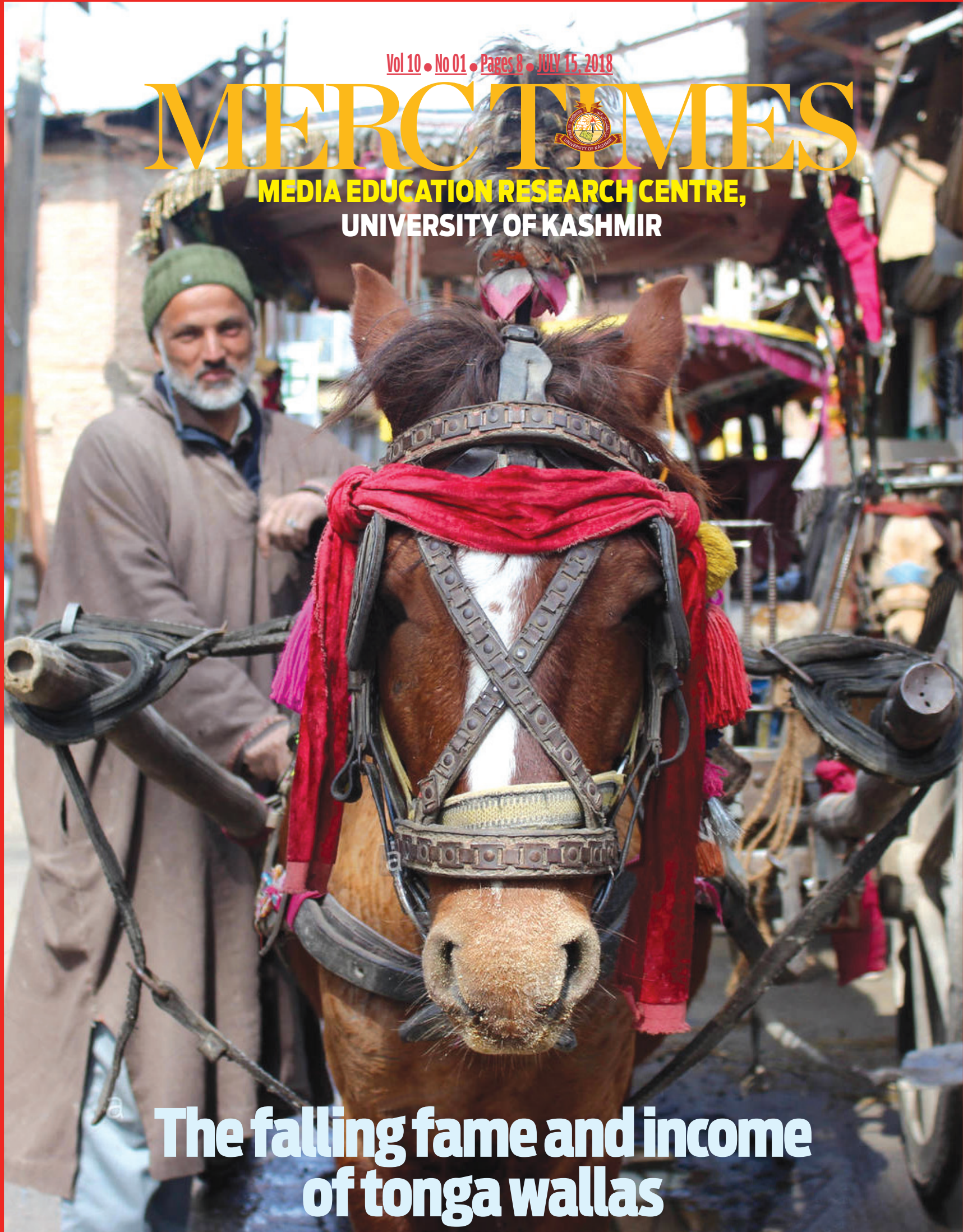


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MERC TIMES



**MEDIA EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE,
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**



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The falling fame and income of tonga wallas

Wasfi Amin
Anantnag

Mattanchook which is barely one kilometer from the main town of Anantnag is famous, as it has been able to sustain tonga as a mode of transport till today.

Amidst the densely populated commercial area, it provides a rare view to people who are not well acquainted to the place.

Muhammad Shafi, a horse carriage driver, said, "At times when tangas are hardly seen in Kashmir, Mattanchook is unique as we still have a stand for tongas here."

He said that there were 20 tongas in the stand and most of the drivers had been associated with the profession for the past 25 years.

Ghulam Ahmad, the most senior driver with an experience of 45 years said, "I had learnt this skill from my grandfather who was himself a driver. I still remember the times when tongas were used abundantly, making it the primary source of transportation."

"In the beginning there were just a dozen of buses that would ply from Anantnag to different routes including Srinagar. These buses had specific timings and did not affect our income. But today the story is completely different," He further added.

"Our lives have been completely changed

due to advanced technology. Tongas can not withstand with the modern accelerated transport, Abdul Hameed Shah, a businessman, said.

However Sakeena Bano, a passenger, said, "The fare is very low as compared to the rest of public transport. We have to pay just Rs. 3.5 per kilometer."

"Tongas are eco-friendly as they don't contribute to the depletion of the environmental pollution by not releasing harmful substances. We all should work towards its revival," said Musaab Manzoor, a student.

The drivers said that they were not satisfied with the profession as the income generated was very low.

"After working for eight to ten hours daily, we earn Rs. 200-300 which is not sufficient enough to fulfill the basic needs of our families. Most of our children had to give up studies as we could not afford it", they said.

Authorities had started a program, three years back, of replacing tongas by auto-rickshaws. But the initiative was not fully attainable, as it could not lighten the economic burden of the drivers.

"We have no savings. We had to pay Rs. 40,000 in advance towards the authorities for the said program", they said.

To enquire into the matter, MERC Times contacted the concerned officials but to no avail.

Film on 'Horsecart' tradition screened in Baramulla

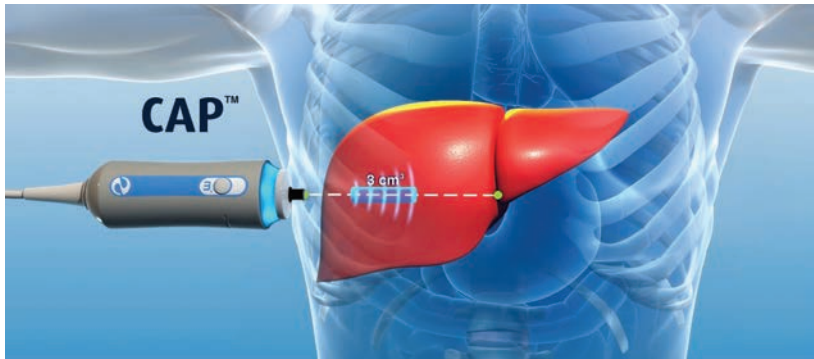
Minya Tufail
Baramulla

The screening of a documentary film "Tonga Tradition and Effects of Modernization on it" was held today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Baramulla. Tonga owners & students were invited for the screening. The makers of the program said, "the screening of documentary film on tonga was to give a boost to this tradition of valley. In other parts of country and in foreign countries Tonga is taken as a luxury ride but in Kashmir Tonga has become a taboo."

The documentary film has been made by video journalist Abid Salam. On the occasion, SSP Baramulla Imtiaz Hussain was the Chief Guest besides a number of students. While speaking on the occasion, SSP Imtiaz said that youth are the future of the nation and only they can preserve our tradition, culture and build a peaceful atmosphere. "Death is easy while life is hard, so youth should live their lives as a challenge for prosperity of their parents, society and nation as well," he added.

While addressing the gathering, socio-political activist Touseef Raina said that Kashmir is not just heaven by name, but it is a composition of rich culture, tradition and Kashmiriyat. "We need to go back to our roots and introspect how to revive our basic identity. Youth is the real potential of any place and J&K has the largest percentage of youth in the country, thus youth need to play their part in bringing peace and development in the state," he said. The film's director said that media acts as a watchdog and has a responsibility to preserve the culture.

Lack of Fibroscan makes patients suffer in Kashmir hospitals



Imania Imtiyaz
Srinagar

Doctors Association Kashmir(DAK) said that Kashmir hospitals are without the facility of Fibroscan that is used to diagnose the presence of fibrosis and cirrhosis in patients with liver disease.

Terming Fibroscan as an essential diagnostic tool for liver disease patients, President DAK, while talking to MERC times said that patients in hospitals suffer due to lack of Fibroscan.

“It is unethical to keep hospitals especially tertiary care without Fibroscan as, doctors nowadays cannot deal with liver disease patients without this breakthrough device.”

Both ‘European and Asia-Pacific associations for the study of liver’ recommend Fibroscan rather than liver biopsy for evaluation of patients with liver disease, but because of non-availability of instrument in hospitals, doctors in Kashmir end up on a compromise in diagnosis.

Fibroscan has replaced liver biopsy which had important sample error issues, subjectivity in interpretation and real risk of complications like bleeding.

The gadget is a non-invasive technique used to estimate the degree of liver damage, monitor disease progression and predict survival in patients with liver disease.

“The equipment is accurate, safe and results are instantaneous, so clinicians can make decisions quickly”, he added.

There is epidemic of Hepatitis B and C in Kashmir and Fibroscan will guide prognosis and assist in establishing treatment priorities in these patients.

Kashmir is the capital of fatty liver disease patients and Fibroscan is the gold standard for detecting early fibrosis in them and providing an opportunity to change their life style and prevent further progression of disease.

In addition, this technology can be used to evaluate patients with breast cancer, prostate cancer and other diseases in which fibrosis play an important role.

Food court opens up in pratappark Srinagar

Mehvish Dilshad
Srinagar

Located in city centre at Lal Chowk, Pratap Park gets its first food court “Arroma Fast Food” that takes the centre stage to serve general public inside the park.

Outsourced by Department of Floriculture Kashmir, the food court opened on 25th June to make sure that people visiting the park won’t roam outside the park for food items.



Director, Floriculture Mathura Masum said, “It has been outsourced by our department keeping in view the difficulties that visitors had to face regarding food items.”

Masum stated, “there are mostly students and kids who visit the park quite often so they have thrown the court open to make it feasible for them to buy whatever they want.”

Rayees Ahmad Dar, owner of Arroma Fast Food said, “We participated and got the tender luckily. Our main focus will be to pull the customers. Since the park has a reputation and people throng here

every now and then with their families so we will try to make this venture a success.”

Dar asserted that the food court remains open throughout the day from 7 am in the morning up to 9 pm in evening. He said that they assure quality food across whole Lal Chowk as every fast food item is available there.

“Since it opened recently the response is minimal as expected and also bad weather has played a spoilsport but we hope the venture will be a success. Kids

are mostly spotted inside the park so we need to take that thing into consideration as well,” he added.

After carrying two successful ventures in Tangmarg and Baba demb area of Downtown, Dar wants to make a mark in heart of the city, Lal Chowk as well.

Meanwhile, an opening of the food court has evoked a mixed

response from the people. Some think that the initiative is healthy for a cause but others believe the food court should not have opened inside the park.

“This is a great initiative as people quite often roam outside the parks in search of food but having it inside will definitely help and as far as food quality is concerned I am satisfied with that,” said Shabir Ahmad, one of the customers.

Dilshad Ahmad, another customer said there was no need to throw open the food court inside the park as Lal Chowk is a hub of food outlets and people visit parks to relax and not to eat there.

Bandipora Middle School sans toilet facility

Tahir Hussain
Bandipora

The newly constructed Middle school at Nowpora, Bandipora lacks toilet facilities, adding to the woes of the students especially girls.

Before few months, the school was functional in a rented building with less number of rooms. The school has been shifted to the newly constructed building, students and staff are facing many difficulties due to lack of basic facilities.

“We are facing a lot of problems due to the lack of basic facilities especially the toilet facility. We have to approach the neighbouring houses around the school for availing the toilet facility which does not feel good and make the students and the staff uncomfortable as it is related to ones privacy,” said Rabia Mohiuddin, a faculty member.

The lack of washrooms compels the students, especially female students to stay at home.



“We hesitate to tell the teachers that we have to go for toilet, due to which we often skip the classes and prefer to remain at home,” says Asifa, a student of 8th class. “The students have requested the chief education officer of Bandipora to provide basic facilities in the school like water,

electricity, fencing and especially the toilet facility, there was no positive response.” she added. When contacted the CEO Bandipora, Munshi Javeed said, “this time we have no provision to provide toilet facility to the school, but we will mitigate the problem as soon as possible.”

Kashmir University throws open 7 day teaching workshop

Fazlu Rehman
Srinagar

A seven day national workshop on 'Developing Teaching Competencies through Microteaching' was commenced in the Post Graduate Department of Education, University of Kashmir.

The Dean and Head, School of Education and Behavioural Sciences, Prof. Mohammad Iqbal Mattoo in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of organising such workshops.

While stress in the fact, he said "Microteaching goes a long way in enhancing teaching competencies among pre-service teacher trainees. He also focused upon the effectiveness of teachers and use of innovative techniques at different levels of their teaching."

"The workshop focused on the opportunities that are to be provided to the trainees to become effective teachers," he added.

Prof. A. G Madhosh, the Guest of honour highlighted, "the importance of Microteaching and emphasized that teachers need to create the needed



atmosphere in their class rooms to enhance the wholesome individuality of the students."

"Students ought to be given ample opportunities so that they can realize their true potentialities," Madhosh added.

He impressed upon the need to psychologise, personalize and individualize education. "Psychology can help a long way to make effective, committed and dedicated teachers. Microteaching is a technique that can be used to inculcate different teaching skills in teachers," he added.

Prof. Zaffar Ahmad Reshi, Dean Research, University of Kashmir in his Presidential address focused on the importance of teaching skills. He also deliberated upon other skills other than teaching like maturity skill which is pre-requisite for healthy interactions and, the problem solving skill- the skill necessary for engaging students personally to solve different problems they face.

He also focused on the emotional maturity of the teachers, as it helps the teachers in channelizing the emotions of the students.

He also highlighted the attributes of teacher as a 'Role Model'.

"Teachers' should work hard in order to nourish the unique potentialities of the students." Reshi said.

Prof. Harjeet Kour Bhatia, Head, Department of Educational Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, the subject expert, in the technical session elaborated and discussed 'Microteaching as a technique of professional development.'

She marked various principles underlining the technique of Microteaching. She appraised the students about various teaching skills that can be developed through the technique of Microteaching.

The Head and Dean School of Education applauded the presentation of the subject expert. The Dean also applauded the patience and enthusiasm shown by the Faculty members and the students and teacher trainees of the Department of Education, University of Kashmir.

Dr. Tasleema Jan presented vote of thanks at the occasion. Manzoor Ahmad Rather (Prangi) organiser of the programme conducted the proceedings of the session.

Tourism department hosts 'Valley weekend programme'

Wajeaha Ali
Srinagar

The Department of Tourism Kashmir resumed its Valley Weekend programme at Zabarwan Park on Sunday with a mesmerizing performance by Local singers. The Department in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages will organize these programmes every weekend as part of its tourism promotional programmes.

While talking to MERC TIMES Director Tourism Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah said, "the Department started 'Valley Weekend' program to entertain tourists and engage locals with a host of activities every weekend."

"Tourists come here and enjoy the beauty but they miss entertainment. Such programs will entertain them and will also attract locals who can come along with families



and keep their weekends busy", Shah added.

Zabarwan park echoes back to local singers once again. The beauty of traditional music attracts tourists and enthralls the visitors.

He also said that there are lot of misconceptions among travelers regarding Kashmir and such activities will counter such misconceptions.

"We organized swimming classes, mountain biking events in the past and many of youth were trained in these sports activities. Most of them are also participating in this adventure race. We have provided them with every facility to learn these adventure sports activities," Shah said.

The Department of tourism has established a cycle hire shop at Zabarwan Park, where both tourists

and locals can take bikes on rent at nominal charges and enjoy the Local beauty.

"During competitions, we don't charge any rent from the participants for using mountain bikes. We have also organized free swimming classes at Nigeen Club where the facilities and equipments are available for locals to use." he added.

Kupwara village faces shortage of drinking water

Hyder Ali
Kupwara

Many villages of Kupwara district are facing scarcity of drinking water, causing inconvenience to the inhabitants of these villages. The major cause for this is because the water sources got dried due to long dry spell.

River Kehmil, the only source of water for these villages is mostly rain fed. The river gets polluted at many places because of direct sewage disposal. The polluted water is supplied to villages.=

Over the years, villagers have found alternative to drinking water through tube wells but its water has been contaminated by the trenches made for sewage purposes. Majority of the population are affected by water borne diseases like jaundice, cholera, and typhoid.=

“The water shortage has forced villagers of Pazipora, Babagund, Poshpora, Pishwari



and Hanjipora to consume polluted water of nallahs flowing through the area,” said Nazir Bhat of Babagund village.

Villagers said, “if our villages are connected to Trehgam or Shumnag for water supply, it will help providing safe drinking water to these areas and our problems will be sorted.”

“The only filtration plant for several villages is inadequate and at halt,” said Rashid Ahmad, a local resident.

Ghulam Qadir Bhat, Executive engineer PHE division Kupwara said, “In Kupwara district the level of several water sources has depleted over the years which is causing problems to the department as well as to the general public.”

He further added, “in order to decrease the shortage of water supply, a regional water supply scheme with 4.00 lakh MGD filtration plant has been proposed for extension of water from Riddy Chowkibal to Drugmulla for providing water supply to the public.”

After 28 years, Hindu temple reopens in Karan Nagar



Muneeb Naqeeb
Srinagar

Karan Nagar area, a locality in the heart of city, that was once home to a high number of Kashmiri pandits, is again reverberating with the sound of temple bells after 28 long years.

The centuries old temple of Shiva (a Hindu deity) located at Shutra Shahi area in Karan Nagar had been shut after most pandits migrated to Jammu and other parts of the country due to militancy in 1990, was reopened in January this year.

A pandit family of five members headed by the head priest Koul Seab of Shrirama Krishna Ashram in Habba Kadal

reopened the temple and the family has started taking care of it.

According to head priest, Koul Saeb said that the reopening of the temple was all of sudden and miraculous decision. “In March this year, the family of Rajkumar Santoora, residents of Kani Kadal approached me for the financial help as according to him, he was suffering from some heart ailment and had no place to put up then,” said Koul.

“Later, I took care of his medical expenses and gave him a rent free accommodation near the temple and the family decided to reopen the temple and take care of it. They had also renovated the temple recently,” Koul added.

“I am thankful to Koul Saeb for providing me an accommodation and bearing the expenses of my health. It is really an honour for me,” said Rajkumar Santoora, the family head who runs a barbershop in Chotabazar here.

50 year-old Aarti, wife of Rajkumar said, “not many devotees visit the temple now, only few devotees keep visiting the temple yet. We hope people would visit the temple and it would once again become a lively place, as it used to be earlier,” said Aarti adding “The area is peaceful and we request the people to visit the temple”

Raj Kumar has two daughters, one son and a wife who all are working day and night as the caretakers of the temple.

The temple has been constructed by the local pandits during 1960s who then used to live around the temple. The land for the temple was donated by Sanant Shah, a land lord of that period and also owned the whole area back then.

Jammu and Kashmir Tourism department kicks off Valley's first Adventure sports event

Fazil Buchh
Srinagar

As a part of its Valley Weekend programme, the department of Tourism Kashmir on Sunday organized first of its kind 'Srinagar Adventure Race.'

Tourism director, Kashmir, Mahmood A Shah flagged off the race at 6 am at the Water Sports Centre, Nigeen, which saw the participation of around 100 youth affiliated with several adventure sports associations.

The adventure race started with 500 meters of swimming at Nigeen Lake followed by 15 km of cycling from Nigeen Club to Zabarwan Park via foreshore road, 1 km of hiking from Zabarwan Park to Shankaracharya hill top and 5 km road running downhill from Shakracharya to the finishing line at Zabarwan Park.

Muzamil Hussain of JK Adventure Sports Club finished first while as Suhaib ul Mehraj of Jammu and Kashmir



Mountain Biking Club, Suhail Nisar of JK Adventure Sports Club, Nawab Moazum Khan of Jammu and Kashmir Mountaineering and Hiking Club and Dr. Amin Rishi of Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Biking Association bagged other four positions respectively. Winners were awarded with prizes and certificates.

While hailing the youth for their active

involvement in the sports activities, Mahmood A Shah said, "the department is committed to providing facilities and right platform to the youth in all games. The triathlon events were rarely held in Kashmir and by organizing this event the department wants to revive such adventure games."

Further adding Shah said, "This event was just the beginning and we will

organize more such events at large scale in which the athletes will have to cover more distance. This will give them right exposure to prepare for national and international events."

Notably, the department of tourism provided every facility including mountain bikes to most of the participants and also trained them in swimming at Nigeen club ahead of the event.

The department trained over 500 youth in swimming in all age groups at Nigeen Club over the past few years and provided free coaching with all the lifesaving equipment including life-vests, so that participants learn swimming without taking any risks.

The sports activities are part of the tourism departments 'Valley Weekend programme' in which it organizes musical and cultural events on every Saturday evening and organizes sports and other tourism related activities on Sunday.

The aim of the programme is to provide entertainment to the tourists and engage locals in sports activities.

Defunct for more than Thirty years

Historic Silk factory at Solina brought back to life again

Haris Arshid
Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir's century old silk reeling factory at Solina resumes to work. After three decades, cocoons have returned and silk has started reeling again at the historic factory.

Kashmir's association with silk and sericulture has been an old story to the extent that Rajtarangini- the oldest written chronicle of Kashmir- mentions it. The state has been producing one of the finest silk qualities in the world with high end varieties like 'lotus', 'iris', 'tulip' and 'neel'.

"It seems a dream, and it was a dream for us, for whole Kashmir. It is as if the factory has come to life after its death," said Gulzar Ahmad Bhat an employee in sericulture department.

Since 1989, the silk reeling machines in the three filatures and their 580 basins in which cocoons used to be processed have remained defunct after the factory shut down, owing to decreased production and huge losses.

Arshid Ahmad Shah president sericulture employees union Shopian said, "That It is necessary to take measures to improve the marketing of sericulture products, It will help the farmers in selling the products.



Development of reeling centres (Reshamkhans) in the state will increase the value of cocoons. The government should also take efforts to revive the cultivation of mulberry plantation. Further, the development of silkworm rearing will increase the scope of employment in the state.

The government is now attempting to resurrect the factory and give boost to the silk production in the state. In the first stage they have started reeling silk on five machines with 30 basins which were installed in one of the filatures in 1999 but have remained unused.

The start of government's own filature has given a ray of hope to the Kiramkashs said Rafiq Ahmad Bhat a kiramkash from a south Kashmir village trenz, "It will stabilise the rates and give stability to the weakest beneficiaries in the market." he said.

Besides the filature at Solina, to boost the silk industry in Jammu and Kashmir, a cold storage plant is being built in Srinagar. The new storage plant has the capacity to preserve up to 10 crore seeds at a time. Sericulture sector in the state will witness a boom with the storage facility that will expand the lifespan of a cocoon.

Baramulla mini Secretariat victim of official apathy

Maleeha Wani
Baramulla

The Mini Secretariat located at Kanlibagh Baramulla is in shambles. Accommodated in scarce space the rooms and alleys can be seen lying in darkness due to lack of proper electrification and illumination. In addition to this the lavatory block at the secretariat is in bad condition causing inconvenience to employees working there and to visitors equally.

The secretariat also holds the several important offices of the district which includes Chief Education Officer (CEO), Chief Agricultural Officer (CAO) and Veterinary Office.

"It is very unfortunate that employees have to face problems related to cleanness in a place like mini secretariat which happens to be one of the most important Govt institutions in Baramulla," Abdul Ahad Ashna CEO Baramulla said.

"As the secretariat runs more than three important offices, there should be the better facilities in the Mini Secretariat. The institution needs to be more groomed

and provided with the proper functioning of the washrooms and the better quality of electricity and hygiene, thus to provide ease and comfort to the employees as well as visitors," said a visitor.

"The Chief Agricultural Officer (CAO) Baramulla, Hilal Ahmed Bhat urged, "There must be a special team like we have in other govt institutions to maintain hygienic and convenient environment".

Adil a 'sweeper' working at Mini Secretariat while talking to MERC Times said, "he is not able to sweep and clean the building due to lack proper electricity/ lighting system in the secretariat."

"Due to the sacristy of electricity and illumination in the building, I am not able to clean up the mess and the toilets which result in foul smell thus creating trouble to the officials as well as visitors."

Local sources confirmed that Municipal Committee Baramulla has been assigned with cleanliness work of the Secretariat and is expected that they would take proper care of the cleanliness work of the secretariat and would address all other needs of the Secretariat.

Defunct street lights in Parimpora irks traders, floating population

Fajar Shora
Srinagar

Street lights at Parimpora Fruit Mandi have been lying dysfunctional causing inconvenience to the local residents and floating population. Local allege that despite several requests to authorities street lights have not been fixed.

"Around 25 street lights are installed in the Mandi, but only 2-3 lights are functional and despite repeated assurances, the concerned authorities have failed to repair them."

Abdul Aziz, a trader said, "More than one year has passed but street lights in the fruit Mandi are still non-operational," he added.

According to the traders, last year government assured them that the defunct lights would be restored but it was just to appease them. It is the peak season and fruit growers from across the Kashmir valley visit the market either early in the mornings or late in the evening due to lack of street lights visitors feel inconvenience.

They added that their trade is related to horticulture and it is also the responsibility of

Horticulture Department to look after and ensure facilities at the state's largest fruit Mandi. Unfortunately, they too are not paying heed to our demands. They have been making hollow claims of providing all possible facilities for improving the horticulture sector in Kashmir.

A group of labourers who work at the market said they too face hardship at pre-dawn and late evening hours as the mandi witnesses heavy flow of vehicles, customers and sellers. Due to the lack of proper lighting system, it creates a mess.

President of the New Kashmir Fruit Association, Bashir Ahmad Bashir said that when authorities didn't pay heed to our demands, they made some contribution from their own pockets and got fixed few lights which are however not enough to meet the need. "We appeal the concerned authorities to restore the street lights at the earliest," he said.

Deputy Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department, S K Fotedar said, "he will look into the matter and the street lights would be repaired very soon."

General Line Teacher aspirants waiting for their results

Officials said result will be declared in coming weeks

Sheikh Abid
Srinagar

The aspirants of General Line Teacher (GLT) are desperately waiting for their result of the exam vide Advertisement no 06/2017 conducted by JKSSB in the month of May this year.

Earlier JKSSB had notified 2154 teacher posts among all the districts of jammu and Kashmir distributed according to the need and availability of posts. However, board has already declared the provisional selection list of Science and Urdu teacher posts leaving General Line Teacher candidates in inversion.

"I had completed my graduation last year and appeared in the GLT exams, now I

am planning to pursue my further studies outside state but because of my undeclared GLT result, I am yet to decide as confusion has overtaken me", Rayees Lone an aspirant waiting for the result said.

Another candidate Sameer ahmad stated, "JKSSB had declared all other teacher post results except GLT. This has added more chaos among aspirants as speculations about corruption and backdoor appointments are being made".

An employee working in civil secretariate on condition of anonymity said, "the reason for the delay in the GLT list is the transfer of its existing chairman Simrandeep Singh. Now the establishment had appointed a new chairman Zubair Ahmad, a 2003 batch KAS officer, soon the list is expected to be out".



Irfan Pathan gets ready to push cricket to new heights in J&K

Saima Shakeel
Srinagar

In a first of its kind the international Cricket sensation 'Irfan Pathan' has been appointed as player cum mentor for upcoming Domestic cricket season in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) organized tournaments in different districts of the Valley where around 300 boys were selected in U/19 and U/23 category.

During the time all-round cricketer Irfan Pathan started many initiatives for the cricketers of Valley to present their talent.

Many players attended coaching Camp at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium, Srinagar headed by Irfan himself, where he will select some players for upcoming Camp.

Irfan Pathan said "I am looking forward to further shortlist the players for another camp that will be conducted later"

He said, "the selection will be purely based on their performance and through proper screening test."

The all-rounder also mentioned that by this screening test, players will also come to know about their level of talent and will accordingly work hard to correct their weaknesses.

Irfan will be particularly focusing on the Ranji team of the state, so that the team can prove its metal throughout the tournament.

On being asked what he found was lacking in the

valley Cricketers, he said

"I find lack of experienced cricket, players are lacking the mindset of winning a game, which needs to be taken care of by means of encouraging them"

"There needs to be a coordination within the team. Team work has to be there rather than individualism. So, I will be focusing to build the missing coordination within the team", he added

Irfan will also submit his suggestions to the JKCA, regarding the improvement of cricket in J&K.

He assured that until he is associated with the JKCA, he will continue to provide support to the Cricket of J&K.

When asked about how he will stand up to the commitments he has given to JKCA, he proudly said,

"I am the son of a person who worked at a factory and was simultaneously a muezzin at a mosque, who managed both his professions so well that not a single complaint was never made against him. Same is the case with me, I will never step back prior to my commitment"

Irfan Pathan's message to the thriving cricketers is that, "there is never an alternative for hard work, Keep working hard and play for the team not for your individual self."

The J&K star sensation Parvez Rasool regards his view over Irfan Pathan being as a mentor cum player.

He said "an International star joining J&K cricket is a very big thing and great opportunity for the state cricket, as he is very experienced international cricketer"

Kashmiri Filmmaker's film to screen at International Film Fest

Sadaf Masoodi
Srinagar

Kashmiri filmmaker's feature film 'Daughters of Paradise' will be screened at Kerela International Documentary and Film Festival from July 20 to 24, 2018.

The film is written and directed by director of 'Lost Childhood', Bilal Jan.

'Daughters of Paradise' is a 38-minute film which revolves round the theme of dowry through personal narratives of four women.

The film captures the mental risks attached to this 'social evil'. The film also capitalizes on other kinds of violence perpetrated against women in a patriarchal society.

In addition of being selected for screening in Kerela international festival but for other competitive film fests as well.

Sharing his jubilation, jan says that it is a moment of pride for him and encouragement for other filmmakers too.

"I owe the success of my work to my whole team for making this film possible."

It took jan more than one year to make the film.

Earlier his documentary film "The Lost Childhood" was selected for Tehran International Short Film Festival and the 10th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) in 2008.

Jan has touched various subjects of sensitivity with particular caution in his short films and has won many national awards irrespective of lack of support on technical and financial front.

His short film has won Nina Sugati SR Award for "Best Director" in conceptual art in cinema and also won a prize at the J&K Film Festival by J&K Academy for Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in 2010.

Bilal is also experienced of working with famous film makers like Shyam Benegal and Vidhu Vinod Chopra in their films, including Mission Kashmir, The Forgotten Hero.