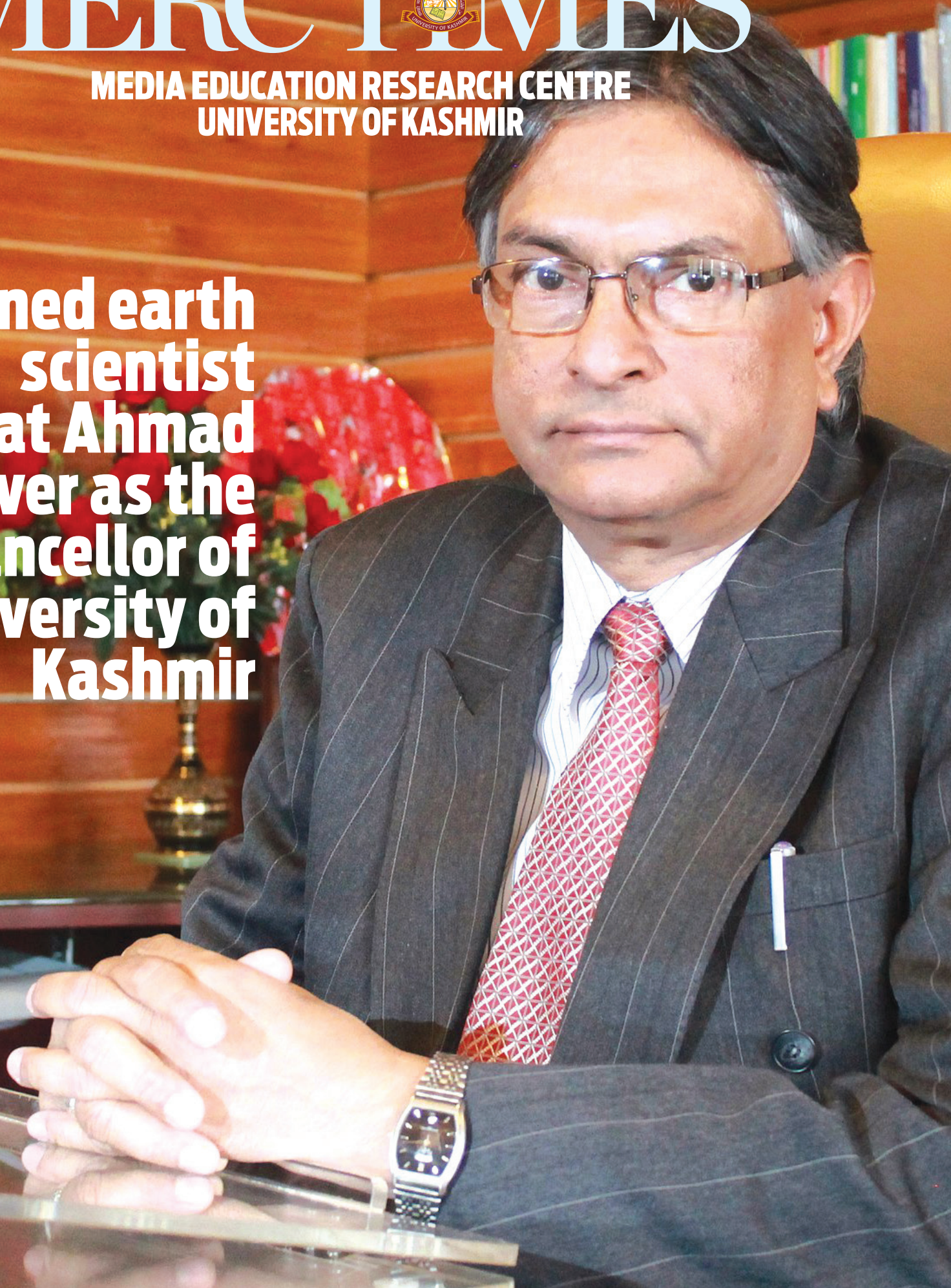


MERC TIMES



**MEDIA EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**

**Renowned earth
scientist
Prof Talat Ahmad
took over as the
vice chancellor of
the University of
Kashmir**



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Launderers' stream, 'Dho'eb Ko'l' in Pulwama is now a filthy drain

Muneeb Naqeeb
Pulwama

As Kashmir continues to lose its treasure of water resources to the authorities negligence and apathy of its own people, the famous 'Dho'eb Ko'l' that flows through bus stand Pulwama to Murran Chowk here, has been turned into a filthy drain.

The stream known as 'Dho'eb Ko'l' (washermen's stream) which was used to be the source of income for nearly four dozen households engaged with laundry business, but with the passage of time, the stream has been turned into a choked drain.

According to the senior residents in Pulwama, 'Dho'eb Ko'l' once added to the scenic beauty of Pulwama town as its clean water reflecting light bluish colour would attract the visitors.

"Now with the main road running parallel to the stream and the construction of shops on its other side, the stream has become filthy to the eyes let alone someone sitting near to it," a local resident said.

Bilal Ahmad, a local whose father was one of the launderer who would wash clothes at the stream said, "the stream was immensely attractive during my childhood as we used to enjoy bathing and swimming in it and the water of the stream was used for drinking purposes in each and every household here."

"The pathetic condition of the stream is visible to all of us, with the stream rarely being cleaned it looks like a waste dumping site and the authorities are turning a blind eye to the same," said Bilal.

"The shopkeepers, whose shops are located on the bank of the stream are also responsible for its deterioration, as they can be seen dumping waste into the stream," he added.

Another local resident while holding Auqaf Committee Pulwama and shopkeepers responsible for the messy condition of the stream said, "In the recent past, the funds were allotted for the development of stream but not a penny was spent for the same, because some people are halting the development process as their shops have encroached the stream."

The Pulwama Traders President, Nisar Ahmad, said, "94 lac rupees were released for the beautification and development of the stream, but the stream is still lying in ruins. The illegal construction on the banks of the stream has to be demolished first, only then the condition of the stream can be improved."

When contacted Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pulwama, Mustaq Ahamad said, "that they have already launched a drive to clean the stream."

"Our duty is to remove polythene and other garbage from it and we are doing it after every three to four days. It (Dho'eb Ko'l) is an irrigation channel and locals should contact irrigation department for its further development," he added.

Now with the main road running parallel to the stream and the construction of shops on its other side, the stream has become filthy to the eyes, leave alone someone sitting near to it

Commuters appeal for transportation facility

Aarif Shah
Srinagar

Passengers on Tuesday appealed Transport department for easing the travel on the Lal Chowk-Hazratbal route in wee hours. They claimed that sumo service at exchange road goes off before the sunset causing inconvenience to them to reach their destinations.

"I usually left at around 7 PM from my workplace and reach exchange road by 8 PM, by that time none of the sumo can be seen around and I am left with no option but to ask lift for a from strangers," Muzafar Reshi, a daily commuter said.

The problem is persistent on Hazratbal-Lal chowk route as students suffer from the shortage of transport.

"I have to reach Barzulla and I usually leave from the Lab in late hours and it is very difficult for me to reach home on proper time. I cannot afford a ride of my own and this usually becomes a sconcert for my family," said Asma Rafiq, a female research scholar at Kashmir University.

Having no other alternative, many commuters choose to march by foot or board an auto rickshaw which demand hefty amount of money in the late hours.

"A common man cannot afford to ride in autos on regular basis and many a times we are left with option but to agree and pay whatever fare they charge," said Zahoor Zargar, resident of Hazratbal.

When contacted the ARTO Srinagar, Arif Parvaiz Shah said, "I am unaware of this problem and will initiate the necessary action. I assure you that transport will be made available soon."

Crop epidemics leave Orchardists high and dry

Haris Arshid
Shopian

Outbreak of various crop diseases has taken a toll on Orchardists in South Kashmir after a heavy rainfall during the summer season this year.

The diseases may have a serious effect on South Kashmir's apple districts as most of the orchards were affected with these diseases.

Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, President Fruit Growers Association, Shopian said that these diseases have led a decline in the production of apples this year.

"Diseases lead the leaf fall of apple trees, which adversely affects the normal growth, life, crunch, shine, size and taste of the fruits which results in the very low market rates. Orchards in Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag and Kulgam districts in South Kashmir, have been heavily affected."

Malik stated that at several places, 40 percent of apple tree leaves have fallen. It looks like autumn came early to the orchards, which were supposed to be full green at this stage.

In the process Orchardists are left highly apprehensive as Naseer Ahmad, a pesticide dealer and orchardist from Wathoo area of district Shopian said that he was depressed at seeing the condition of his apple orchards and the other orchards nearby.

"The condition of leaves is worsening day by day, these diseases came all of a sudden after the recent heavy rains. Our whole economy is dependent on our apple crop," he said.

Almost 95 percent of people in Shopian are directly dependent on the horticulture sector, among which apple is a major crop. Likewise, almost 60 percent of the population in district Pulwama is dependent on the apple crop, 60 percent in Kulgam and 40 percent in Anantnag.

About 60 percent of orchardists and apple growers have taken crop loans under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) from banks and financial institutions.

Despite a bumper crop in most orchards in this South Kashmir region, paying bank debits will remain a challenge for many orchardists.

The expert have also suggested that irrigation at regular intervals is important. Similarly, integrated nutrient management is important for making plants able to defend themselves against disease and disorders

A horticulture expert orchardist and research scholar at (SKUAST-K), Waseem Ahmed said that these days the main problem in orchards is yellow and falling leaves, also known as Bukharat, and Alternaria Leaf Blotch (ALB).

"Leaf blotch is an abiotic disorder which is caused by high temperatures and high humidity, particularly when there are heavy rains after mid-June," he said.

Waseem further added that under these conditions the growers are advised to spray zinc-based fungicides and micro-nutrient sprays to manage these problems.

"Besides that, orchardists can contact the Horticulture Department for suggestions for the better care and cure of any kind of diseases and for better quality yield," he said.



Award winning artist turns auto driver

Mehvish Dilshad
Srinagar

An award winning Papier-Mache artist of Kashmir has been forced by the circumstances to become an auto driver to support his family. Syed Ajaz Ahmad Shah, an award winning paper-mache artist of the valley, resident of Hawal Srinagar has left his work and turned to an auto driver.

Blaming the Government for the fall of the sector, Ajaz explains why artists are continuously alienating from the art that once had a sound representation in the international market.

“Government’s failure for not providing jobs to artists is the main reason to give up. “The technical hands should not be restricted because of the academic qualification which in the long run leaves artists with no other options but to look for

some menial jobs to earn daily bread and butter”, he said.

Being an artisan who started Papier-mâché from a very young age, Ajaz has received six awards for his exemplary work which include two State awards, one national award, an award in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an award in Chandigarh, an award in International school Pathways Gurgaon and an international award in South Africa.

“The negligence and the ignorance of the Government towards the sector is the main reason that has forced many art knowing people like me to give up their passion”, says Ajaz. “The promises of providing jobs to national award winners were never met as the eligibility was fixed to be matriculation pass”.

Ajaz approached various higher ups with the issue many times but was sent back disappointed every time. “I was literally thrown out of the office by the officials many times”, says Ajaz, who has been driving an auto riksha for past six

months.

Ajaz claims being an auto driver is a better choice than being an award winning Paper-mache artist. “I used to earn Rs 100-150 per day as an artist and now I am earning Rs 300 to 500 a day. My current job is far better than the old one”, he says.

Ajaz explains how an artist despite having no academic qualification can be utilized to train the coming generation. Ajaz says: “Government is doing workshops at various places in the city as well as in villages to teach people this art. I think Government should use services of these artists to teach people as it is their right”.

“Government is not taking necessary measures to save this art from dying. paper mache came here from iran from around 600 years ago and now its dying slowly which is very unfortunate its Government that can save this art from dying not people”, he added.

Fazil Buchh
Srinagar

Houseboat owners demand installation of free bio-digesters

Houseboat owners of Dal and Nigeen lakes have requested the authorities to fulfill their demand of installing bio-digesters free of costs.

The house boat owners termed the notice of Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) as “authoritarian”. The notice directed the houseboat dwellers to install bio-digesters within 20 days.

Houseboat owners said that they had taken a serious note of the “authoritarian” order which was full of bias. Delegation of houseboat owners led by Tariq A.Patloo and Amin Chapri said, “The issues raised in the said notice are far from truth and based on wild assumptions to victimize and malign the houseboat owners’ community for polluting



these famous bodies of water -only to mislead the general public on one hand and, on the other, to cover up its failures,”

“If the authorities think that 890 houseboat are prime source of pollution, what about the huge volume of sewage which is discharged into these lakes from peripheral areas and from hamlets and mohallas inside these lakes in untreated form. Point sources like Telbal nallah and its tributaries also contribute nutrient-rich sewage to these lakes. Though LAWDA had connected houseboats in

Nigeen few years ago, but the system failed ,” they said.

On 2 August, houseboat owners association had a one on one meeting with LAWDA officials during which various issues were discussed. Among these issues management of sewage discharge of houseboats and installation of holding tanks were also thoroughly discussed.

“LAWDA officials had assured the association members that all such houseboats which are relocated to Dole Demb will be provided bio toilets free of cost after proper re-alignment whereas such houseboats which are not covered under the relocation and re-alignment plan would be given adequate financial assistance for installation of bio toilets in their houseboats and that modalities of the said plan would be finalized after consultation with the Department of Tourism,” they added.



Renowned earth scientist Prof Talat Ahmad took over as the vice chancellor of the University of Kashmir

Fajarshora
Srinagar,

Celebrated earth scientist Prof Talat Ahmad on Tuesday assumed charge as the Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir (KU), on Tuesday after he was relieved by the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi, where he was serving as the VC.

Appointed as VC amongst the three shortlisted candidates whose presentations were held earlier this month.

Prof Talat was appointed by Governor, N N Vohra as Vice Chancellor KU last month, but could not assume charge immediately because of his tenure at JMI and took over as the vice chancellor of the University of Kashmir today replacing Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi.

While sharing his work standpoint he said that the instant focus would be to get Kashmir University accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) as the varsity had lost in funding in crores just because it was not accredited by the NAAC

“While Jammu University got Rs 105 crore, it (KU) got zero,” Prof Talat rued. “When they did not go for NAAC inspection, what will happen?” he asked.

Asserting that he will “will make priorities and do” the business at KU.

Accorded with a ceremonial guard of honor by a contingent of police in the campus before arriving here, Ahmad has also served as the VC of Jamia Millia Islamia.

Showing concern regarding the postponed exams he added that he will also look into the delay in examinations, which has been in limelight lately as degrees-both under graduation and

Talat Ahmad is an Indian Earth Scientist. He commenced his second stint as Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir on 06 August 2018 after serving as Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia after he resigned from the post a few months short of his full term. He had earlier taken over as Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir from Professor Riyaz Punjabi on 1 June 2011. Prior to this, he was teaching Geology at the University of Delhi.

Talat Ahmad was selected to serve a second term as Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir after he was selected by Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Narinder Nath Vohra in his capacity as Chancellor of the State University. He was handed over charge by Professor Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi who had been serving as officiating Vice-Chancellor since October 2017 after his tenure was over. He was born on December 23, 1955 in Giridih, a small town in Jharkhand. He is the first Vice Chancellor to serve a second term and the second Vice Chancellor to be appointed from outside the state

of Jammu and Kashmir in the past two decades.

He did his schooling from Giridih Higher Secondary School. In 1977, he joined Aligarh Muslim University to pursue MSc in Geology. He completed M Phil in Ore Petrology from Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1980 and in 1985, he completed his PhD in Igneous Petrology from JNU.

He did a Post Doctoral Fellowship with University of Leicester during 1988-89 under a Government of India Fellowship and another from University of Cambridge under Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) during 1997-98. In 1999-2000, he did another Post Doctoral Fellowship under Japanese Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) with Nagoya University, Japan.

In 1979, Dr Ahmad got selected in the UPSC and started working as a Junior Geologist with the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and formally joined GSI in February 1980. He worked there for a year, but left it soon after as for him, it was more of a survey and less of research. Later, he worked as

a Scientist-B with Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun from 16 July 1984 to 3 September 1987. Dr Talat worked at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun as Scientist under DST for nine years (1984-2003).

He joined Department of Geology, University of Delhi as Professor in October 2003. There he started research in central India and Rajasthan, to research work in Himalayas. In another project, Russian Ministry for Basic Research (RFBR) awarded him to the valley of Kashmir. He served as Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir on 1 June 2011. On 16 October 2014, Dr. Talat was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

He has over 65 research papers to his credit. He is a recipient of several honours, fellowships and awards including National Mineral Award from the Government of India in 2003, Honorary Research Associate from Department of Geology, University of Leicester, UK.



Talat Ahmad Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir

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postgraduate degrees have stretched beyond the stipulated time period at KU. "I will look into the matter and make sure that the degrees are done on time," he said.

A total of 65 candidates had applied for the post of VC, KU. The post was advertised twice and the age bar was also increased in the second advertisement from 62 to 65 years. A total of 102 candidates had applied for the post which included both locals and non-locals.

Meanwhile Professor Manoj Dhar replaced Professor R.D.Sharma at the Jammu University, and had taken over charge on Wednesday.

Prof Talat completed his MSc in geology from Aligarh Muslim University in 1977 followed by an MPhil in Ore Petrology from JNU in 1980. He then completed his PhD in Igneous Petrology from JNU in 1985.

In 1988-89, he did a Post Doctoral Fellowship with University of Liecester, while in 1997-98, he did Post Doctoral Fellowship with University of Cambridge. In 1999-2000, he did another Post Doctoral Fellowship with Nagota University (Japan).

His significant assignments include being the vice chancellor of University of Kashmir from June 2011 to May 2014 and vice chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi from May 15, 2014 till August 6, 2018.

Having been a recipient of several prestigious awards and citations, including the National Mineral Award, 1994 from the Government of India, he also has been a fellow of the Indian National Science Academy in New Delhi, Indian Academy of Sciences in Bangalore, fellow of the National Academy of Sciences in Allahabad, J C Bose National Fellowship, DST, New Delhi.

Students have shown a warm gesture towards the appointment of the new Vice Chancellor



16th All India Vice Chancellor T-20 cricket tournament begins at KU

Tanveer Mir
Srinagar

The 16th edition of All India Vice Chancellor's T-20 cricket tournament started at Kashmir University on Wednesday. The Tournament was inaugurated by VC Kashmir University Prof Talat Ahmad.

Twenty teams from different universities of the country are participating in the Mega event organized by Kashmir University Ministerial Staff Association (KUMSA) in collaboration with Physical Education & Sports Department and sponsored by J&K Bank, Hazratbal. While inaugurating the tournament Vice Chancellor KU Prof. Talat Ahmad who was chief guest on the occasion said Such events contribute a lot towards the development of the universities and societies over all. It is great to see that KUMSA is coming up with such mega events to Kashmir University which helps in generating great sportsmen spirit amongst the players.

Prof Neelofer Khan, Registrar and Dean College Development Council (CDC) KU in her welcome address said that these events will take positive messages from here to other places about Kashmir. She also hailed the

efforts of KUMSA for organizing such events in the university.

Earlier welcoming the guests and participants President KUMSA, Qazi Ghulam Jeelani said The players will enjoy the tournament in beautiful campus of Kashmir University and I assure them complete support of our colleagues and other staff during their stay in the valley.

Besides various other dignitaries Director Physical Education and Sports KU Prof Nissar Ahmad and Media Coordinator Mrs Muslim Jan were also present on the occasion.

The teams participating in the tournament include University of Kashmir, University of Mumbai, University of Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia Delhi, University of Jammu, Punjab University Chandigarh, Punjab University Patiala, S.P. Pune University, CUK Jammu, SKUAST-K, HPU Shimla, RTM Nagpur, Jalgaon University, University of Gorakhpur, PAU Ludhina, Shivaji University Kolapur, MDS University Ajmeer.

Two matches were played on the inaugural day of the tournament. The first match was played between SKUAST-K and RTM Nagpur and the second match was between Punjab University Patiala and Punjab University Chandigarh.

JK govt in swift action to implement plastic ban



Imania Imtiyaz
Srinagar

Waking up to the environmental degradation, Jammu and Kashmir government has launched a massive drive to implement the ban on the sale and use of polythene bags in the last ditch effort to make the valley plastic free.

This follows the Jammu and Kashmir High Court order banning the use of polythene bags.

Instructions are issued to all the Tehsildars to seize polythene bags wherever found in use.

The government also issued strict instructions to all the ward officers of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to ensure the implementation of an order", said an official spokesman.

Joint Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation and concerned Tehsildars have been instructed to submit the reports of daily action taken along with details of the number of seizures made during the day.

"To ensure implementation of the order in letter and spirit, special squads for the enforcement and seizures have been earmarked in all the Tehsils of the district with overall supervision by concerned Tehsildars", an official spokesman said.

J&K Police too have joined in and launched a special drive against the use of Polythene to make Srinagar a plastic-free city.

During checkings it was found that most of the traders have shifted to use of non-polythene bags. Some polythene used by few shopkeepers were seized", a police spokesman said.

Meanwhile locals are also requested to stop the use of polythenes in order to make the city plastic free.



Students, teachers appeal authorities to mend middle school Budgam

Fazlu Rehman
Budgam

Lavatories for students and teachers lie defunct at government middle school Budgam. Students are seen urinating in open around the school vicinity.

With a capacity of 100 students, the government boys middle school Budgam accounts staff role of twelve having female teachers at majority. "It is bizarre that there are even no washrooms for faculty members, we have majority of the female staff here, we suffer badly, even students suffer more than us," claims a teacher, Mohammad Yaseen.

"You could witness in which condition our children study here, I mean poor lavatories make them irksome always, where do female students go, it's the matter of grave concern and despite being in the heart of the district the school lies in mess," complains a local parent, whose kid is enrolled in 8th standard here.

The school also runs without

a peon, who could maintain the institution on daily basis.

"You can imagine the height of carelessness of administration as the school runs without peon, sometimes teachers here skip the classes to buy some important items and clean the compartment," another teacher said.

The open vicinity due to defunct fences generates more insecurity among the staff members as well as students here. Recently, during a night, a stealing incident took place in the school. According to school administration, burglars managed to enter into the school compartment and escaped with important items including computers.

The school head Mistress, Ms. Ulfat Jan said, "earlier, I had brought the issue into the notice of officials, but they rejected the concern, we really wish to see some miraculous change in the school, let administration pay heed towards this concern, we as teachers equally suffer due to poor lavatories and poor maintenance, Recent robbery incident has shiver down our spines," she said.

It is bizarre that there are even no washrooms for faculty members, we have majority of the female staff here, we suffer badly, even students suffer more than us

First restaurant to serve Arabian food opens in Sopore

Maleeha Irshad
Barmulla

Ten Tables Restaurant was thrown open at Sopore on Sunday in presence of large gathering of people and senior citizens. The Restaurant was inaugurated by Anayatullah Hajni, Chairman of Shah Rasool Memorial School.

"Ten Tables" is the first outlet in the area that offers a variety of cuisines like Kashmiri, Chinese, French and Arabian food.

Junaid Nabi Khan, the proprietor of the restaurant is a Management Graduate from University of Kashmir.



"After the death of my father in 2010 unrest, I had struggled a lot in establishing Ten Tables restaurant that was the dream of my father. I was very depressed initially but I was determined to fulfill my father's wish. My will power kept me going" says Junaid.

The Ten Tables Restaurant is equipped with modern facilities, modern ambience and a retro look for the people of all age groups.

"The main aim is to provide the food lovers a place where they will find a hygienic and affordable food menu and also where they can spend quality social time. We have added many new dishes in the menu and also introduced the home delivery system which is very rare in Kashmir," Says Junaid enthusiastically.

The People of the area hail Junaid for starting the outlet and placed their trust in the outlet to be fun for food lovers. Also the employment provided for the local youth is appreciated by locals.

Sharing some inspiration Junaid, on the occasion said, "We should struggle to get success in life before it is too late. Being determined to get what you want to be in life and be focused are the only ways to achieve a goal."

First JK 'Save Youth Save Future' tournament lifted by Sopore Club

Minya Tufail
Srinagar

First JK 'Save Youth Save Future' tournament concludes Thursday after Jhelum Sports Club Sopore defeated New Junior Reban 3-2 in penalty shoot outs.

None of the teams were able to score in the allotted time. However Sopore Club took the unassailable lead in the shoot out to emerge victorious.

The tournament was organised by an NGO at Baramulla with final match being played at Showkat Ali Stadium.

Meanwhile, a total number of 32 teams from various areas of North Kashmir participated in the tournament. The opening match of which was played on June, 1st 2018.

Wajahat Farooq, Organiser of the tournament said, "Organising such

tournaments is need of an hour as many sports loving youth have been seeking the stage to prove their mettle."

Wajahat said, "they invited teams from Baramulla, Handwara, Langate, Sopore and other areas of North Kashmir with an aim to develop a culture of football in the area. It was their first such initiative for the sports and will organise more such events in near future."

J&K development party President Sajid Yousuf was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He applauded the efforts of the organising committee of the tournament.

A prize distribution was held at the end of the tournament where winning team, best player of the tournament, best goalkeeper, best goal scorer and runner up team were awarded with momentos.

JKJCCPS to curb fake news on school fee

Sadaf Masoodi
Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Private Joint Coordination Committee of Private School (JKJCCPS) has taken cognizance of the fake news circulated through social media stating "High Court has ordered Private Schools not to charge any fee during vacation period".

JKJCCPS condemning such activities informed, "these are malicious propaganda by some vested interested elements."

Clearing the news being circulated the committee said,

"the news being circulated doesn't belong to any orders from J&K high court and thus should be brushed aside."

In a statement, President JKJCCPS Showkat Mohammad Chowdhary said, "Private schools are providing world-class education system to the students by hiring best of the teachers having good experience in teaching."

Chowdhary said, "The private schools provide employment to thousands of youth as teachers at a handsome salary."

JKJCCPS said, "Despite adverse conditions

and "not-so-good" government policies, private schools are providing state of art infrastructure to the students to bring them up as bright students who can not only excel at state or national level but at international level."

"We provide salary to the teachers throughout the year. There is no way we can stop their salary during vacation period as teaching is not their part time but a full time job at schools," said Chowdhary.

He has appealed administration to look into the circulation of the fake news on social media and register a case against them as the news has a potential to create imbalance between school and parents cooperation.

JKJCCPS has also appealed parents not to pay heed to such rumors and cooperate with the school administration for any information of query.

Meanwhile JKJCCPS has welcomed the initiative of the DDC Srinagar for providing disaster management training to the students at private schools.

JKJCCPS said that it is ready to cooperate with the district administration for the training programme at all the private schools.

Fake medical doctor arrested by Baramulla police

Mirza Sharafat Hussain
Baramulla

A medical imposter named Tariq Ahmed Teli was arrested by Sub District Police Baramulla, after several complaints against the fake doctor were received by Police. "A case under FIR number 156/2018 US 420, 336 has been lodged in Police Station Pattan" said the office record keeper posted in Police Station Pattan.

A fake doctor claiming to have qualified MBBS from MTR university was prescribing drugs to patients without passing any such degree of medical science. "Various complaints were received by police through different complainants, acting upon, them Sub district Police registred an FIR in the Police Station Pattan" said Mohamad Salim, Station House Officer, Police Station Pattan.



"Patients were initially satisfied with his diagnosis, and even patients were unexpectedly increasing day by day. But such doctors should be dealt strictly, as it concerns Public health", said Anis Wani, a senior medical representative from a reputed Pharmaceutical agency. Teli was preparing to get the bail, when he was arrested by Police. Police

had earlier received a complaint from block medical officer Pattan, immediately acting on which FIR was lodged against the fake doctor.

Clinic where he was practicing, has been sealed in presence of magistrate, as owner of clinic had failed to verify his certificates of being a qualified medical doctor.



Residents of Nagum Chadoora decry for shortage of water

Ubaid Gul
Budgam

Residents of Nagum (chadoora) came out on the streets & start demonstrating against the PHE Authorities as they are suffering from water scarcity.

"we didn't see the water from two weeks" said, Mehraj u din rather, a local resident.

While talking to MERC times the locals of this area said that we had already highlighted this issue, But unfortunately, the authority has taken no action for this serious cause.

We face many problems due to shortage of water. We have cordially appealed to the chief engineer PHE to look into this matter.

While approaching to the Executive Engineer PHE Chadoora Ghulam Rasool Laherwal said, "we will restore the water supply within two days".

Illegal roadside vendors cause traffic problems in Pattan

Insharani
Pattan

Zangam Pattan, a village situated on the Muzaffarabad – Srinagar national highway where some apple growers have set up their business under tarpaulin make-dos, is posing several problems to commuters and traffic.

Although some of the fruit vendors confessed that setting up of fruit market on the National highway is posing a constant risk to their lives and to the lives of the travelers, they blamed unemployment for having taken the risk.

"Majority of the people who have set-up their business here are educationally well qualified but unavailability of jobs has prompted them to sell apples on the roadside," said Mohammad Fida, a vendor adding that "we all are well aware about the fact that by resorting to the encroachment, we are putting our lives and those of others at risk, but we are left with no other alternative."

When MERC Times talked to some drivers over the

issue they said that the apple vendors have literally chocked the highway and getting down the lane at times becomes difficult for us.

"At times we are unable to take our vehicles to side spaces whenever we come across situations with heavy movement of vehicles in the opposite direction and traffic jams on the concerned roads. We have to get down the lane to give a way to an overtaking vehicle but due to the encroachment of the highway by the roadside vendors we escape major mishaps every day," said a Mohammad Saleem a sumo driver.

The highway vendors blame government for not paying attention toward their needs. They want the government to set up fruit markets across the valley so that they could earn better, without risking any lives.

Majority of the people who have set-up their business here are educationally well qualified but unavailability of jobs has prompted them to sell apples on the roadside

Vendors seek government's attention

"If the government would set up fruit markets across the valley, this potential of fruit business can be directed to more prosperity," said Mushtaq Khan an apple-seller.

"It is the responsibility of Pattan Municipal Committee to act against the roadside vendors. We have taken actions from time to time when vendors obstruct the free flow of traffic," said Mr Rashid Younis DSP traffic. He also added that "the problem is more severe in city's central areas leave alone the extension areas".

When MERC TIMES contacted the PMC Commissioner Gh Nabi he said "I have directed all the zonal commissioners to clear the roadside vendors". "Once again I will remind them on the issue", he further added.

Workshop organized by JKSRMLM on Himayat scheme concludes

Obaid Bashir
Srinagar

Based on Himayat scheme for project implementation agencies in Srinagar, a two day workshop was held. The workshop which commenced on 8th of August was organised by Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Livelihood Mission (JKSRMLM).

The workshop was attended by a number of representatives of the project implementation agencies.

Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Sheetal Nanda, was the chief guest on the occasion. The workshop was also attended by the Himayat Mission Director, Kapil Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, Nanda highlighted the need and importance of the Himayat scheme in the valley.



"Himayat programme is not just another scheme but a mission and responsibility to counsel, train and place the youth of the state so that they can be productive for themselves and for the society as well", said Nanda.

The workshop was the first of its kind in which all the PIAs were present, who briefed about their areas and skills which would be imparted to the

interested candidates for undergoing the skilled training under the scheme.

Himayat is a skill development cum placement programme for unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir under the umbrella of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Koushalaya Yojna (DDU-GKY), Ministry of Rural Development, Govt, with focus on sustainable employment for rural poor youth.

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