest lectures/oration in a National/International seminar /conference/workshop relevant to the discipline with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar/conference/workshop	
7.	Number of poster presentation of paper(s) in a National/International seminar/conference/workshop relevant to the discipline with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar/conference/workshop.	
Books/Book Chapters		
8.	Number of books or a chapter in a book of the speciality concerned as 1 st or 2 nd or 3 rd author (Foreign Book/National Book published with ISBN/ISSN) and assessed by the subject matter expert to be relevant to the subject and of a level where it can be accepted as a reference material for the post applied for	
Special Attributes		
9.	Gold Medal for overall first position in MBBS/BDS/ Equivalent Degree	Yes No

Annexure A Checklist for the post of Assoc. Professor in Govt. Medical College Baramulla

S. No.	Description	Response
Name & Residence:		
Specialty Applied for:		
D.O.B/ Contact No./email ID:		
Academic Qualification		
1.	Marks (Percentage) in MBBS/BDS/Equivalent Degree	
2.	Discipline of Post-Graduation (Ph.D. in case of non-clinical candidates)	
3.	Discipline of Super speciality degree (D.M/M.Ch.), if any	
Teaching Experience		
4.	Teaching experience as Associate Professor/Assistant Professor in a Govt./Govt. recognized Institution including the institutions authorized/recognized by MCI/DCI/NMC <i>Note: The weightage shall be given only to the teaching experience attained beyond minimum teaching experience of 09 years (out of which minimum of 04 years should be as Assistant Professor from an MCI/NMC/DCI recognized Medical College or Institute as a full-time faculty member) required for the post of Associate Professor as per S.O 285 Dated 18th August 2021)</i>	
Research Publications		
5.	Number of Publications (only original papers, meta-analysis, systematic reviews and case series that are published in journals indexed in Medline, PubMed, Central Science Citation Index, Science Citation Index, Expanded Embase, Scopus, Directory of Open Access Journals (DoAJ) will be considered). <i>Note: These publications should be beyond minimum required publications i.e., Two Research publications.</i>	
Presentations		
6.	Number of oral presentation including invited for lectures/guest lectures/oration in a National/International seminar /conference/workshop relevant to the discipline with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar/conference/workshop	
7.	Number of poster presentation of paper(s) in a National/International seminar/conference/workshop relevant to the discipline with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar/conference/workshop.	
Books/Book Chapters		
8.	Number of books or a chapter in a book of the speciality concerned as 1 st or 2 nd author (Foreign Book/National Book published with ISBN/ISSN) and assessed by the subject matter expert to be relevant to the subject and of a level where it can be accepted as a reference material for the post applied for	
Special Attributes		
9.	Gold Medal for overall first position in MBBS/BDS/ Equivalent Degree	Yes No

Annexure A Checklist for the post of Assistant Professor in Govt. Medical College Baramulla

S. No.	Description	Response
Name & Residence:		
Specialty Applied for:		
D.O.B/ Contact No./email ID:		
Academic Qualification		
1.	Marks (Percentage) in MBBS/BDS/Equivalent Degree	
2.	Discipline of Post-Graduation (Ph.D. in case of non-clinical candidates)	
3.	Discipline of Super speciality degree (D.M/M.Ch.), if any	
Research Publications		
4.	Number of Publications (only original papers, meta-analysis, systematic reviews and case series that are published in journals indexed in Medline, PubMed, Central Science Citation Index, Science Citation Index, Expanded Embase, Scopus, Directory of Open Access Journals (DoAJ) will be considered).	
Presentations		
5.	Number of oral presentation in a National/International seminar /conference/workshop relevant to the discipline with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar/conference/workshop	
6.	Number of poster presentation of paper(s) in a National/International seminar/conference/workshop relevant to the discipline with the abstract/full paper published in the proceedings/souvenir of the seminar/conference/workshop.	
Books/Book Chapters		
7.	Number of books or a chapter in a book of the speciality concerned as any author (Foreign Book/National Book published with ISBN/ISSN) and assessed by the subject matter expert to be relevant to the subject and of a level where it can be accepted as a reference material for the post applied for	
Special Attributes		
8.	Gold Medal for overall first position in MBBS/BDS/ Equivalent Degree	Yes No
9.	Distinction in any subject in MBBS/BDS/ Equivalent Degree	Yes No
General Note: A minimum of 02 years teaching/Research experience as Tutor/Demonstrator/Registrar/Senior Resident from an MCI/NMC/DCI recognized Medical College or Institute on full-time basis is required for the post of Assistant Professor as per S.O 285 Dated 18th August 2021 and Government order no. 282- JK (HME) of 2023 Dated 04-04-2023.		

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Suffera Maqbool D/o Mohmad Maqbool Bhat R/o Trich-Pulwama,192304 I have spell correction in my name & also in my parentage on my documents MA & B ED mentioned as:- Name Suffera Maqbool D/o Mohd Maqbool Bhat The correct spelling of my name is Suffera Maqbool D/o Mohmad Maqbool Bhat and should be considered so for all purposes. No, objection beyond a period of 10 days shall be entertained.
fko

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her Inter University migration Certificate issued to him / her by University Of Kashmir for continuing studies. He/she has further stated that he/she has not utilized the same anywhere for further studies.

Name: Sumiksha Bharti
Parentage:- Kuldeep Kumar
Residence:- Dharana Tehsil Mendhar District Poonch Inter University Migration Certificate No: 61722
Dated: 18-Feb-2022

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned (Registration Section) within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

No: F(Duplicate/)KU
Assistant / Deputy Registrar

مجلس انظار تعزیت

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ہمارے والد محترم مسیحی محمد قاسم بٹ ولد علی محمد بٹ ساکنہ موٹی محلہ گلڈن ڈل سرینگر ایک سکول والے نے جسے کہہ کر ان کے وقت مطابق 12 جولائی 2024 کو کنگ مارے جس کی وجہ سے وہ زخموں کی تاب نہ لاکر بروز اتوار 14 جولائی 2024 کی صبح صوبہ ہسپتال میں اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ والد محترم نے ان کی لاش کو لے کر اپنے گھر میں رکھا ہے۔ صاحب خوش اخلاق ملندہ اور پابند صوم و صلوات شخصیت کے مالک تھے۔ اس سلسلے میں مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی بروز جمعہ 19 جولائی 2024 کو ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع حسن آباد رینا واری کوچ 6 بجے کو انجام دی جائے گی اور ان کو بھرا جائے گا۔ تعزیتی مجلس بھی رہے گی۔

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از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار جڈی بل سرینگر

عنوان: درخواست از جانب بسما جان دختر بشیر احمد سرکار تھو پورہ عید گاہ نسبت اجرائی EWS Certificate بذمہ معاشی طور پر رولڈ

استہوار ہر ماہ آگاہی
معاملہ عنوان الصدمہ میں درخواست سائل ہے کہ وہ معاشی طور پر رولڈ سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اسے سچے بچوں کے حق میں EWS Certificate اجراء فرمائی جائے۔ بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس کے مطابق سائل کل رقبہ تعداد زمین 1 مرلہ 116 مربع فٹ اور رہائشی 10'x28' مربع فٹ ہے۔ رولڈ سے رپورٹ بیواری حلقہ سائل کا کتبہ بڈیل درج ہے

نام	عمر	رشتہ	پیشہ
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عبدال واحد	25 سال	برادر	زیر تعلیم
بسمہ جان	23 سال	سائلہ	زیر تعلیم

قبل اسکے کہ درخواست سائل پر بیواری کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو سرٹیفکیٹ عطا کیا جائے تو اس کے لئے کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر نامزد دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
mdl

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب ریاض احمد زگر ولد محمد متبول ساکنہ چٹن بھرا ادرائی OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود، ہر پورہ دفتر

استہوار ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ نمبر عنوان الصدمہ میں سائل نے ایک درخواست منجانب OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ زگر چٹن کی ہے جو کہ زگر کارروائی ہے اس سے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی زگر ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل چٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ سائل کا کتبہ بڈیل فراہم پیش ہے

ریاض احمد زگر ولد محمد متبول زگر گورنٹ ملازم
کوثر آرزو زگر ریاض احمد زگر --
معید ریاض دختر ریاض احمد زگر زیر تعلیم --
کران ریاض ولد ریاض احمد زگر --

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کیس کی سالانہ آمدنی 2524980 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ ذریعہ جٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد شہر اخبار سارن دن کے اندر نامزد دفتر میں عذر یا اعتراض وادالت خدا کو دفتر ادا کرتے وقت درج پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
FKO

Secy Health Reviews Healthcare Arrangements On Muharram

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of the 10th Muharram, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited Zadibal and adjoining areas to assess the healthcare facilities being provided during the auspicious occasion.

Dr. Abid visited the shrine of Mir Shamsudin Iraqi (RA) at Khushal Sar, the main Imbarara of Zadibal, and took firsthand appraisal of the facilities being provided to the people. He also visited the UPHC Zadibal and had a detailed tour of all sections of the hospital.

The Secretary directed the Director Health Services Kashmir to ensure that the best possible services are provided to

the people during Muharram. He was accompanied by the Director Health Services Kashmir, Deputy Director Health Services, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar and other officers of the department.

Dr. Abid interacted with the senior citizens and Intizamia Committee members, who expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements being made and the services being provided. He assured them that the department will provide best possible healthcare facilities to the people during Muharram.

"The Health Department is committed towards providing quality healthcare services to the people, especially during important religious occasions like Muharram", maintained the Secretary.

NGT Team Visits Achan Landfill Site In Srinagar



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The high level team constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) visited the Achan landfill site in Srinagar on Monday. The team was led by Regional Director Central Pollution Control Board -CPCB Dr Nerender Sharma and experts from National Wetlands Committee Prof Sanjay Deshmukh.

The team was assisted by District Administration Srinagar and interacted with the officers of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, local residents of Saidapora Achan and petitioner Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat.

The matter related to unscientific waste management in Srinagar was taken up by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat in National Green Tribunal-NGT. In its order issued in May this year the NGT directed constitution of the aforementioned committee to ascertain the correct ground position and the extent of pollution caused by the illegal dumping at the landfill site in question, consequential health hazard created by it.

The tribunal had directed this team to suggest remedial measures including setting up of waste processing facilities to zero down landfill and submit the report before the Tribunal within eight weeks.



Solidarity with the children of Gaza: 8th Muharram procession in Srinagar Monday displayed wider support for the Palestinian people. Pic Abid Bhat

Sabeels Offering Refreshments Setup In Srinagar On 8th Muharram

Agencies

Srinagar: As the 8th Muharram procession was taken out for the second year in a row on the traditional route in Srinagar on Monday, the installation of Sabeels, providing refreshment to mourners turned out to be a common sight all across the procession road stretch.

Shahzad Hamdani, who had set up a tent-based Sabeel, told the news agency—KNO that it gives him an immense pleasure to serve people with refreshment on this pious day.

"We are not only serving refreshment, but we have also established a dedicated space for women and elderly people, who during the procession can take

rest," he said.

He said that apart from refreshment, they had also made the availability of a doctor and free medicines at their Sabeel base.

Along with the Sabeels, the engine-driven trolleys too were witnessed following the Muharram processions, grabbing the attention of mourners and the people passing by.

These refreshing points, including many trolleys turned into Sabeels, served as refreshing points, providing a range of beverages, tea, snacks and bread to mourners.

People associated with the operation of Sabeels said the refreshment arrangements were made for the mourners, who had come early in the morning from different parts of the valley.

"It is nothing new, establishing Sabeels or serving refreshment has been ages-old practice. It is just that people were not aware of it because the 8th Muharram procession was not allowed for decades," said a group of people associated with the operation of Sabeel.

Imran Ahmad, a mourner who had come from Budgam district, said that apart from serving water bottles to quench the thirst, the availability and volunteer service by Sabeels is much-needed during the Muharram mourning processions.

"Not only Srinagar, people have come from far-off areas and some have come very early and must be hungry. It is Sabeels only, who are providing them refreshment," he said.

Mirwaiz To Deliver Sermon On Ashura At Narwara

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq will be delivering a sermon on the philosophy of Karbala and the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (A.S) on the Day of Ashura on Wednesday at Astaan Aalia Alam Sahib Narwara, Srinagar.

The event will be held as per tradition under the auspices of Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar and Idara Local Auqaf Masjid Sharief Alam Sahib Narwara. Mirwaiz will pay tribute to the Martyrs of Karbala. On the occasion, the Anjuman Auqaf said in a statement.

Mirwaiz urged the people, especially the youth, to gather at Alam Sahib Shrine, Narwara well on time to ensure their participation in the special session of preaching and propagation.

"By doing so, they can express their devotion and love for Imam Hussain (A.S) and his loyal companions, the martyrs of Karbala," the statement adds.

Sagar Rues Development Deficit In Srinagar

Agencies

Srinagar: National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar Monday asserted that the negligent attitude of the administration has left the people of Srinagar longing for basic facilities.

In a statement re-

leased from the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Sagar said that the divisional administration has miserably failed to meet the basic needs of the people.

"There is a lack of accountability on the ground, and vital projects initiated during the NC-

led government are now in limbo," Sagar added.

Not a single penny is being spent on upgrading power, water infrastructure in the Shaher e Khas areas. Srinagar has historically lagged behind in development whenever the NC has not been in power, he said.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
**Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division SKIMS/ JVC,**
Head Quarter: SKIMS Soura Srinagar
email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

Sub: -i-Extension notice.

Name of the work:- CMC for HVAC system in State Cancer Institute.
Ref:- This office E-NIT NO. MHD, SKIMS/JVC 09 OF 2024-25 dated. 04.07.2024

Due to no response the critical dates for above referred e-NIT are hereby extended as follows:-

i.	Bid submission (uploading) closing date:-	18.07.2024 upto 3.30pm.
ii.	Date of opening Cover-1st:-	19.07.2024 (3.30Pm. or next convenient date)
iii.	Date of opening Cover-2nd:-	Shall be intimated separately.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division SKIMS/ JVC

No:- MHD/ SKIMS/ JVC/1554-61
DIPK-NB-870/24 Dated. 15/07/2024

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
**Office Of The Executive Engineer
R&B Division Zainpora.**
TENDER CANCELLATION

It is for the information of all concerned that the Tender invited vide this office NIT No.:- Fresh07/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2024-25 Dated:27-06-2024 is hereby cancelled due to poor response.

No.:-R&B/ZNP/DIV/1690-94
DIPK-3015/24 Dated: 15-07-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Zainapora

Government Of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
**Office Of The Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, GogjiBagh, Srinagar.**
Email ID: exennicdsrinagar@fckashmir.com, Telefax 0194 - 2310876.
Tender Cancellation Notice for e NIT No:- e NIT 27 of 2024-25 dated:- 02.07.2024.

Due to poor response to this office e NIT No: - e NIT 27 of 2024-25 dated: - 02.07.2024, as such the e NIT is hereby cancelled.

S. No	Tender ID	Tender Title/Tender Ref No.
1.	2024_IFC_251864_1	Providing And Shrouding Of Pea Shaped Gravel At Tube well Irrigation on schemes of District Pulwama, Anantnag Budgam of MICD Srinagar.

Fresh e NIT's for the said works shall be floated shortly.
No : MICD/ 1083-86
DIPK-3016/24
Dated: 15-07-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division,
Srinagar.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
**Office of the General Manager
District Industries Centre Srinagar**
email: srinagardic@gmail.com/gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in tel.no: 0194-2427478
Public Notice

M/s Modern Polymers, IE Khunmoh Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No. 01/003/09184/PMT/MSME dated 02.01.2018 for the activity of "Manufacture of HDPE water storage tanks (blow moulded), as partnership concern of 1. Javed Iqbal S/o Ghulam Nabi Mir R/o Indra Nagar, Sanat Nagar Srinagar, (Managing Partner) 2. Snober Gani D/o Abdul Gani Lone R/o Pampore and 3. Humara Yaseen D/o Mohammad Yaseen Khan R/o Hyderpora Srinagar.

Now, one of the partners of the unit namely Humara Yaseen intends to take retirement from the partnership and the remaining partners intend to change the line of activity from Manufacture of HDPE water storage tanks (blow moulded) to PPRC Pipes and Fittings.

Any person having any objection to the above proposed change of constitution and of line of activity in favour of the unit shall report to the office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
General Manager
District Industries Centre

DIPK-2969/24
dated: 15-07-2024

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

🌙
**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
09 Muharram
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	3 : 49
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5: 35
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9: 24

This Day In History

- 1809- La Paz, Bolivia declares its independence from the Spanish Crown and forms the Junta Tuitiva led by Pedro Domingo Murillo, the 1st independent government in Spanish America
- 1894- Treaty of Aoki-Kimberley signed between Japan & England
- 1900- Russia launch an offensive against the Chinese in Manchuria
- 1901- The Fawcett Commission headed by Millicent Fawcett is established as a result of an outcry against the treatment of Afrikaners in concentration camps during the South African War
- 1914- Socialist conference in Brussels (Kautsky, Trotsky & Rosa Luxemburg)
- 1921 Encouraged by the British, King Constantine of Greece launches a drive to take Asia Minor from nationalists under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
- 1925- The first parliament in Iraq opened by King Faisal in Baghdad
- 1926- National Geographic takes 1st natural-color undersea photos
- 1927- Augusto César Sandino begins 5½ year war against US occupation of Nicaragua
- 1936- 1st x-ray photo of arterial circulation, Rochester, NY
- 1940- Adolf Hitler orders preparations for the invasion of Britain (Operation Sealion)
- 1942- French police arrest 13,152 Jews in Paris
- 1945 - Cruiser Indianapolis leaves SF with atom bomb
- 1956 - Karelo-Finnish SSR becomes part of Russian SFSR
- 1956 - King Faisal of Iraq begins visit to England
- 1966 - Nigeria becomes the first Anglophone independent state in Africa to become an associate member of European Economic Community
- 1969 - Apollo 11 launched, carrying 1st men to land on Moon
- 1971 - Franco appoints prince Juan Carlos as deputy in Spain
- 1979 - Premier/pres al-Bakr of Iraq is succeeded by Saddam Hussein
- 1980 - Polish railway workers block railway to Russia
- 1981 - India performs nuclear Test
- 1982 - NASA launches Landsat 4 to thematic map the Earth
- 1982 CDC report on AIDS symptoms in three hemophiliacs
- 1983 - 20 killed in Britain's worst helicopter accident
- 1983 - Sikorsky S-61 disaster: A helicopter crashes off the Isles of Scilly, causing 20 fatalities.
- 1985 - Bill to abolish Greater London Council receives royal assent
- 1987 - Great Britain performs nuclear Test at Nevada Test Site
- 1989 - South Africa's largest labour federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, holds its third annual congress and intensifies its campaign against apartheid
- 1990 - 400 die in a (7.7) earthquake in Philippines
- 1990 - Ukraine declares independence
- 1999 - John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and sister-in-law Lauren Bessette are killed in a plane crash off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Piper Saratoga aircraft was piloted by Kennedy.
- 2004 - Millennium Park, considered the first and most ambitious architectural project in the early 21st century for Chicago, is opened to the public by Mayor Richard M. Daley.
- 2007 - An earthquake of magnitude 6.8 and aftershock of 6.6 occurs off the Niigata coast, Japan, killing 8 people with at least 800 injured and damaging a nuclear power plant. See 2007 Chetsu offshore earthquake.
- 2013 - 27 children are killed and 25 are hospitalized after eating lunch contaminated with insecticide in India
- 2014 - Death toll within Gaza surpasses 200 people following air strikes by Israel
- 2014 - Hamas and Islamic Jihad offer Israel a 10-year truce with 10 conditions, which include lifting the blockade and the release of prisoners; it is rejected

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday | 16-07-2024

Peaceful Muharram

In a welcome move, the J&K administration under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha once again allowed Muharram processions. The decision is part of a broader outreach to Muslim community by the administration. The authorities ensured extensive arrangements for the procession, including deploying police officers from midnight to ensure security and maintain order.

This year's procession follows the peaceful Muharram of the previous year, when LG Sinha participated in Zuljanah. Wearing a black dress, the LG visited the most volatile part of the city in Srinagar's Bota Kadal area, and offered chaddar to Zuljanah, a procession carried out to recall the martyrdom of the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Imam Hussain, during the Battle of Karbala in 680 AD. Sinha was also seen distributing refreshments to the gathering.

In the Valley, Muharram processions are a long-standing tradition. Thousands of mourners gather to participate in these processions, expressing their grief and solidarity for Imam Hussain's sacrifice. The eighth day of Muharram sees one of the most significant processions in Srinagar, commencing at Guru Bazaar and concluding in the Dalgate area. This year, the event witnessed a large turnout of mourners chanting pro-Islam slogans and praising the ultimate sacrifice of Imam Hussain.

Until 2022, Muharram gatherings used to be banned in the Valley since the advent of militancy in 1989. Authorities maintained that the religious gatherings were used for propagating separatist politics and triggering violence. In Srinagar, the vulnerable areas such as Abi Gugar, Lal Chowk, Regal Chowk, Aali Masjid, Shaheed Gunj, Guru Bazaar and Hawal were usually placed under tight security restrictions to foil large gatherings of people. Government justified the extreme measures citing the possibility of violence in the city. This was a stock government explanation for prohibiting the Muharram religious processions over the past three decades. No longer.

In recent years, the situation has changed for the better, although the union territory has yet to experience true peace. And that will require the government to take more steps including political measures to address the underlying sources of discontent. On a positive note, we are already expecting Assembly elections later this year which will give people a stake in the governance of the region. A peaceful Muharram procession is an indication that the Valley is not just normal for holding an electoral exercise but also for the restoration of statehood. Sooner these things happen, the happier people of the UT will be.



Did you know ?

The Foundation of a Rich Life at Early Childhood Age

Irshad Mushtaq

In today's world, teaching children the essence of money management, work ethic, and core values is paramount. Here's a heartwarming guide to instill these principles deeply in their young minds and hearts.

- Saving and Investing Wisely:**
 - Lessons in Patience: Encourage kids to save; teach them that small savings today unfold into substantial gains tomorrow.
 - Future Security: Investing wisely guarantees a worry-free future. Turning pennies into possibilities, it prepares them for life's uncertainties.
 - Value of Hard Work:**
 - Building Character: Hard work instills discipline and resilience. It shapes character and opens doors to limitless opportunities.
 - Sense of Achievement: There's indescribable joy in achieving something earned through dedication. It's a triumph of the spirit.
 - Charity and Zakat:**
 - Heart's Wealth: Charity is the currency of the soul. Teaching kids to give cultivates compassion, humility, and a fulfillment that wealth alone cannot buy.
 - Zakat's Virtue: Muslim children especially should know Zakat's mandatory charity. Sharing one's wealth purifies the heart and blesses their earnings.
 - Respecting Elders:**
 - Wisdom's Guide: Elders are living histories, holding timeless wisdom. Listening to them enriches kids with invaluable life lessons.
 - Foundation of Society: Respect for elders fosters family bonds, strengthens community ties, and upholds cultural values.
 - Health is Real Wealth:**
 - Life's True Wealth: Health isn't just about being disease-free but living vibrantly. Encourage kids to eat well, exercise, and maintain mental well-being.
 - Foundation for Success: A healthy body fuels the mind, paving the way for all other achievements.
 - Peace of Mind:**
 - Inner Harmony: Peace of mind is the cradle of creativity and productivity. Teach children mindfulness and coping mechanisms for stress.
 - Enduring Success: A serene mind leads to a fulfilling and balanced life. By embedding these values, we gift children not just the tools for financial success, but for a rich, meaningful existence. They learn that true wealth lies in wisdom, compassion, respect, and health. Such lessons create not just capable individuals but loving, compassionate human beings.
 - Teach them to treasure the small everyday moments and to strive for greatness with humility and kindness. They'll grow into adults who honor every aspect of life with integrity and heart.
- Learn from the insights of writer and investor, founder of MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan! Reach out to him at Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com for valuable knowledge on financial matters

Navigating Educational Equality

Challenges and Insights into India's Right to Education Act

Madiya Mushtaq

Inclusive education for children with disabilities and special needs remains a pressing challenge under the RTE Act. Despite legal provisions and policy frameworks aimed at promoting inclusive practices, many schools lack the necessary infrastructure, trained staff, and supportive policies to accommodate diverse learning requirements. Ensuring equal access to quality education for all children, regardless of their abilities, is crucial to realizing the inclusive vision of the RTE Act.

Despite these challenges, the Indian government has taken proactive steps to strengthen the RTE framework and improve educational outcomes nationwide. Initiatives such as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, aimed at enhancing school attendance and nutrition levels, and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), focused on expanding secondary education opportunities, demonstrate a commitment to addressing systemic barriers and promoting educational equity.

Digital initiatives, including the Digital India program and the integration of e-learning platforms, represent innovative approaches to leveraging technology in education. These efforts aim to enhance learning outcomes, bridge the digital divide, and equip students with 21st-century skills essential for success in an increasingly digital world.

In conclusion, while the Right to Education in India faces formidable challenges, it remains a cornerstone of the nation's commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusive growth. By addressing financial constraints, improving access and infrastructure, enhancing educational quality, and promoting inclusive practices, India can unlock the transformative power of education and pave the way for a brighter future for its children and youth.

Legislative framework:

The legislative framework of the RTE Act is rooted in the constitutional mandate to provide free and compulsory education to all children. Key objectives of the RTE Act include:

- Universal Access:** The RTE Act aims to ensure that every child in the 6-14 age group has the opportunity to enroll in and complete elementary education. It seeks to eliminate barriers that prevent children, particularly from marginalized communities, from accessing schools.
- Equity and Inclusion:** By promoting inclusive education practices, the RTE Act aims to address historical inequalities based on socio-economic status, gender, caste, and disability. It emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive learning environment that accommodates diverse learning needs and backgrounds.
- Quality Improvement:** Recognizing the importance of educational quality, the RTE Act emphasizes the need

for schools to provide a conducive learning environment with adequate infrastructure, qualified teachers, and updated curricula. It seeks to enhance teaching standards and learning outcomes across all schools.

- Community Participation:** The RTE Act underscores the role of parents, guardians, and local communities in supporting children's education. It encourages community involvement in school management committees and decision-making processes to ensure accountability and transparency in educational delivery.

- Child Rights Perspective:** Embedded within the RTE Act is a strong child rights perspective that emphasizes the holistic development of children. It recognizes education not only as a means of acquiring literacy and numeracy but also as a tool for nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and social skills.

Despite its lofty ideals and constitutional backing, the implementation of the RTE Act has been fraught with challenges that underscore the complexities of India's educational landscape. These challenges span financial constraints, access disparities, quality concerns, infrastructure deficits, teacher shortages, and the imperative to ensure inclusive education for children with special needs.

Financial constraints pose a significant hurdle to the effective implementation of the RTE Act. While the legislation mandates free education, many schools grapple with insufficient funding to meet basic operational needs, such as teacher salaries, infrastructure maintenance, and educational resources. This financial strain not only compromises the quality of education delivered but also perpetuates disparities between well-funded urban schools and under-resourced rural counterparts.

Access to education remains a critical issue, particularly in remote and marginalized communities where geographical barriers, inadequate transportation, and socio-economic factors hinder school enrollment. Despite efforts to increase enrollment rates through initiatives like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), millions of children continue to be deprived of their right to education due to systemic inequalities and logistical challenges.

The quality of education provided under the RTE Act is another area of concern. While the legislation emphasizes the importance of quality education, many schools struggle with insufficient infrastructure, outdated teaching methods, and a shortage of trained educators. These factors contribute to low learning outcomes, high dropout rates, and disparities in educational achievement, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

Infrastructure deficits further exacerbate the challenges faced by schools across India. Inadequate facilities, including dilapidated classrooms, lack of sanitation amenities, and unsafe drinking water, not only compromise the learn-

ing environment but also jeopardize the health and safety of students. Addressing these infrastructure gaps is essential to creating conducive learning environments that promote academic excellence and student well-being.

Teacher shortages and the need for continuous professional development pose significant obstacles to improving educational standards under the RTE Act. Many schools, particularly in rural and remote areas, struggle to attract and retain qualified teachers, leading to overcrowded classrooms and compromised teaching quality. Effective teacher training programs and incentives are essential to enhancing teaching standards and fostering a nurturing educational environment.

Inclusive education for children with disabilities and special needs remains a pressing challenge under the RTE Act. Despite legal provisions and policy frameworks aimed at promoting inclusive practices, many schools lack the necessary infrastructure, trained staff, and supportive policies to accommodate diverse learning require-



ments. Ensuring equal access to quality education for all children, regardless of their abilities, is crucial to realizing the inclusive vision of the RTE Act.

Despite these challenges, the Indian government has taken proactive steps to strengthen the RTE framework and improve educational outcomes nationwide. Initiatives such as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, aimed at enhancing school attendance and nutrition levels, and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), focused on expanding secondary education opportunities, demonstrate a commitment to addressing systemic barriers and promoting educational equity.

Digital initiatives, including the Digital India program and the integration of e-learning platforms, represent innovative approaches to leveraging technology in education. These efforts aim to enhance learning outcomes, bridge the digital divide, and equip students with 21st-century skills essential for success in an increasingly digital world.

In conclusion, while the Right to Education in India faces formidable challenges, it remains a cornerstone of the nation's commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusive growth. By addressing financial constraints, improving access and infrastructure, enhancing educational quality, and promoting inclusive practices, India can unlock the transformative power of education and pave the way for a brighter future for its children and youth.

Setbacks and Issues in Implementing the Right to Education in India

The implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act in India, aimed at ensuring free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years, has encountered numerous setbacks and challenges. While the legislative framework provides a robust foundation, translating its provisions into effective practice has been fraught with complexities that hinder its full realization across the nation.

Financial Constraints and Resource Allocation

One of the primary setbacks facing the RTE Act is inadequate funding and resource allocation for education. Despite the mandate for free education, many schools struggle with insufficient funds to cover operational costs, teacher salaries, infrastructure maintenance, and educational resources. This financial shortfall often leads to compromised educational quality, overcrowded classrooms, and a lack of basic amenities such as safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Without ad-

equity and limiting opportunities for social mobility.

Infrastructure Deficits and Safety Concerns

Infrastructure deficits pose significant challenges to the effective delivery of education under the RTE Act. Many schools suffer from inadequate physical facilities, including dilapidated classrooms, insufficient seating, lack of proper ventilation, and outdated or non-existent sanitation facilities. These deficiencies not only compromise the safety and well-being of students but also impact their ability to learn effectively. Addressing infrastructure gaps requires substantial investment in school infrastructure, including construction, renovation, and maintenance, to create safe and conducive learning environments conducive to academic achievement.

Teacher Shortages and Training Needs

The shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in rural and remote areas, remains a critical bottleneck in the implementation of the RTE Act. Many schools struggle to attract and retain skilled educators due to factors such as low salaries, lack of professional development opportunities, and challenging working conditions. Inadequate teacher training programs further undermine teaching effectiveness and student engagement, hindering efforts to improve educational quality and outcomes. Addressing teacher shortages and enhancing professional development opportunities are essential to building a competent and motivated teaching workforce capable of nurturing students' intellectual, social, and emotional development.

Inclusive Education and Special Needs

Ensuring inclusive education for children with disabilities and special needs is another significant challenge under the RTE Act. While the legislation mandates the provision of equal opportunities for all children, regardless of their abilities, many schools lack the necessary infrastructure, trained staff, and supportive policies to accommodate diverse learning needs. Barriers such as physical accessibility, lack of assistive technologies, and social stigma often exclude children with disabilities from accessing quality education. Promoting inclusive practices, providing specialized support services, and raising awareness about the rights of children with disabilities are essential steps towards achieving equitable educational opportunities for all.

Read the full version of the article on our website

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a practicing advocate at the Supreme Court of India and an alumnus of Hidayatullah National Law University. The author can be reached at madiyamushtaq786@gmail.com

From Makkah To Karbala

Jerrmein Abu Shahba

The month of *Zil Hijjah* has just passed and the sorrowful month of *Muharram* has emerged, bringing along with it all its grief, sadness, and mourning as the new year commences. It was in the year 60 A.H. when Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) and his family made the intention to perform Hajj in the sacred *Haram*. However, just before the commencement of the pilgrimage, he suddenly left Makkah without performing *Hajj*! This was the time when huge crowds were entering *Makkah* for Hajj that Imam Hussain was going out of that Holy City with his family and followers. This strange event must have elicited questions in the minds of everyone as to why the grandson of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him and his progeny) was leaving Makkah just on the eve of Hajj without performing Hajj. Why did he leave Makkah, when he embarked on this spiritual journey in order to complete what is one of the best deeds in Allah's eyes? Why didn't he wait just a few days until he finished the necessary rituals of pilgrimage? After all, based on our human judgment, nothing could be more important than the pilgrimage that would deserve interruption or cancellation right?

History tells us that the Imam discovered that some of the followers of Yazid had entered Makkah as pilgrims, with the mission to kill him during the rites of Hajj with the arms they carried under their special pilgrimage dress (the *Ehraam*). So Imam Hussain shortened the pilgrimage rites and decided to leave. Amidst the vast crowd of people, he stood up and announced in a speech that he was setting out for Iraq, he declared that he would be martyred, asked the Muslims to help him in attaining the goal he had in view, and to offer their lives in the path of God. The next day, he set out with his family and a group of his companions for Iraq. But it was not his own life that he was fearful for; rather, it was the life of Islam that Imam Hussain had his eyes set on! The proof for that is that he knew very well that he would be killed in Karbala and was literally walking towards his own death! So why interrupt his Hajj only to die in another land, if not for a noble reason?

The prime reason for leaving Makkah was that Imam Hussain did not want to be killed in a manner that the tyrants might remain hidden and undetected. In the huge rush of pilgrims assembled from all corners of the world, it would have been impossible to apprehend the killer, and particularly to ascertain the real killer behind the curtains.

The prime reason for leaving Makkah was that Imam Hussain did not want to be killed in a manner that the tyrants might remain hidden and undetected. In the huge rush of pilgrims assembled from all corners of the world, it would have been impossible to apprehend the



killer, and particularly to ascertain the real killer behind the curtains.

Secondly, Imam Hussain's ultimate aim was to expose Yazid, and the Imam was determined not to give his allegiance to this corrupt oppressor. In this way, the question of why Imam Hussain refused allegiance to Yazid came to the forefront of discussion among all individuals and groups who assembled for Hajj as they noticed that Imam Hussain left Makkah without performing the Hajj. If the Imam were to be killed now, it would be assumed that Yazid must have arranged his killing and this is what actually happened. Yazid stands clearly, openly and directly exposed as the perpetrator of the crimes which formed part of that tragedy and his un-Islamic ideas; the beliefs and acts lie exposed to the world. The very people who had been silenced by fear and awe of the murderous tyrants were so moved to the core of their hearts by the tragic events of Karbala that they began picking up courage to express themselves against Yazid. In a very short time, there was a widespread uproar of protests against him and his government. This was possible only because of the superb way in which Imam Hussain carried out his plan of meeting Yazid's violence with the strength of his character.

It would be an erroneous statement to say that the Imam skipped or canceled his Hajj that year! In fact, Imam Hussain abandoned the ritualistic Hajj to perform the true essence of Hajj, which is embodied in his sacrifice on the plains of Karbala!

We learn from Imam Hussain that there was a more important goal for him to accomplish than completing the rituals of Hajj and risking bloodshed in the *Haram*. Actually, it would be an erroneous statement to say that the Imam skipped or canceled his Hajj that year! In fact, Imam Hussain abandoned the ritualistic Hajj to perform the true essence of Hajj, which is embodied in his sac-

rifice and bloodshed on the plains of Karbala! Quite frankly, many of the ritualistic acts of Hajj symbolize the tragedy of Karbala, most notably the slaughter on the day of *Eid al-Adha*. Even though we celebrate that day out of gratitude that Allah spared the grief of father and son, Prophets Ibrahim and Isma'il (peace be upon them) from the slaughter

his son Ali Akbar, which was not spared like that of Isma'il and his father. The 10th of *Dhil-Hijjah* is only a few weeks away from the 10th of Muharram, reminding us of the true sacrifice that was offered in Karbala one month later!

When we think of Lady Hajra's plight in fetching water for her son Isma'il, we are reminded of Imam Hussain's pain of watching his youngest son, Ali Asghar, die out of thirst as he tries his best to seek water from the enemy by raising his infant in his arms in the hopes of moving their hearts and quenching his son's thirst. Unlike Hajra, whose heart was soled when a spring of water erupted to save her son's life, Imam Hussain found nothing but a tri-headed arrow to pierce the neck of Ali Asghar! It is narrated that when Lady Hajra saw with her own eyes the marks of the knife on her son's neck, she fainted from that scene; one can only imagine what overwhelming emotions Lady Fatima experienced when she witnessed her son's headless body trampled by the hoofs of the horses after dying in a state of extreme thirst!

When we walk the distance between *Safa* and *Marwa*, we are reminded that it is the same distance as that between the holy shrine of Hazrat Abbas ibn Ali and his brother, Imam Hussain. This exact match in distance is certainly not a coincidence, and it reminds us of the challenge which Hazrat Abbas underwent as he sought to bring water to the thirsty children who had all their hopes pinned on him.

As the pilgrims rush to attain the blessings of the holy water of *Zamzam*, they are to be reminded of that water which Imam Hussain was denied until he died in the state of thirst, when even animals are given a last sip before being slaughtered!

The pilgrims in Hajj wear their clothes of *Ehraam* for the sake of Allah, and Imam Hussain also wore his clothes of *Ehraam* for His sake while abandoning the plea-

tures of this life only for these 'Ehraam' clothes to be drenched in his own pure blood to irrigate the tree of Islam!

The pilgrims stone the symbols of *Shaytan* numerous times to expel the whisperings of the devil which we are all prone to every second of every day. Hurr ibn Yazid al-Riyahi and Umar ibn Sa'd also experienced whisperings from *Shaytan* to attain the glory of power. However, Hurr stoned the whisperings of *Shaytan* and made the right decision to join Imam Hussain, while Umar followed the whisperings and became a *Shaytan* himself!

When the pilgrims go to *Mina* where the final sacrifice is given, this stage of Hajj symbolizes our intention to sacrifice everything beloved to us for Allah just like the Imam did, and the tents are a reminder of his family's tents which were burned down and destroyed in Karbala after the Great Slaughter!

When the pilgrims visit the Holy Kaaba and circumambulate it, they are reminded of the honor Allah gave Prophet Ibrahim in rebuilding this sacred House of God. They are also to be reminded of the rebuilding of the pure Mohammadan Islam by Imam Hussain when he offered his pure blood to give a jump-start to this Deen, which was on its way to corruption and deviation.

It is important to note that a pilgrim who performs Hajj without recognizing Karbala to be its true essence does not gain the real fruits of his/her pilgrimage. In the words of Dr. Ali Shariati: "Imam Hussain did not complete his Hajj in order to teach the pilgrims that if there is no Imam and there is not true leadership, if there is no goal, if 'Hussain' is not there and 'Yazid' is there, making *Tawaaf* around the house of Allah is equal to making *Tawaaf* around the idol-house." (Hajj)

All the pilgrims stone the *Shaytan*, all of them wear the robe of *Ehraam*, and all of them circumambu-

late the *Kaaba* and walk the distance between *Safa* and *Marwa*. But not all who physically stone the *Shaytan* have truly rid themselves from his temptations. Not all who wear the *Ehraam* have forbidden themselves from that which Allah has forbidden them. Not all who sacrifice an animal has their offer truly accepted by Allah, and it is only those who sacrifice their souls 'like the blessed companions of Imam Hussain' and exhibit readiness to die for the Imam and the mission he represents, whose offer is accepted by Allah. Not all who raise their voices and call out "*La ilaha illAllah*" have truly recognized the essence of *Tauheed*, and it is only by fulfilling the conditions that one has truly pronounced the word of Oneness. As Imam Ali ar-Ridha (peace be upon him) relayed to his companions: The Almighty Allah said, "I surely am the God besides whom there is no god, so worship Me. Whoever comes with the testimony of *Tauheed* sincerely, he has surely entered My castle; and whoever enters My castle, he shall be protected from My chastisement." When some of the companions expressed excitement from that statement, Imam Ridha immediately added, "Yes this is true, with its conditions." This condition is to acknowledge and submit to the *Imamat* and *Wilayat* of Imam Hussain and his descendants.

If we recognize the essence of Hajj as being intertwined with the tragedy of Karbala, we can then understand why Allah's mercy encompasses the pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Imam Hussain on the day of Arafah, even before the pilgrims of Hajj (*Kamil al-Ziyarat*) We will then understand why a special *Ziyarat* is to be recited for Imam Hussain on the day of Arafah, which is one of the most important deeds that one can do. We will then realize that it is not a coincidence that one of the key recommended deeds to be performed on the day of Arafah is to recite the special beautiful supplication of Imam Hussain for the day of Arafah, which speaks volumes of the level of Irfan and wisdom which Imam Hussain possesses as he summarizes to us in concise words the fundamentals of *Tauheed*. We will then understand why, according to authentic hadith, visiting the holy shrine of Imam Hussain is worth 90 Hajj and 90 Umrah performed by the Holy Prophet himself! It is common knowledge that Hajj is obligatory on all Muslims if and only if they have the means to do so and all the prerequisite requirements are met. However, supporting and treading the path of Imam Hussain is incumbent and obligatory upon every human at all times, whether Muslim or non-Muslim!

Egyptian by birth author is Clinical Research Scientist by profession. She contributes as a writer for different Islamic journals.



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ordered by Him, our moment of joy doesn't last long because it is soon replaced by the Great Slaughter (*Dhibh Adheem*, as mentioned in 37:104-108 of the Qur'an) which is personified in Hussain ibn Ali. The grief we feel is further intensified as we remember the pain of separation between Imam Hussain and

Are Job Interviews Failing Us?

Llewellyn E. van Zyl

Imagine you're a seasoned chef, tasked with judging a cooking competition. But instead of tasting the dishes, you're only allowed to interview the contestants about their recipes. Sounds absurd, right? Yet this job interviewing process is precisely how we've approached the lion's share of hiring for the past 200 years.

Yet a meta-analysis published this week by Wingate and colleagues (2024) highlights that within a sample of over 30,000 people, job interviews do not in fact predict future job performance. Thus, interviewing someone may not actually help us make better hiring decisions.

In light of this, it's worth asking: How much of our hiring decisions are based on evidence, and how much on subjective impressions? Let's explore why interviews are poor predictors of performance and discuss ways to improve hiring decisions.

The Illusion of Accuracy

Anyone involved in hiring has been there: sitting across from a candidate, convinced we can gauge their potential and predict their performance based on a 60-minute conversation. However,

the sobering reality is that interviews only explain about 9 percent of the variance in future job performance.

In other words, 91 percent of what determines how well someone will do in a job is completely missed by the interview process. It's like trying to predict the outcome of a chess match by watching the players set up the board. Interviews are thus not valid tools to assess people's capabilities and the illusion that it is an accurate tool is costing businesses dearly.

The Myth of the Perfect Interview Question

Many of us believe that if we just ask the right questions, we'll uncover the truth about a candidate. We craft behavioral questions, situational judgement scenarios, and technical assessments that we are convinced reveal the perfect person for the job. But research tells a different story.

Whether we're trying to assess behaviors, task-related skills, or interpersonal abilities, interviews show surprisingly low levels of accuracy. Both structured and unstructured interviews fail to predict a candidate's potential performance.

Further, interviews are equally mediocre at predicting both task-specific skills and broader contextual behaviors. This suggests that

the standard interview format may be too blunt an instrument to capture the nuances of diverse job requirements.

Interviews are often seen as a one-size-fits-all tool to assess capability in diverse job roles. But is it really possible to use the same tool to assess a software engineer's coding abilities and a sales representative's client relationship skills?

The Bias Blindspot

Another problem with interviews is that they are heavily influenced by our unconscious biases. Even with structured formats and scoring systems, we're all susceptible to making snap judgments based on factors that have nothing to do with job performance.

A candidate's appearance, speaking style, or even how familiar they are to us can unconsciously sway our decisions. Maybe we're swayed by a candidate's charisma, or we feel a connection because they remind us of ourselves. These biases can lead us to make decisions based more on gut feeling rather than objective assessment.

Similarly, the halo effect, where one positive attribute colors our entire impression of a person, is particularly problematic. A

charismatic response to the first question can overshadow later missteps, while a single awkward moment early on can unfairly taint our perception of an otherwise capable candidate.

This effect is so strong that it can overshadow the actual skills and competencies that are crucial for the job. We thus end up hiring people who are great at interviewing but not necessarily great at the job.

The "Fit" Fallacy

Another pitfall is the overemphasis on cultural fit. While it sounds logical to choose candidates who align with company values and team dynamics, this approach often leads to homogeneity rather than diversity.

When companies prioritize cultural fit, they often end up creating teams that think, act, and look alike. This is because people tend to feel more comfortable around others who share similar backgrounds, interests, and ways of thinking. While this might create a harmonious and easygoing workplace, just fitting in with a group doesn't mean a candidate has the right experience, skills, and abilities to perform well in the role.

When we prioritize fit, we not only risk creating echo chambers

where new ideas and perspectives are rare, but we tend to neglect the actual capacities required for the individual to perform and the organisation to grow. True performance relies on a combination of cultural fit, personal capabilities to perform in the role, and potential to grow. While interviews can evaluate fit, they are particularly weak in predicting potential and performance.

Improving The Hiring Process

So, if interviews aren't the reliable predictors we thought they were, how can we improve our hiring decisions? Here are some evidence-based strategies:

1. Diversify assessment tools: Run assessment centers that incorporate a wide array of job simulations, work sample tests, and skills assessments to evaluate candidates based on actual job-related tasks. These methods evaluate candidates based on actual job-related tasks, not just their ability to perform well in an artificial interview setting.
2. Focus on past performance: Dig deep into a candidate's concrete accomplishments and how they achieved them.
3. Structured interviews with flexibility: While completely

unstructured interviews are problematic, overly rigid ones can miss important nuances. Strike a balance with semi-structured interviews that allow for some flexibility while maintaining consistency across candidates.

4. Leverage technology: AI-driven assessments can help remove some of the human bias from the equation and provide data-driven insights into a candidate's potential.
5. Emphasize cultural contribution, not just fit: Instead of looking for someone who fits your current culture, seek candidates who can positively contribute to and even enhance your organizational culture.

Conclusion

As we stand at the crossroads of tradition and innovation in hiring practices, it's time to ask ourselves: Are we truly seeing the forest, or are we still fixated on a single tree? The next game-changing employee might not be the one who interviews best, but the one whose true potential is waiting to be discovered.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Thousands Join

processions in Kashmir have been allowed to resume after more than thirty years.

Dragging their bare feet through the scorching heat, the mourners, donned in black as a sign of bereavement, recited Nohas, an elegy commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain and his family and companions in the plains of Karbala.

Similar processions were taken out in a few interior pockets of the city.

The mourners marched in a peaceful manner, honoring Imam Hussain's supreme sacrifice and chanting pro-Islamic slogans, providing no room for anti-social elements to stir-up tensions across sects.

The members of Sunni Muslim community had set up mobile kiosks alongside the roads, offering refreshments to the mourners.

In addition to implementing heightened security measures all the way from Guru Bazar to Dalgate, the authorities had made elaborate arrangements sealing all entry and exit points of the city. Public transport was out of bounds and markets along the route were shut. Poses of police and paramilitary forces were deployed on roads to ensure the peaceful culmination of the procession.

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Vjay Kumar Bidhuri, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir zone V.K. Birdi, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-Din Bhat and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Ashish Mishra were seen present monitoring the procession along the route.

Largest Pro-Gaza

community. He turned emotional when reminded of the last 35 years of struggle by his late father to take out this procession.

Although the exact number of mourners who joined the Muharram procession remains unknown, according to Syed Muzamil Rizvi, a volunteer with Yadgar-i-Hussaini committee, 60,000 mourners participated in the procession.

Entire city centre was shut with markets closed for the day. Traffic too was off the roads.

There was sizable young participation in the procession with colourful banners reminiscent of modern day processions in Karbala.

Many of the youth were wearing Kifayah symbolising support for Palestinians.

Ali Saffudin, one of the mourners, told Kashmir Observer, "Karbala teaches us to stand up for truth and against oppression. Gaza has been turned into a modern-day Karbala where Israelis are killing Palestinians. It is our duty to extend our support for them in this hour and this is the least we can do."

Many young people were seen wearing badges depicting Palestinian flags.

Aamir Ali, a participant, said that the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza has compelled people here to break the silence and speak on their behalf.

One youth, Ali, was also seen distributing pamphlets highlighting Israeli companies operating in India were being handed out, and calling out for their boycott.

Earlier, Aga Syed Muhammad Hadi, a prominent Shia cleric who has a substantial following on social media had called for supporting Palestinians during this year's Muharram ceremonies and procession.

"If we don't express our solidarity with the suffering people in these ceremonies, all of these gatherings will lose their purpose," Hadi said.

Shia-Sunni Unity

and solidarity.

Amidst the crowd, a collective effort stood out as volunteers from both Shia and Sunni communities worked side by side, setting up stalls to provide refreshments under the scorching heat. Their unified presence was a testament to the shared values of compassion and unity that transcend sectarian differences.

Among the other stalls (sabeels), one such stall was installed at Dalgate Srinagar by the cricket fraternity of Dalgate, where Sunnis distributed refreshments among the mourners.

During the traditional 8th Muharram procession, a Shia mourner, Abbas Ali, who was providing water to the thirsty said, at times like these; it's important to come together as one community.

"Our differences fade away when we focus on serving others and showing empathy," he said.

Fatima, another mourner, present at the Sunni stall at Dalgate Srinagar, said, "I am touched by the kindness shown by Sunni volunteers. Their presence here demonstrates that despite our differences, we stand united in times of sorrow."

Amarnath

Yatra

He further added that the pilgrims who had reached the twin base camps of Baltal and Nunwan also proceeded towards the holy cave early this morning, while those having night haltage at Chandanwari, Sheshnag, and Panchtarni halting stations also started their onward journey early this morning.

Here in Jammu, thousands of pilgrims are arriving daily from different parts of the country to embark on the holy pilgrimage, which started on June 29.

The 52-day annual yatra to the holy shrine will culminate on Shrawan Purnima, coinciding with the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan, which falls on August 19. (KNO)

Final Call

this includes consideration for the people's convenience when making decisions regarding time extensions," Bidhuri said, replying to another question on whether the administration extends the timing of the procession.

Vidhi Kumar Birdi, Inspector General of Police (IGP) for the Kashmir zone said that in-depth security arrangements were put in place along the route to ensure that the 8th Muharram procession's order is maintained.

An advice, he said, was already issued on the procession's timing in accordance with the route so that there would be no disturbance to the public.

Responding to a question on whether the 10th Muharram procession would also be allowed in Srinagar, the IGP Kashmir said the district administration should make the final decision on the topic, which is currently up for discussion.

"It is not the right time to comment on the matter at this time because the decision regarding this matter will be made at the appropriate time," he added.

Omar's Wife

court had said.

On August 30, 2016, the family court had dismissed Omar Abdullah's plea, holding that he could not prove his claims of "cruelty" or "desertion" which were the grounds alleged by him for seeking a decree of divorce.

"The petitioner (Omar) has not been able to explain a single circumstance to show that the supervening circumstances have erupted which has made it impossible for him to continue his relationship with the respondent (Payal).

"Rather, evidence shows that they were in continuous contact till the filing of the divorce petition," the trial court had said in its order, adding that "there is not an iota of evidence in regard to the circumstances which have prevailed to prompt the petitioner to file the divorce plea".

In his plea seeking divorce, Omar Abdullah had claimed before the family court that his marriage had broken down irretrievably and he has not enjoyed a conjugal relationship since 2007 and that the couple, married on September 1, 1994, was living separately since 2009. The couple has two sons who are staying with their mother.

The petition before the trial court also alleged that Omar Abdullah was subjected to "unreasonable conduct" by Payal Abdullah, causing pain and harassment to the politician.

In August, 2023, a single judge bench of the Delhi High Court had directed Omar Abdullah to pay Rs 1.5 lakh as monthly interim maintenance to his estranged wife.

It had also ordered him to pay Rs 60,000 each on a monthly basis for the education of his two sons who are pursuing law.

The high court's order had come on petitions by Payal Abdullah and the couple's sons against 2018 lower court orders granting her and them interim maintenance of Rs 75,000 and Rs 25,000 till they attained the age of majority, respectively.

The judge had observed that Omar Abdullah has the financial capacity to provide a "decent standard of living

to his wife and children" and that he should not abdicate his duties as a father.

J&K Parties

Continuing his attack, Swain alleged that visiting homes of terrorists killed by security forces and expressing sympathy for them in public was "normal".

"While the elimination of new recruits in terrorism was allowed and tacitly encouraged, those who facilitated recruitment and arranged finances were never investigated... SP rank officers were arrested and put in jails alongside terrorists, for crimes they had never committed," he added.

"The drowning of two girls in 2014 was allowed to be hijacked by narrative terrorism who held the valley at ransom, hartals, and rioting for many weeks. A very detailed investigation by the CBI and verified by the AIMS forensics proved it was an accident," the DGP said, referring to the deaths of two girls who had drowned in a well in Tral in 2014.

The DGP's remark comes after the Indian Army successfully eliminated three foreign terrorists attempting to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Keran Sector of the Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The terrorists are not much in number (in the Valley), but that does not define the situation because they are unaccountable entities. Even one unaccountable entity or a man sent to kill indiscriminately without any connection to this land, with no purpose but to repeat the level of violence or increase it, is a challenge," the J&K top cop added. (Inputs from Agencies)

'Infiltration Taking

knowledge. We tried to deliberate between ourselves as to the new methods and the modus operandi they are adopting," Swain told reporters on the sidelines of a function at Indian Institute of Management here.

"We also talked about tunnels. How to sort it out. We talked about how to address more effectively their use of tunnels to infiltrate," he said.

Senior BSF and police officers had gathered at an interstate security review meeting in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua on Thursday, days after terrorists, who are believed to have infiltrated from across the International Border, ambushed an army patrol.

On the increase in terror attacks in J&K in the recent past, he said that the terrorists are not much in number in Kashmir, but that does not define the situation because they are unaccountable entities.

"I will give you the statistics. There are not many terrorists ... there are only a few. But as I said, the situation is often not measured by the numbers. Because they are unaccountable entities," Swain said.

"So even one unaccountable entity, an outside killing machine, or a man sent to kill, indiscriminately, without any connection to this land, with no purpose but to repeat the level of violence or increase it, is a challenge," the officer added.

3 Foreign Terrorists

Control (LoC) in the Keran Sector of north Kashmir's frontier Kupwara district. A large quantity of arms, ammunition and other war-like stores were recovered from their possession.

During a joint press conference, Commander 268 Infantry Brigade, Keran Sector, Brigadier NR Kulkarni, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of the district, Shobhit Saxena, informed the media about the operation.

Brigadier Kulkarni said that for the past few weeks, intelligence inputs indicated that terrorists were trying to infiltrate the LoC along the Keran Sector, intending to carry out sabotage and subversive activities, particularly aiming to disrupt the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

"On July 12, specific intelligence inputs were provided by their agencies, which were corroborated by the Jammu & Kashmir Police, regarding a group of foreign terrorists likely

to infiltrate by leveraging the dense forest cover and thick undergrowth along the nallahs. In response, multiple ambushes were jointly laid by the army, police, and the BSF from the night of July 13 to 14 along the infiltration routes," he said, adding that the area was monitored and kept under surveillance.

Brigadier Kulkarni said that on July 14, around 15:00 hours, heavily armed and well-trained terrorists, equipped with sophisticated weapons, attempted to infiltrate across the LoC, taking advantage of the dense forest cover and poor visibility due to unfavourable weather conditions. "This triggered intense firefights. In the ensuing battle, three hardcore foreign terrorists were neutralised," he said.

Following the gun battle, a thorough search operation was conducted in the area, leading to the recovery of a large quantity of war-like stores, including three AK series rifles along with magazines, four pistols, grenades, and more." Brigadier Kulkarni said, adding, "This successful intelligence-based operation, named Operation Dhanush II, exemplifies the close synergy between the Indian Army, BSF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police." (KNO)

Encounter Reported

on Monday, officials said. A police spokesperson said the exchange of fire between the two sides took place in the Desa forest area.

Further details are awaited, the spokesperson said in a statement Monday night.

However, security sources said a brief encounter took place when the troops of Rashtriya Rifles and Special Operations Group of J&K Police launched a cordon and search operation at Dhari Gote Urarbagi in Bhagwah forest area around 7.45 pm.

The operation was launched on a reliable input about the presence of terrorists, sources said, adding reinforcements have been rushed to the area to strengthen the cordon.

The firing lasted for a brief period, the sources said, adding the search of the area was suspended for the night and will be resumed in the early morning hours on Tuesday.

J&K Govt Offers

7,000 a month as feed charges for adopting a lion or a tiger, despite the fact that we spend 7,000 a day on the feed of a lion or a tiger," said Atri.

Similarly, the department has fixed monthly feed charges of 1,000 for adopting a crocodile, 3,000 for a deer and 6,000 for a leopard.

"People can pay yearly, half yearly or on a monthly basis. The transactions will be done digitally into the government account from where they will be transferred to vendors' accounts for supplying the feed (meat or vegetable)," he said.

"We started the scheme a week ago. So far, three to four animal lovers have already transferred money into the government account. They have adopted a lion, a tiger and a jungle cat. We are also getting numerous calls from others," he added. (inputs from HT)

Smart Meter Consumers

far installed 2,99,755 smart meters in Kashmir Division under PMDP I & II, out of which 1,21,651 smart meters have been converted into prepaid mode. "Prepaid consumers have the advantage of daily bill generation and checking of energy used. He also has the advantage to recharge his account in advance to enjoy reliable power supply," he added.

J&K Gears Up

reserving seats for local youth, providing scholarships to needy students, and other relevant issues to promote education within Jammu and Kashmir. "This initiative is expected to be instrumental in attracting investors and enhancing the educational infrastructure in the region."

Meanwhile Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar acknowledged that it was

working on drafting the private university policy.

"Yes we are working on drafting the private university policy. However, I cannot share further details in this regard as of now," he said.

Pertinently, in February-2024 it was reported that in Jammu and Kashmir only 15 percent of higher education students prefer to study in private unaided and aided colleges.

The official documents in this regard had revealed that the enrolment of private and government colleges based on actual response in a survey states that there were a total of 2,13,213 students enrolled in private and government colleges of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the total number of enrolled students, 23,580 were enrolled in private unaided colleges, 4038 in private aided.

However, in comparison to the private colleges, the official figures reveal that in government colleges across Jammu and Kashmir, at least 1,85,595 students were enrolled.

Besides, the documents state that there were a total of 337 private and government colleges functioning in Jammu and Kashmir.

The survey based on actual response received from the sampled stakeholders reveals that a total of 127 private unaided, 21 aided, and 189 government colleges were functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

PM Crosses 100

million followers on social media platform globally.

Officials noted that his followers are quite a few times more in number in comparison to most followed opposition leaders like AAP's Arvind Kejriwal and Congress' Rahul Gandhi who have 27.5 million and 26.4 million followers respectively.

Among other heads of government with a large following are US President Joe Biden (38.1 million) and Turkiye's Recep Tayyip Edogen (21.5 million).

In a post, Prime Minister Modi said, "A hundred million on @X! Happy to be on this vibrant medium and cherish the discussion, debate, insights, people's blessings, constructive criticism and more. Looking forward to an equally engaging time in the future as well."

An official said, "PM Modi has more followers even compared to active global athletes like Virat Kohli (64.1 million), Brazilian footballer Neymar Jr (63.6 million) and American basketball player LeBron James (52.9 million)."

"He is ahead of even celebrities like Taylor Swift (95.3 million), Lady Gaga (83.1 million), and Kim Kardashian (75.2 million)," the official said.

He said world leaders often eagerly engage with Modi on social media because connecting with him significantly boosts their own follower base, engagements, views and reposts. This was seen recently in Italy as well as Austria, the official added.

Prime Minister Modi is also an influential presence on YouTube and Instagram with nearly 25 million subscribers and more than 91 million followers respectively.

Since joining X, formerly known as Twitter, in 2009, he has consistently used it for constructive engagement, officials noted, highlighting that he has never blocked anyone.

"He maintains an active and engaging persona, follows numerous common citizens, interacts with them, replies to their messages, and has never blocked anyone. PM Modi has always used this platform organically, without ever resorting to paid promotions or bots," an official said, adding that it reflects his ability to resonate with a diverse and dynamic audience.

In a post on X, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "Prime Minister @narendramodi crossing 100 million followers on X is a testimony to how he has revolutionized direct communication. Congratulate PM Modi on reaching this milestone. Confident that his vision will reach many more in the times ahead."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi crossing 100 million followers has

X handle is a proud moment for the country and he has emerged as a global statement, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday

Singh was talking to reporters after addressing the inaugural session of the orientation programme for the fresh batch of MBA students of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at its Jagti campus here.

Asked about Modi crossing the 100-million mark on X the previous day, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said everyone is proud about the milestone.

"The kind of popularity he (Modi) enjoys across the world as the longest serving head of state, most of the other heads of state in other parts in fact look upto him for his advice... he has emerged as a global leader, a global statement, a global counsellor to the galaxy of other heads of state across the world," he said.

Earlier addressing the students, Singh called upon the students to gear themselves up in order to take the leadership role of India of 2047.

"Youth will be the architects of a developed India when it completes the centenary of its Independence in 2047," he said, adding the government is making tireless efforts to equip its younger generation with new skills and training and world-class education to mould them into architects of a developed India.

"National Education Policy 2020 brought by the prime minister will contribute to this goal," he said.

The Union minister said start-ups require strong industry management linkage for their sustainability and institutions like IIM have an important role to play in it.

Singh said most of the successful start-up stories have been possible due to strong industry linkages.

"For example, in Aroma mission, the government became an enabler by ensuring capacity building of those engaged in agri start-ups in lavender and facilitating the market access to spur sale of Himalayan products like lavender-made perfumes and other products," he explained.

The minister said tapping the Himalayan bio-resources and unexplored minerals along coastal areas can make great value addition to India's economy and boost 'Atma-Nirbharta' (self-dependence).

"India's coastal states and Himalayan states and UTs like J&K have a lot to offer to the country's future economy," he said.

Talking about the aspirational generation, the minister said better things are happening under the leadership of Modi.

"Start-ups are booming and, as a result, new opportunities are opening. Technology has been a great leveller so that everybody from every region has an opportunity," he said.

The minister said the youth must harness the technology which has created a level-playing field, for societal good while as earlier, the technology was a privilege of a few.

On IIM Jammu's progress, Singh said in just a few years of its establishment, it has risen to become one of the better ones among the new lot of such premiere institutions of higher learning in the country.

"Beginning from infancy, when we were finding difficulty even to find faculty, it has come a long way in its small journey," he said.

He said the establishment of IIM Jammu is a significant step towards realising his dream of providing quality education and producing leaders who will drive the nation towards unprecedented growth and development to achieve the target of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Singh advocated for forging collaboration and synergy among institutions for greater benefit to their students.

"The age of working in silos is over. The era of collaboration is here," the minister declared, encouraging IIM Jammu, AIIMS Jammu, IIT Jammu and Central University of Jammu to enter into partnership by inking memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on research and development and artificial intelligence.

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OR SCAN

Kashmir's Real Estate Market Sees Surge In Newlywed Investors

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a surprising trend, newlywed couples in Kashmir have emerged as the primary customers in the local real estate market.

As per the real estate agents, many couples are investing in properties, often selling their gold jewellery to fund these purchases.

Sajad Ahmad Khan, a real estate agent said newlywed couples comprise their almost 40 per cent clientele in Kashmir.

"We often get queries from newlywed couples. They are interested in investing their savings into the real estate sector, which in Kashmir has been witnessing a vertical growth. Almost daily, we receive 10-15 calls from newlywed couples for purchase of plots, houses and flats," he said.

The surge in demand for real estate agents is attributed to a combination of factors, including rising aspirations for homeownership and the desire for stability amid ongoing economic changes.

Real estate agents report a significant increase in inquiries

from young couples looking to buy their first home.

According to local developers, newlyweds are drawn to various housing options, from apartments to family homes, as they seek to establish a secure foundation for their future.

The practice of selling gold, traditionally seen as a symbol of wealth and security, has become a practical solution for these couples to finance their property investments.

"Newlywed couples are now more focused on building assets rather than simply acquiring jewellery. They view real estate as a long-term investment that can provide stability and growth over time," said Imran Malik, a real estate agent in Srinagar.

Zuhaib Ahmad, owner of property developing firm Valley Real Estate said the real estate is slightly getting back to normalcy after sluggish demand for a long period.

"For the last few weeks, we have been getting some clientele but their number is very less. In coming months, we may witness some activity in the sector," Zuhaib said—(KNO)



Baltal Offers Refuge, Refreshments To Amarnath Pilgrims



Agencies

BALTAL (GANDERBAL): Amid the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, the base camp at Baltal has become a hive of activity with scores of pilgrims embarking on their spiritual journey to the Holy Cave.

Enroute, langars (community kitchens) are serving as a lifeline for yatriis offering them food and water.

Since June 29, the 52 day yatra is proceeding smoothly from both the shortest Baltal route and the traditional Nunwan-Pahalgam track.

According to sources, thousands of yatriis (pilgrims) are departing daily from both routes towards the Cave.

A pilgrim Shekhar Gupta from Delhi hailed the arrangements saying it ensures comfort to pilgrims.

Similarly, Kavita Raj, who traveled from Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh highlighted the administration's efforts in catering to the needs and requirements of the yatriis while highlighting the importance of do's and don'ts for a safe and secure yatra.

A duo from Panchkula appreciated the authorities for their efficient services, clean sanitation and quick issuance of RFID cards.

A volunteer who has been serving pilgrims for 32 years has praised the exceptional support and assistance from the Shrine Board and other government departments in managing the Bhandara. "The arrangements for the yatra are truly commendable," they said. "The widening of the yatra tracks has made the journey even more comfortable and enjoyable for every pilgrim. The excellent organization and facilities have enabled pilgrims to have a wonderful experience."

The Amarnath Yatra continues to be a well-coordinated event,

with dedicated efforts from various departments ensuring a memorable pilgrimage for all devotees.

Meanwhile, over 3 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine in the first 16 days of the yatra, higher than the corresponding period last year, officials said on Monday.

The officials said 14,974 pilgrims visited the shrine so far this year has climbed to 3,09,977. Among the 14,974 pilgrims who performed darshan today included 9785 male, 3435 female, 145 children, 230 Sadhus, one Sadvi and 1378 security forces and service providers.

While 4875 pilgrims left from Bhagawati Nagar Yatri Niwas here towards the twin base camps of Nunwan Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district under tight security arrangements in a cavalcade of 162 light and heavy vehicles. The batch included 3464 Men, 1333 Women, 14 Children, 57 Sadhus & 7 Sadhvis (female sadhus).

Of these 1918 pilgrims left for Baltal base camp at 3:05 AM and 2957 for Pahalgam base camp at 3:50 AM from where they will proceed for their further journey to the holy cave.

All these pilgrims reached their respective base camps by this evening wherefrom they will proceed towards holy cave early tomorrow morning for darshan.

Officials said that the pilgrims who had reached twin base camps of Baltal and Nunwan also proceeded towards holy cave early this morning while those having night halts at Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni halting stations also started their onwards journey early this morning while—(KNO)

Purple Revolution: Lavender Cultivation Thrives In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The resurgence of lavender cultivation, known as the "Purple Revolution", is currently being witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir. However, this is not a new phenomenon for Kashmir, which produced hundreds of kilograms of lavender around two decades ago.

In an exclusive interview Dr Abdul Sami Shawl, a well-known scientist formerly in charge of the CSIR Field Station Bonura (formerly CIMAP Field Station Bonura) in Pulwama, explained that lavender was initially introduced to Kashmir in the early 1970s.

He said the initiative was led by Dr Akhtar Hussain, the then Scientist In-charge of the Field Station and founder Director of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow.

Dr Shawl said that after extensive efforts on varietal improvement, a new variety of lavender was developed and its large-scale cultivation began at the Pulwama Station. "Further genetic improvements led to the introduction of the variety known as B-18. With the propagation of this new variety among farmers, Kashmir used to produce around 700-800 kg of lavender oil," he said, adding that Kashmir is the only temperate zone where even Mediterranean plants can be cultivated.

To promote lavender cultivation among farmers and small producers, the government introduced a buy-back scheme and connected growers with various businesses utilising lavender oil.

Although lavender was also introduced in Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and other northeastern states, excessive rainfall during the flowering period hindered its expansion in these areas, he added.

Currently, Baderwah is recognised as the epicentre



"Lavender cultivation was also promoted through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, providing entrepreneurs with technical assistance and knowledge sharing for large-scale production," the scientist said. "Distillation facilities at the Field Station were made available to growers under the PPP mode for oil extraction. Some entrepreneurs were also encouraged to cultivate lavender on government land holdings."

In around 2005, then Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who had a keen interest in lavender, developed a lavender park in Pahalgam. Following the initial success, entrepreneurs like Dr Ghazala and others brought around 2000 kanals of their land under lavender cultivation, Dr Abdul Sami said.

Other crops like rose, rosemary, and clary sage, also targeted under the Aroma Mission have the potential for similar exploitation due to the high market demand for their essential oils and value-added products, Dr Shawl said.

He said the essential oils produced in the valley meet international standards, comparable to those produced in Bulgaria and France, adding that efforts to strengthen market linkages and industry connections are crucial. —(KNO)

of the Purple Revolution, with farmers adopting lavender for its increased profitability compared to traditional crops. Since 2009, thousands of rooted lavender plants from the Pulwama Station of CSIR have been taken to Baderwah, promoting large-scale cultivation. As a result, more farmers are switching to producing lavender oil and dry flowers.

The CSIR Aroma Mission, an initiative under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has significantly promoted the cultivation of various industrially important aromatic crops, including lavender.

Other crops like rose, rosemary, and clary sage, also targeted under the Aroma Mission have the potential for similar exploitation due to the high market demand for their essential oils and value-added products, Dr Shawl said.

He said the essential oils produced in the valley meet international standards, comparable to those produced in Bulgaria and France, adding that efforts to strengthen market linkages and industry connections are crucial. —(KNO)

43-Day-Long Machail Mata Yatra To Start On JK's Kishtwar On July 25

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The 43-day long Machail Mata Yatra in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir would commence on July 25, officials said Saturday, as the district administration reviewed arrangements, including security for the annual pilgrimage.

Thousands of devotees from across the country visit the scenic Paddar valley, also famous for its Sapphire, during the yatra and pay obeisance at the holy shrine of goddess Durga in Machail village of Kishtwar after trekking a 30-km arduous route.

The Kishtwar, which was declared terrorism-free over a decade ago, was rattled by the killing of state secretary of BJP Anil Parihar and his brother Ajeet Parihar on November 1 last year, followed by assassination of senior RSS leader Chanderkant Sharma and his security guard inside a health centre on April 9.

A meeting chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kishtwar, Anrez Singh



Rana reviewed the arrangements for the yatra which is commencing from July 25 and scheduled to end on September 5, the officials said.

They said senior civil and police officers, including Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Shakti Kumar Pathak, besides representatives of the Army, CRPF, CISF, police and members of religious organisations attended the meeting.

Rana undertook detailed discussions with regard to arrangements to be made by the different departments and agencies to ensure hassle free yatra, the officials said.

He asked the security agencies, including police, the CRPF and the Army to deploy suffi-

cient number of personnel enroute from Thathri to Machail to avoid any untoward incident during the yatra, they added.

The officials said Rana impressed upon the departments concerned to ensure availability of potable drinking water, electricity, firewood, food grains, kerosene oil, medicines, life saving drugs, telecommunication services, mobile banking facilities and other essential commodities.

He appointed project manager, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), as yatra officer who would keep proper check and ensure that all arrangements are put in place for the general convenience of the pilgrims, they said.

CS Asks For Smooth Movement Of Fruit Laden Trucks On NH-44



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here with the stakeholders for working out strategy to further reduce the travel time on Srinagar Jammu National Highway for the fruit laden trucks.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, APD; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; IG Traffic and other senior officers while Jammu based officers participated virtually.

Regarding movement of fruit laden trucks from the valley, the Chief Secretary

stressed on making a comprehensive plan for smooth movement of these vehicles to further reduce the travel time for perishable items. He asked for marking the fruit-laden trucks with specially designed stickers for identification and giving unhindered access to reach the Mandis outside so that the growers don't suffer any losses.

While calling for enhancing level of enforcement especially on the critical stretches of the road, the Chief Secretary told the officers to utilize alternate assets like Mughal Road and Jawahar Tunnel optimally to reduce the traffic congestion on NH-44. He asked them to

ensure that oil tankers and other empty trucks moving towards Jammu should be directed to take towards Mughal road. He said that the fruit trucks should have an option to make use of Jawahar tunnel in case there is an apprehension of delay via Quazigund tunnel.

He asked the concerned officers to make use of lean windows optimally by diverting most of the heavy vehicles during the underutilized period. He also asked the NHAI to further improve the overall road surface besides blacktopping of potholed portion near Magarkote and sort out all other minor issues without any undue delay.

BJP Used KP Exodus Issue To Gain Votes: Panun Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Panun Kashmir on Monday criticised the BJP leadership, accusing them of using the issue of exodus of Kashmiri Hindus to blame their opponents and gain Hindu votes across India.

The organisation, which advocates for rights of Kashmiri Pandits, claimed that the BJP-led Centre has neglected the displaced community in the past 10 years.

It added that despite the neutralisation of Article 370 and the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, the BJP government has shown indifference and bias towards Kashmiri Pandits. "The BJP leadership has

ty and will pursue their political freedom and choice as they wish. Like the Congress, the BJP has failed both Kashmiri Pandits and the nation in Jammu and Kashmir," Chungoo said.

He further said that as terrorist and separatist forces gain strength in Kashmir and Jammu, it is crucial for the government to stand with the people and protect their rights.

Panun Kashmir vowed to continue their struggle until a separate Union Territory is established for the permanent rehabilitation of Kashmiri Hindus. Chungoo slammed the BJP government for its alleged bias and disrespect towards the community's issues.

"The BJP's hostile political and ideological stance against



used Kashmiri Hindu religious cleansing to blame its opponents and to garner Hindu votes in the rest of India," Panun Kashmir chairman Ajay Chungoo told reporters here.

He also accused the party of treating "Kashmiri Pandits as second class citizens".

He emphasised that the community members are not aligned with any political party and will pursue their freedom independently.

"Everybody should know that our community members are not stooges of any political par-

Nehruvian policies seems to have translated into anti-Kashmiri Pandit bias among the party's top leadership over the years," Chungoo said.

He said the party has failed to do anything for the community and instead "treats the issues of the community with disdain, absolute disrespect and dismissiveness".

He also condemned the government for failing to increase sustenance allowances for Kashmiri Pandits over the past decade, despite the rising cost of living.

Fertiliser Spraying Drones To Revolutionize Agriculture Sector

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The introduction of drone technology for spraying fertilisers in Kashmir is set to revolutionise the agriculture sector.

A demonstration showcasing IFCO Nano Fertiliser (Nano Urea & Nano DAP) in collaboration with Ojas Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. was recently held in Handwara, District Kupwara.

The event, which saw participation from farmers and progressive growers, aimed to introduce them to cutting-edge fertiliser technology: Nano Urea and Nano DAP, along with drone technology.

An official said that one bottle of Nano Urea or Nano DAP can cover 1 acre (8 kanals) when mixed with just 10 litres of water and sprayed using a drone.

"Impressively, the entire spray process is completed within 6 to 7 minutes," he said, adding that

one bottle of Nano Urea and Nano DAP is equivalent to one bag of traditional Urea and DAP. "This innovation promises to revolutionise agricultural practices by enhancing efficiency and reducing labour costs," he added.

The official further said that the benefits of this technology include increased efficiency, reduced usage, cost-effectiveness and enhanced crop yield, along with environmental benefits and convenience.

District Agriculture Officer, Kupwara, Yuziwander Singh told KNO that this technology offers many advantages, including lower labour costs, reduced use of chemicals, precision farming, AI intervention, and the ability to cover every part of the target crop or tree. "Such technology ensures fast coverage, time-saving and is environmentally friendly," he said—(KNO)

Police Distributes Laptops To NOKs Of Martyrs At DPO Kulgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a goodwill gesture and to remember the sacrifices of Martyrs, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kulgam under the CAP (Civic Action Programme) distributed Laptops among NOKs of Police Martyrs.

The event was graced by SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, who distributed the laptops among Next of Kins of Police Martyrs at District Police Office Kulgam. Moreover, Addl SP Kulgam, DySP Hqrs Kulgam, DySP DAR Kulgam & other officers of District Police Kulgam were present on the occasion, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

SSP Kulgam interacted with all the beneficiaries and assured that Police will always play its eminent role in providing every possible support and cooperation to them. The NOKs present on the occasion were advised not to indulge in any criminal/subversive activities, & to study with zeal and zest so that they can adopt any career of their choice.

SSP Kulgam also paid rich tributes to the police martyrs who courageously laid down their lives in the service of the nation, acknowledging their profound sacrifices for our safety and security. He also informed the participants about various welfare measures that are being taken by J&K police for the welfare of NOKs.

Old, Rusted Arms, Ammo Recovered In Reasi: Police

Observer News Service

REASI: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said to have recovered an old and rusted arms and ammunition in Reasi.

"Acting on reliable information regarding the presence of a terrorist hideout in the general area of Mahore Sub Division, a cordon and search operation was launched by the Reasi Police," a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

Police said that the operation was led by the police party of Police Component Shikari, along with Dy.SP PC Sarh Mahore, at

Dalantop area of Mahore. During the search and cordon operation, the police party recovered old-rusted arms and ammunition from Dalantop area of Shikari, police said, adding that the recovery includes 30 rounds of AK-47, one Magazine of AK-47, one HE-36 Hand Grenade.

While sharing the details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mohita Sharma, said that all possible measures should be taken to thwart the nefarious design of anti-National Elements. "Further investigations are ongoing," police said.

MMABM Hospital Anantnag Sets Up Two More Counters For Patient Registration

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Two new registration counters have been established at MMABM Hospital Janglatmandi, an associated hospital of Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag in response to public demand.

According to a statement issued, the twin counters will serve both OPD and IPD patients, making the registration process more convenient and efficient.

Medical Superintendent AH GMC Anantnag, Dr Muzaffar Ahmad Sherwani expressed his gratitude to Principal GMC Anantnag Dr Rukhsana Najeeb for providing the necessary manpower, logistics, and IT equipment to facilitate this improvement.

"The general public and patients have appreciated this administrative move, which aims to make the registration process quicker and more convenient," said the hospital spokesperson.

PCB Wants Written Proof From BCCI On GoI's Travel Ban Amid Champions Trophy Concerns

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board wants the BCCI to provide written proof of the Indian government's denial of permission in case the team refuses to come here for next year's Champions Trophy citing a travel ban on security grounds, a PCB source has said.

The host Board also wants the matter to be sorted as soon as possible, given that the tournament is scheduled in February-March.

While the ICC annual conference will be held in Colombo on July 19 doesn't have any discussion on 'Hybrid Model' about India playing their games in the UAE on its agenda, the global body as usual has earmarked additional fund in case it becomes a two-country tournament.

"If the India government declines permission, it has to be in writing and it is mandatory on the BCCI to provide that letter



to the ICC now," the PCB source working closely with organizing committee told PTI.

"It is a fact that we are insisting that the BCCI must inform the ICC about its travel

plans to Pakistan at least 5-6 months before the tournament and in writing," the top PCB source also stated.

The BCCI has always steadfastly maintained that playing

cricket in Pakistan is completely a government call and even the 2023 ODI Asia Cup, which was hosted by PCB witnessed India playing all its games in Sri Lanka based on

'Hybrid Model'.

The PCB has already submitted its draft schedule to ICC where all of India's games including a possible semi-final and final has been scheduled in Lahore. The India vs Pakistan marquee match has been scheduled on March 1.

The tournament will start in Karachi on February 19 and conclude with the final in Lahore on March 9. The final will have a reserve day - March 10 - in case of inclement weather. A few matches will be held in Rawalpindi too.

If BCCI sources are to be believed, at this point there is no chance of travelling to Pakistan and knowing fully well, the ICC has allocated additional budget for any exigency plan.

"The ICC Management is recommending additional costs just in case it is necessary to play some matches outside Pakistan if such a situation arises later on," the source confirmed.

Nawaz XI Lifts Champions Trophy At Wathoor

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Champions Trophy Tournament, which is held every year at Wathoor, Budgam, concluded with a grand event at Shah Qalandar Sports Stadium here on Saturday.

The Nawaz XI team lifted the trophy by defeating Bindas XI and was given a cash prize of Rs 60,000 by the organizers. SSP Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, Staff Officer to DGP & Commandant IR 6th Battalion, was chief guest on the occasion, and Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, noted social activist was guest of honour.

Batting first, Nawaz XI scored 225 runs in 25 overs. Bindas XI could not chase this huge score and were all out for 188 runs. Amir Takka was declared man of the match and Juwais Manzoor was given man of the



series award.

The chief guest congratulated the organizers of the tournament, especially Lateef Tiger, Younus Ahmad, Imtiaz Bhat, Maqsood Sports and Wathoor Sports Association for promoting cricket in the area. Almost 48 teams participated in the tournament.

Rohit Sharma To Continue Test & ODI Career Despite T20 Retirement

Press Trust of India

DALLAS: India captain Rohit Sharma says he will continue to play Test and ODI cricket "at least for a while" after ending his T20 international career with a World Cup win last month.

Rohit has been on a break since the title win in the West Indies and is set to miss the limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka later this month, which includes three ODIs.

"I just said it. I don't look that far ahead. So clearly, you will be seeing me play at least for a while," the 37-year-old said at an event here on Sunday night.

His statement was reiteration of a position he made clear after announcing his T20 retirement after the final in the West Indies in which India defeated South Africa by seven runs.

Earlier this month, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had confirmed that Rohit will captain India in the ongoing World Test Championship cycle and the Champions Trophy next



year in February-March.

Rohit had led India in the 2022 T20 World Cup where the team was ousted in the semi-finals by eventual champions England.

A year later, India reached the final of the 50-over World

Cup at home under his leadership, but succumbed to Australia in the summit clash at Ahmedabad.

Rohit quit T20Is with 4,231 runs from 159 matches, having made five hundreds and 32 fifties.

Police Complaint Against Yuvraj, Harbhajan, Raina For 'Mocking' People With Disabilities

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A police complaint has been filed against former cricketers Harbhajan Singh, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh and Gurkeerat Mann for allegedly mocking people with disabilities in a video that was uploaded on Instagram.

Following an uproar over the video, Harbhajan Singh posted a clarification on 'X',

saying there was no intention to insult anyone.

The complaint was lodged by Arman Ali, the executive director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), with the SHO of the Amar Colony police station here.

Besides the cricketers, the complaint has also been filed against Sandhya Devanathan, the vice president and man-

aging director of Meta India.

The former cricketers shared the video on Instagram after India Champions beat Pakistan Champions by five wickets in the World Championship of Legends final.

In the video, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Raina are seen limping and holding their backs to show the physical toll taken by the matches on their bodies.

Short TAKES

Sports Association Tarzoo Holds WPL Final, Thanks JKSC



Sports Association Tarzoo held the final of the SWPL Tournament on Saturday at Sheikh-ul-Alam Ground, Tarzoo. The thrilling match between RoyalGodwil and Alijanc culminated in a victory for RoyalGodwil.

The finale was graced by chief guest Nuzhat Gul, JKSC secretary, along with Kashmir's renowned cricketer, Parvaiz Rasool. Former Ranji player Nisar A. Khanday and Dr. Shakeel were also present.

SAT thanked JKSC Secretary for her unwavering support and assurance of continued assistance in promoting cricket.

Sylvain Saudan, 'Father Of Heliskiing In Kashmir' Dies At 87

Sylvain Saudan, the "godfather of extreme skiing" and founder of heliskiing in Kashmir is no more. He was 87.

Saudan died of a heart attack on Sunday evening, at his home in France's Chamonix Valley, local media reported. He was known for skiing down large and steep mountains.

The native of Valais in Switzerland ran Himalaya Heliski, based in Srinagar, offering heliskiing trips in Kashmir. In 2007, he survived a helicopter crash in Kashmir. (KNO)

Grand Homecoming For Hardik Pandya In Vadodara

It was a grand homecoming for Hardik Pandya here on Monday as legion of fans welcomed the all-rounder, a key component in India's T20 World Cup triumph in the Americas, to the city, waving the national flag and chanting his name.

The overjoyed cricketer, wearing the Team India jersey, waved to his fans and acknowledged their cheers. The open-top bus with the banner "Hardik Pandya - Pride of Vadodara" weaved its way past the street.

Warner Not In Australia's Champions Trophy Plans: Cricket Australia

Australia's national selector George Bailey has confirmed that David Warner will not be considered for next year's ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled to take place in Pakistan. Warner's staggered retirement from international cricket culminated with his departure from the Test format in December 2023 following Australia's series against Pakistan.

Despite Warner hinting at a possible return in a recent Instagram post, Bailey clarified that the Australian management is looking towards the future without him.

Spaniard Deserving Of Ballon d'Or After Euro Win, Says Rodri

Euro 2024 champion Spain deserves to have one of its players win the Ballon d'Or, player of the tournament Rodri said after Sunday's 2-1 victory over England.

Spain last won the award with Luis Suarez in 1960. "Spanish football deserves a Ballon d'Or winner," the Manchester City player said after the final. "I'm going to be honest, I would like for a Spaniard to win it, I don't care who. It would be great."

Blue Cubs Development Centre Inaugurated In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Blue Cubs Development Centre for the J&K Sports Council Football Academy on Sunday.

Sarmad Hafiz, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Subash Chander Chhibber, JKAS Director Youth Services and Sports, Nuzhat Gul, Secretary JKSC, Wasim Aslam, JKFA,



and Sajid Yousuf Dar, JKFA, were present on the occasion.

During his visit, Minister Mandaviya interacted with JKFA members, discussing the development of football in the region. He praised the efforts of JKSC, and met with youngsters, international footballers and our ex-international stars, Ishfaq Ahmad and Mehrarj Wadoo, as well as Javid Sofi, coach of State Council Football Academy.

The minister also lauded the Downtown Heroes Football Club.

Alcaraz Wants Seat At Adult Table After His Fourth Grand Slam

Associated Press

LONDON: Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic did not manage to collect four Grand Slam titles before turning 22, the way Carlos Alcaraz has.

None of the members of the so-called Big Three was able to triumph at both the French Open and Wimbledon in a single season before turning 22, the way Alcaraz just did, capped by a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) win against Djokovic on Sunday in the final at the All England Club for a second consecutive trophy there.

Alcaraz is aware of where many of his achievements - particularly with regard to his age - place him in the history of the game. Those are not the milestones that interest him, however. He wants to do more, win more. He wants to reach elite status.

"Get closer to the legends," is the way Alcaraz put it in Spanish on Sunday evening.

"That's my objective."

The list of what Alcaraz is accomplishing in his still-in-its-early-stages career keeps growing.

His 2022 U.S. Open title made him the first teenager to reach No. 1 in the ATP rankings. His French Open championship last month made him the youngest man with major titles on hard, grass and clay courts. Sunday's victory made him only the third man to win Wimbledon multiple times before turning 22, joining Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg. It also made him the second man in the Open era, which dates to 1968, to start a career 4-0 in Slam finals, joining Federer.

"Well, obviously I've seen, and I've heard, all the stats that I am the 'youngest to win at Roland Garros and Wimbledon the same year' (or) to win whatever. I honestly try not to think about it too much. Obviously it's a really great start of my career, but



I have to keep going. I have to keep building my path," Alcaraz said, between tugs at the shoulders of his white T-shirt.

"At the end of my career, I want to sit at the same table

as the big guys. That's my main goal. That's my dream right now," he continued. "It doesn't matter if I already won four Grand Slams at the age of 21. If I (don't) keep going ... it doesn't matter."

It's hard not to appreciate his talent as it stands now.

The forehands struck with such force that crowds gasp. The serves that topped 135 mph (218 kph) against Djokovic. The returns that

produced five winners and 14 break points on Sunday. And that's to say nothing of the speed and on-the-run creativity that turn opponents' apparent point-closing shots into remarkable winners at the other end of the court.

"Just overall, the way I felt on the court today against him, I was inferior," said Djokovic, who only broke Alcaraz once. "That's it. He was a better player. He played every single shot better than I did."

Pretty high praise.

Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion and five-time Slam runner-up, also was effusive in his assessment after losing to Alcaraz in the semifinals Friday.

"We all have, a little bit, our preferences: Someone prefers defense; someone prefers counterattack; someone prefers to be super aggressive," Medvedev said. "He can do all of it."

Perhaps. Do not think for a moment

that Alcaraz is satisfied. To give one example: He spent extra time working on his serving during the Wimbledon fortnight.

"I have to keep improving everything, I guess," Alcaraz said.

So how far can he go? Seems rather premature to start discussing whether he can approach the Grand Slam totals of Djokovic (24), Nadal (22) or Federer (20).

And yet, given Alcaraz's comment about "the big guys," it did seem appropriate for a reporter to ask how many titles he wants to accumulate.

That drew a wide smile from the Spaniard.

"I don't know what is my limit. I don't want to think about it. I just want to keep enjoying my moment, just to keep dreaming," Alcaraz responded. "So let's see if, at the end of my career, it's going to be 25, 30, 15, four. I don't know."