

Lab Newspaper of
MEDIA EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE,
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR



MERC TIMES

Lab Newspaper of Media Education Research Centre, KU Vol 7 | No 17 | DEC 15, 2014



POST FLOODS RESIDENTS ABANDON HOME

C
M
Y
K
●
●
●
●
●

KU WORKS ON STRATEGY TO STREAMLINE CREDIT BASED SYSTEM

● **Nazir Gillo**

For enhancing quality of higher education in Kashmir valley, Kashmir University (KU) introduced the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in all its postgraduate departments during the 2014-15 session.

As per the system, the students are supposed to earn minimum 24 credits and maximum 28 credits per semester within or outside their departments.

The introduction of CBCS is described as a “paradigm shift from traditional curriculum of teaching-oriented to the learner-centric system.” It allows the students to adopt an interdisciplinary approach, to choose elective open courses and learn at their own pace.

As per the students, it was a great step to bring reforms in higher education system, and change the age old curriculum.

“It was a good initiative to bring reforms in the traditional form of education, but its implementation added only woes and confusion to us, as no option of selecting the elective open papers was given to us”, Aarif Bashir, a 2nd semester student in KU’s Psychology Department said.

Asiya Amin, a student from Law Department, said the “decision making committee should have consulted all the parties



involved at different levels in the varsity, so that the failure of implementation could have been avoided.”

HOD Physics department, Prof Manzoor Ahmad said, “Credit based system is student friendly and has great essence in today’s competitive world. Since it is still early days, its implementation may encounter some problems, which need to be sorted out.”

He said: “There shall be a centralized timetable for all the departments to follow. I would suggest 10 am to 1 pm timeslot for core and allied papers, and 2 pm to 4 pm for elective open papers. I urge students to adjust

themselves to this new system in order to make it more beneficial.”

HoD Mathematics, Prof S Pirzada applauded the CBCS system. He said, “The initial hiccups are natural, but I am sure we all are trying to successfully implement this system.”

“The university seemed to be in a hurry in implementing the system,” he said.

Admitting the failure in execution of CBCS system, Assistant Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Muzamil Ahmad, said, “The CBCS system was launched with the aim of overhauling higher education system, but due to some technical inconveniences the scheme didn’t go smoothly.”

While pointing out some mistakes made by the administration, Wani said that “administration did fail in complete implementation of the scheme.”

“We are working out the future strategy to sort out the technical issues and loopholes in the system. We are fully aware of the problems and we are doing our best to sort out the issues,” he said.

“The university has formed a sub-committee headed by Vice Chancellor which held many meetings to discuss and to formulate new strategies,” he added. “The coming batches will not face difficulties, as administration is consistently working on to make the scheme student friendly and hassle free.”

KASHMIR UNIVERSITY HOLDS SEMINAR FOR CIVIL SERVICE ASPIRANTS

● **UMAR SHAFI**

A seminar on civil services was held in Kashmir University.

The seminar was organized by the students of Law department in collaboration with the Humanities department in the auditorium of Humanities block.

The seminar was organised in order to provide the student aspirants of Kashmir University a chance of face to face interaction with some of the recently selected IAS officers. Although the seminar was actually organised for the Law students of Kashmir university, the auditorium was jam packed with students from various departments attending the seminar.

Apart from the students of Kashmir University, various faculty members from different departments had come to attend the seminar and encourage the students.

Many civil service officers had been

invited to the seminar and among those Shaqeel Ahmad, who was recently selected to the Indian Administrative Service, was the guest of honor. Apart from these civil service officers, SP traffic Hasseb-Ur-Rehman was also present to share his experiences regarding civil service.

Shaqeel Ahmad while sharing his experiences on civil services with the aspirants, said “every one of you can make it to IAS provided you work hard and put your efforts in right direction. If you are an average student and have the ability to work consistently, you can easily make it to IAS”.

Shaqeel said to aspirants that for this exam one has to know the art of skipping. He also threw some light on the pattern of exam and laid emphasis on hard working.

SP traffic while sharing his experiences on civil services and motivating the young aspirants said that our state has the poten-

tial to produce more and more IAS officers. All we need is to work hard and have confidence. He said that this exam gives you the chance to serve your people and make some difference in society.

“These kind of seminars should be conducted frequently. It helps the aspirants in many ways. Moreover it keeps students motivated towards this prestigious exam,” said Arif, a Law student.

Junaid a student from Media Education Research Department said that the Law students has done a magnificent job by organizing a seminar of this level. He said that the interaction of the students with young IAS officers like Shaqeel Ahmad will benefit all the aspirants here.

Pertinently, Shaqeel Ahmad and others had recently qualified the prestigious civil service examination and was felicitated by the ICP(Initiative for Competition Promotion group) which is headed by IGP Kashmir A G Mir.



PARKOUR GAINS POPULARITY IN KASHMIR

Afshan Rashid

Parkour, an athletic discipline in which practitioners (or traceurs) combine gymnastics, acrobatics, sprinting, and is becoming popular in Kashmir.

Originally named 'Art du Deplacement and Le Parkour, now popularly known as Parkour, the sport, was developed in France

◆ Parkour is an athletic discipline that combines gymnastics, acrobatics and sprinting

by Raymond Belle, David Belle and Sebastian in 1980s. The sport involves moving through obstacles, such as walls, buildings

and stairs, as swiftly and as efficiently as possible.

The art is gaining fame in Kashmir, too. The first Kashmir Free running and Parkour Federation (KFPF) was founded two years back

Young boys are joining the sport. But it still lacks proper training center due to lack of funds and support.

CHILDREN SELL JUTE BAGS FOR LIVELIHOOD

Sami Khan

Every Sunday they leave their homes early morning with bundles of jute bags in their hands and reach the Sunday market at Lal Chowk, the business hub of Srinagar.

Scores of children can be seen in the market, selling jute bags to the customers to support their families with the earned money.

Adil Ahmad, associated with the business for two years, said, "Every Sunday I leave my home with bundle of jute bags and sell them to customers as most of the people visit Sunday market without bags. It is a good option for me to make money."

"We buy these bags at the rate of Rs 7 apiece; we sell each bag to customers for Rs



10. In a day, we sell more than 40 bags," he added.

Most of the children who sell these bags are from very poor families

"We know the condition of our families. They cannot afford our education. So, we come here every Sunday to earn money," said Showkat Wani, a teenager from Sakidafar area of downtown Srinagar.

Muneer Ahmad, a 9-year-old boy, said, "I hail from Dalgate and I am associated with this business to earn money for my poor family."

"My father is a labourer, so in order to support my family and continue my studies, I come here every Sunday to earn money," he said.

Some children said their families are not aware of their work.

"Our parents don't know that we sell these bags. We come here to earn money for ourselves and with this money we buy clothes and other essential things," a group of children at the market said.

FOUR MONTHS AFTER FLOODS

JAWAHAR NAGAR, RAJ BAGH RESIDENTS ABANDON HOMES



● **Nisar Dharma**

Even after 90 days post September floods, the Jawahar Nagar-Raj Bagh area is in a gloomy state. Since winters have arrived early this year, most of the Jawahar Nagar-Raj Bagh residents are heading towards Jammu and other warm places within and outside India.

“As the area was submerged for over a month, most of the houses are still wet and humid. It is difficult for my family to spend this winter in our house. So I have decided to move to Jammu next week along with my family”, says Abdul Sattar Tantray, a resident of Alfarooq Colony Raj Bagh.

Maroof Ellahi, another resident of the same area, said, “My sister, along with her in-laws, has already left for Jammu. Because of the rush, it is difficult to find even a single room for rent in Jammu right now; I have asked my brother-in-law to help me find one. As soon as he manages, I will rush out. My father is diabetic and hence I cannot compromise with my family’s health.”

The Jawahar Nagar-Rajbagh area faced the brunt of the worst ever floods in Valley. Almost 30 percent of the houses were either completely or partially damaged. This has forced people to start reconstruction in this cold weather. For those who can afford to spend winters outside Kashmir have either already left or are planning to leave before the end of December.

While speaking to Ayoub Grustoo,

who drives an Innova Taxi on Srinagar-Jammu route said, “The number of people leaving Kashmir is definitely greater this year. Everyday hundreds leave for Jammu and Delhi. Actually the fare from Srinagar to Jammu has also increased from Rs. 500 to 700.”

As MERC times visited the Bus and Taxi Stand at TRC Srinagar in early morning, a heavy rush of passengers was seen boarding SRTC buses and private taxis. Most of them were leaving to spend the winters in Jammu and Delhi.

“We have advance bookings for almost a week for three 52-seater/sleeper deluxe buses that ply everyday from Srinagar to Delhi. We also run a Jammu service with eight 40-seater economy class buses. Since Nov 20, there is a steep rise in the number of passengers travelling outside. Most of them carry a lot of luggage, planning to spend the entire winter in Jammu or Delhi. As if the floods have created a strange fear of winters now”, said an SRTC employee.

People travelling by air also need to pay an increased fare in this ‘peak’ season.

Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, an SMC employee and Jawahar Nagar resident, pointed out that all the rich families in his locality have already moved out for winters.

“Those who you still see here are either government employees like me or people who cannot afford to spend winters outside. The floods have made all these concrete houses moist and unhealthy, if I am allowed a leave, I would definitely plan to go out”, he added.

RADIO KASHMIR LIMPING TO NORMALCY

● **Khalid Bashir**

Nearly four months after the devastating floods, Radio Kashmir Srinagar is limping towards normalcy.

The signs of devastation caused by the September floods are visible in office and studios of Radio Kashmir Srinagar.

Director Radio Kashmir Srinagar Ruksana Jabeen said ‘Radio Kashmir Srinagar restarted its operations from a makeshift transmission station on Shankaracharya Hill and aired flood-related messages of the affected people to maintain communication link’.

After working round-the-clock, the engineering and other staff of the radio station resumed routine Medium Wave broadcast services at 11 a.m. Saturday. All the state government’s important public announcements including postponement of various exams, availability of relief material, healthcare advisories to check spread of water-borne diseases etc. were being broadcasted through Radio Kashmir.

Director General (E) Neeraj Goel while taking to Merc Times said ‘An estimation of 23 crore rupees loss has been submitted to government. We have lost all our equipment’s, machines and other important records. The building has to be repaired. I am also operating from makeshift office.’

Syed Humayun Qaiser, an official of the AIR Srinagar, and also announcer during floods says “while many employees of the Radio Kashmir were themselves affected by the floods, they gave preference to call of duty. It was our duty to act as a bridge between the authorities and the people and also between the people amongst themselves. We have passed through the worst time.” he added.

In reply to a question, that number of VIP’s visited the hill including the state CM and appreciated the efforts of engineers. Radio Kashmir over the years has been trusted medium of information but the floods have only strengthened that image.

While mobiles and telephones were not working in flood-affected areas, these services including Internet facilities were available in some areas not affected by the water. Flood victims who had taken refuge in these areas were able to trace their loved ones quicker due to Radio Kashmir’s special broadcast on floods.

“I was happy to know my relatives are safe when their message was read on Radio. Though I had not seen them yet, just the knowledge of them being alive was a great consolation,” recalls Owais, whose relatives were stuck in Rajbagh area of the city.

Abdul Hameed a government teacher at Safapora who listened radio consistently during floods said ‘it acted as a life link. It was the only form of vernacular media accessible and helpful’

DEPT OF PHYSICS HOSTS OPEN INTERACTION SESSION

Irshad Khan

Department of Physics hosted an Open Interaction Session with the students at Media House at university of kashmir.

Laying emphasis on research, Dean Research Kashmir University, Prof Sheikh Javid Ahmed, it a “blessing” and encouraged the students to take an active part in it.

“It’s a blessing to be a researcher. It certainly provides a better understanding of things around us that otherwise escape a common man’s radar. I, as Dean Research, hope that research at the Kashmir University touches new heights in the years to come. I look forward to all of you to take active role in research to achieve this goal”, Professor Javid said.

Earlier, Aaqib-ul-Bashir, a student at the department of Physics, acting as an anchor, welcomed the audience and also introduced Prof. Javid to them.

The students present, were given an opportunity to ask Prof. Javid questions in the ‘Question-Answer’ session that followed after Prof. Javid’s speech.

Referring to a question of how to be at par with students at the national and international levels, Prof. Javid termed attitude towards scientific research as the key.

“We need to bridge the theory-practical gap instead of laying emphasis on mere derivations. We must admit that our students’ attitude towards scientific research is not as desired. At the same time we need to work on it”, the Dean said.

Besides Prof. Javid, Prof. Manzoor Malik and Prof. Wasim, both from the Physics deptt, also spoke on the occasion.

Terming him a valuable asset to the university, Malik told the audience he was glad that the Dean belonged to the Physics department.

Prof. Wasim urged the dean research to facilitate research work in various departments of the university. He also gave the vote of thanks at the end of the session.

NOCTURNAL RALLIES IN CHRAR-I-SHARIF TOWN CAUSING INCONVENIENCE

● Rafia Rahim

Charar-I-sharif: At evening when every family tries to take a nap after day’s work, all of a sudden political slogans blare through loudspeakers that are mounted on small vehicles.

The sound resonates through the whole town of Charar-I-Sharif and awakes the public, troubling many.

The major political parties in Charar-I-Sharif constituency have been conducting nocturnal rallies in the whole town, creating, as per the locals, a sense of “fear, insecurity,

and indecency” among the masses.

Junaid Ahmed, a local youth, said, “My grandfather is a cardiac patient, and doctors have suggested him to stay away from all loud noise. But for the past few days, the noise coming from the speakers is high and disturbing. At times, it makes us very scared.”

“I am preparing for competitive exams and I personally feel evening time is better to study. But in past some days, I am not able to study as these nocturnal rallies are causing disturbances,” said a student Numaan Malik.

DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSON HAVE GREAT TALENT: MIAN ALTAF



IDREES DAR

Describing differently abled persons an “talented” and “important part of society”, the Minister for Forest Environment and Ecology, Mian Altaf, said it is duty of the society to encourage these people towards improving their socio-economic status and to involve in day-to-day affairs.

Speaking on the International Day of disabled person, he said the differently abled persons too deserve a dignified life by getting proper rehabilitation, education, and proper healthcare.

The Minister was addressing a Disbursement-cum-Awareness Camp at Wayil Ganderbal. It was jointly organised by the Hope Disability Centre Ganderbal in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, Education, and District Administration.

On the occasion, the Forest Minister dis-

tributed prosthetic and orthotic aids including 15 wheel chairs, 30 crutches, 35 hearing aids, 15 toilet chairs, 25 corner chairs, 5 tri cycles among 125 differently abled persons of Ganderbal district. The aid provided by provided by Hope Disability Centre, Ganderbal.

The Minister also distributed Rs. 24,000 among 30 beneficiaries as pension from the Social Welfare Department

Mian Altaf said that Differently-abled persons have “great talent” and they have proven their capability not only in performing day-to-day affairs but in administrative affairs and sports activities as well.

“Such persons are source of inspirations for rest of the society”, he added.

The Minister said the disabled persons need appreciation and encourage. He urged upon differently abled persons to actively participate in all social, economic, political and cultural development of society.

PACE PRODUCTIONS CONDUCTS DEBATE COMPETITION

● **MOHMAD YONUS**

Under the title 'War of the Words', Pace Productions in collaboration with Department of Students Welfare of Kashmir University (KU) organised a three-day debate competition sculpted on the Indian parliamentary format.

Terming it first of its kind in the valley, the director of Pace Productions, Faizan Islam, said, "We want a new progeny of innovative and creative minds. It motivated us to go for such a programme."

Taking up the cudgel of training students for debates, he pledged "We will take it to new heights in the subsequent years."

Dean students welfare, Prof Nelofer Jahan while inaugurating the function said, "Parliamentary format of debating is first of its kind in Kashmir and I hope it will serve as a platform for the youth of valley to showcase their debating skills"

One among the best debaters of the university Zia Malik, an engineering student, who has participated in the debating competitions overseas emphasized the importance of such type of debates.

"In the European nations the policies for the public good are brought in public domain and are debated upon, eventually turning it into a logical

conclusions and acceptance by all"

Chief proctor of KU prof Naseer Iqbal said, "Talent in the students of the valley is ineffable, requires only to be given a vent"

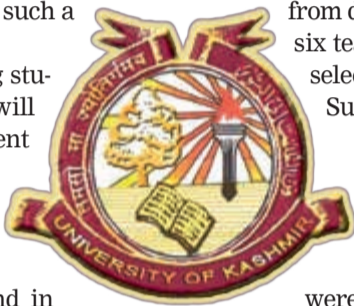
The competition was thrown open to all the academia of the valley- universities, colleges and schools. According to the organizers, they received 36 applications for participation. They selected only 24 taking in consideration the time management.

"26 teams from university of Kashmir, six from different schools of the valley and six teams from different colleges were selected for the competition" Syed Suhaib Hassan, an organizer said.

The whole debate was based on an extempore speech. A motion topic was given 15 minutes before the participants would speak upon. 23 different topics were judiciously put at disposal. Basic social, economic, educational, sport related topics were debated upon.

After three days cutthroat competition, the final leg of the competition concluded with a clash between the students of DPS and the Business school, turning out DPS to be victorious.

Bisma Ali, a debater, 8th class student of Shah Rasool Memorial (SRM) Welkin said, "Such mental exercises make us faster and surge up our brilliance"



VALLEY YOUTH DEVELOP WEBSITE FOR LITERATURE

Nelofar Jan

The rich linguistic diversity of Kashmir and its associated literature have now found documentation in the form of a wonderful website.

A Ph D scholar at Jamia Milia University in Delhi, Asiya zahoor has collaborated with her sister and another youngster residing in Bramulla, has developed another website called "Bol Bosh".

The website was recently launched at a literary event at oxford book store in Connaught place. Presenting at the gathering were several proud students of Kashmir origin from jamia Milia University, as well as eminent members of the Kashmiri community in Delhi.

Asiya is a highly educated woman for the remote district in Kashmir she hails from, imbibing from her father, who was a teacher in Urdu, and her mother, who used to regale her with folklores for bedtime stories, Asiya, first studies arts at the Baramulla women's college.

She then followed it up with a masters and MPhil in Diasporic Literature from Kashmir University. Next a Ford foundation fellowship enabled her to study psycholinguistics at Oxford University in UK, and later, she came back to her native village to teach.

Asiya says her interest in 'literature and linguistics' was further fuelled from teaching children of different ethnicities. She explains, "Kash-

mir, lying on the array of languages and dialects are spoken in the hilly and from such different backgrounds realised that knowing their first language is always beneficial."

"Moreover, due to certain state policies, writings by native Kashmir authors and poets have progressively been erased from school syllabi forcing children to see Kashmir through the eyes of European historians and novelists. I felt i must do something about this. That is when i discussed this with my sister and came up with the idea of "Bol bosh".

After three years of negotiating the toughest terrains to reach out to the farthest located, and yet brilliant, regional writers in kashmir, Asiya's BolBosh today documents languages as varied kashmiri, Pashtu, gojri, Ladakhi, Dogri, kohistani, poguli, burushaski, sheikhagal, shina, bhaderwa hi and pahari. But the brave woman says that it was as much an enlightening journey as an arduous one to undertake.

She recalls "once my sister Maheen shah, one of my student and i reached Uri, which is an extreme border village to meet a gentleman knowledgeable in pahari and urdu. we were surprised to see that he had over 7,000 books on the subject. Another time, we met a farmer in Baramulla who had never been to school. But his poetry in Kashmir was richly illustrated with allusions to the holy Quran, folk stories and the beauty of Kashmir."

SOPORE BRIDGE STILL INCOMPLETE

● **Anayat sultan**

Two decades on, 226 metre bypass bridge over Jhelum in north Kashmir's Sopore town is still incomplete.

The construction of the bridge was a part of the mega-project meant to ease traffic congestion on the roads.

The work on the bridge is going on at a snail's pace, missing deadline after deadline.

"It would take another 5-6 months to complete the bridge as 30-40 per cent of work is still incomplete," officials associated with the project said. "The recent floods have also dealt a severe blow to the construction work."

The bridge would ease the pressure of Fruit Mandi and Kupwara-bound vehicles on the main road leading towards the town. It would have connected the peripheries of the town and reduced the travel time of the commuters.

"If completed on time, it would have been a big boost to the Fruit Mandi, as it would have ensured a hassle free movement of trucks as well as passenger buses and mini-buses," said Abdul Rashid, a resident of the town.

The SDM Sopore Khurshid Ahmad Shah said, "The work of the bridge would have been completed by the end of this financial year had the floods not struck the valley."

URS OF HAZRAT SHEIKH HAMZA MAKHDOOMI (R.A) OBSERVED

● **Sibtain Hyder**

Thousands of devotees visit the shrine of Sheikh Hamza Makhdoomi (RA) on the annual urs observed in the 1st week of December.

Two week Urs is held from Safar 11 to 24 of the Islamic Calendar. Devotees from across the valley pay tributes to the saint, popularly known as Makdoom Sahab (RA).

A senior official from old city said, "we have made arrangements for the visiting devotees. They will face fewer hurdles during the Urs. Arrangements have been made to make the food material and other essentials available to the devotees." he said.

"I wait for the entire year to be a part of this Urs. The arrangements are improving each year. There are many people who stay here for all 13 days of the Urs. Arranging their comfort is a bit difficult, but the administration is very helpful and everything has been arranged," said a devotee.

FLOOD VICTIMS UNHAPPY WITH GOVERNMENT'S REHAB EFFORTS

● **MAROUF GAZI**

The victims of the devastating September floods aren't happy with government's efforts for their rehabilitation.

People have to run from pillar to post for the free rations and compensation promised by the government. The harsh winter is further making their life difficult.

As per the sources, thousands of people are keeping the government offices busy these days. People are being provided Rs 1200 to Rs 2500 for repair of their damaged homes.

"Will I reconstruct my home, buy warm clothes, or eat food with this petty amount," said G Q Bhat from Batmaloo in Srinagar.

Bhat is living on the roof of his home with his family.

Younis Khan, a flood-hit shopkeeper said, "On what grounds was the international relief stopped? They are neither helping us nor letting others to intervene."

People living in their cracked homes, constantly face the fear of death.

The government claims to have distributed Rs 10,000 crores. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) also claims to have left no stone unturned for the people of the state. However people with cheques in their hands believe that the government is spending the funds on the election campaigns, neglecting their helplessness.

Farooq Ahmad, a local from Bemina said, "The government has no money for us but has an ample amount to spend on the elections. It was better if it did not provide us with anything at all. It's just playing with our emotions".

As a matter of astonishment the regions provided with free ration will not be provided with any kind of relief other than this. The irony being that, people who deserve the relief more, get least of the share.

I don't understand what you really want to say in this very story. Rewrite it once again and be clear what you want to say in this story. Be focused.

WOMEN VOTE FOR CHANGE



● **Shafaq Shah**

Standing in a queue, with face muffled in a pink scarf - Rounaq Khan is waiting for her turn. She seems excited to cast her vote, for this is her first time.

"I have never voted before, for I had not trust in the government. But now I have realized my power of voting" Rounaq says. "I can elect my government, and I should" she further adds.

The 22-year-old wants to vote for she wants to change the government. She wants a government "who can solve the problem of drainage, provide proper facility for drinking water, provide employment opportunities, and important security should be given to girls, so that incidents like acid attack doesn't happen"

Rounaq, who is a p.g student has a dream about Kashmir, and by casting her vote, she thinks she can fulfill it "I don't want my vote to go unrequited, if I am voting, I want the government to fulfill the promises they have

made in their speeches, for the speeches have lured me" she says "And which is the reason I have come to vote" she adds.

The ratio of women though was less than males in the fourth phase of assembly voting in Srinagar. But those who turned up to cast their votes had hopes that their one vote can make a difference, and by electing their favourite candidate they can put an end to their problems.

Zeenat Gulzar, resident of Hawal is also casting vote for

the first time. Her reason for voting is simple, "I want to see a peaceful Kashmir, we have seen enough bloodshed".

Zeenat who has been advertently not casting votes in her life, for she found all the 'political parties corrupt' and voting for any party was a 'wastage of time'. But today she is voting to put in place the 'least corrupt party'.

"The system is corrupt. From militancy to the killings of 2010, people have seen the participation of government in every tragedy. So going by the history no government is good."

"Since voting is our right, and today I want to use this right to put the candidate on chair, who I think can do a little for the people of Kashmir. For, expecting much from them is foolish of us" Zeenat says.

Iram Jeelani - 20 - is too a first time voter. She has a list of reasons to vote, and she wants her chosen government to take in account her demands, and make it happen.

"If these genuine demands won't be fulfilled, I won't vote next time" Iram says.

ASCENT GROUP, KU ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON COMPETITIVE EXAMS

● **Muneer Dar**

On November 29, a seminar was jointly organised by the ASCENT group and career planning and counseling centre Kashmir University (KU) led by Dr Shafi Pandit.

The seminar was held under the banner 'yes we can make civil service an achievable career choice' for the aspirants of civil services.

While inaugurating the workshop at convocation complex, vice chancellor of Kashmir University, professor Khursheed Ahmad Andrabi, said "in next few years KU will see more and more talented youth getting into central government jobs."

He lauded the initiative taken by ASCENT group and career counseling and planning centre (CCPC) for organizing such a wonderful workshop.

ASCENT group head and former chairman

of Jammu and Kashmir public service commission chairman, Dr Shafi Pandit in his address said "there is a tremendous scope for more and more youth from the Kashmir valley to get into prestigious exams like IAS, IPS, and other central services. He said that there is a negligible participation from the Kashmir valley in the civil services exams and other central services.

Commissioner Secretary education, Mush-taq Ahmad in his said "there is a great potential in Kashmir youths to crack the prestigious civil services exams, strong efforts and other awareness programmes relating to such exams should be conducted in future for the benefit of talented aspirants.

In his valedictory speech, Vice Chancellor central university of Kashmir, Dr Mehrajuddin Mir lauded the contribution made by ASCENT group in the field of competitive exams.

STUNT BIKING CONTINUES IN SRINAGAR



Moosa Hayat

Stunt Biking continues to be a cause of concern in the srinagar city. Violating the traffic laws, minors could be seen doing stunts on busy roads like Foreshore road, Parraypora, Sanat Nagar, Chanapora and almost every where they find coaching centers with majority of girls on rolls.

Although these guys may not have attained the age where they could have

been issued a license. They are putting their lives at risk as most of the times they are seen carrying three or more guys on their back seat, while pillions are mostly in standing position hooting passerby females irrespective of their age all the time besides scaring them who later scroll away frightened.

“We often see them at evening hours and they are hooting at the people around. Whenever they come , people run away towards the footpaths. Some get so scared due to the pressure horns that they fall into

pits, hurting themselves,” said a fruit vendor at Sanat Nagar.

Superintendent of police (SP) traffic, Haseeb-ur-Rehman said, “we and the local police ceased hundreds of bikes near Airport road where minors were indulging in this dangerous practice”.

“We have instructed the police to immediately come into action wherever they find youth indulging in such activities.,” he said.

“He however said “it’s not easy to catch them as they manage to escape before police arrives”

YOUNG WOMAN GRADUATE OPENS COOKERY SCHOOL

Ubaid Jeelani

A 26-year-old graduate from downtown Srinagar opens first of its kind cooking school in Kashmir valley.

Irfana, a resident of Saidakadal, after completing her graduation started the institute ‘Creative Expression’ to teaches cooking to females.

Besides helping her family financially, she is pursuing her post-graduation in English Literature.

Rakshanda, her sister, a teacher by

profession, said “she was always interested in cooking and always desired to do something different. She never craved for government jobs. Rather, she wanted to start her own business.”

Talking to MERC TIMES, Irfana said “depending upon ones interest the institute provides one week to one month course to a learner and teach them different ways of cooking to raise their interest and curiosity.”

The institute also provides part time job for few women as well.

“women are always bestowed with such ideas but they need to be strong, hopeful and

confident on their work, such ideas need small investments and can provide employment to other women as well” she said

“Creative expression helped me to learn different methods and styles of cooking. When I came here I had very little information about cooking. But I never gave up and struggled very hard, now I am quite good at cooking. I worked and learnt a lot. I always get appreciation for this thing. Earlier my parents didn’t allowed me to go for such classes. But now they support and appreciate my work .They stand by me whenever I need their assistance”.



EDITORIAL TEAM

Patron: Prof. Khurshid Andrabi, Vice-Chancellor | Chief Editor: Faruq Masudi | Editor: Muslim Jan | Sub Editor: Danish Nabi
Graphic Artist: Aga Shahi | Students Editorial Team: Aquib, Muzamil Bashir, Sheema Farooq, Shafaq Shah, Adil.
e-mail: editor.merc@gmail.com | website: www.mercs.uok.edu.in