

Unemployment pushes Kashmiri young generation towards wall

Jobless science graduate cousins start unique tourist venture

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: In search of livelihood, four Kashmiri men have started horse-driven buggy rides on Srinagar's famous Nishaat Foreshore Road. They are cousins and are science graduates.

The State Times made a chat with these guys recently to get a sense of what had motivated them to start this business venture.

"We have spent a total of eight-and-a-half lakhs on this project. We spent one-and-a-half lakhs on one horse and two-and-a-half lakhs on a white horse that we purchased from Patiala, Punjab. The wooden buggy cost us four-and-a-half lakhs. Another 60,000 has covered rent and GST," said one of them.

"We came with an idea of reviving traditional horse buggy rides in a different way. The four of us discussed a revenue share and business model. The UT government provided us with a scheme that encouraged us to begin this venture. It took us three



years to get all the official permissions and required documents to ply our trade. We have been operating it for the last three days," he said.

He said the response from the public has been very good. "People are clicking photographs; elderly and children are happy to take buggy rides; tourists are also coming forward. We are doing well." He said a total of six people are involved in the

venture. "We are getting support from the government's PMEGP Scheme; we were able to purchase the carriage and the horses through this scheme. We have got good support. Yes, we struggled for the last three years; I had even quit last year, but have re-joined it. We take our customers along the banks of the Dal Lake; we show them some of the smart city projects, there are so

many things that we can show them from a tourist point of view," he said. Another person involved with the project said, "We wanted to offer tourists something other than Shikara rides. We started this buggy ride. It took us two months to make this buggy. We got it made from Patiala. We got the horses, got all the permissions, etc." "Unemployment is very

high. Educated people like us have had to look for ways to earn a livelihood. I have done BSc (OT) and still haven't got a proper job. That's why we thought of starting this venture. Nishaat Garden is a tourist hub, we get a view of Dal Lake, the mountains, and we can cover all other tourist spots like the Shalimar Gardens and Duck Park effectively," he said. "Our business can only flourish if the local people support us. Our objective is to provide as many facilities as possible to our customers. We cousins are involved; we have a horse carriage driver too on a fixed salary, we are earning a decent income from the venture. We intend to expand this venture to four buggies," he said.

The buggy rides cost between Rs.1000 and Rs.2000.

Buggy rides in India have a history, especially in places like Kashmir. It was once seen as the cheapest means of transport from one place to another.

GMC Jammu celebrates National Doctors Day, honours doctors

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: July 1, 2024 is celebrated as National Doctors Day in the whole nation and the same was celebrated in the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu in the office of the Principal GMC Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta to show a token of appreciation to the Doctors and Paramedical staff and taken an opportunity to highlight their unsung achievements that they continually clock.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Health & Medical Education Jammu extended his heartfelt greetings to the community of doctors as well as to the health-care workers.

In this connection, a small function was organised under the leadership of Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean, GMC Jammu where doctors and paramedics were honoured for their tireless working in the Emergency. Dr Kewal Krishan Sharma, CMO, GMCH Jammu was also



Principal GMC Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta felicitating Dr CMO, GMCH Jammu, Kewal Krishan Sharma.

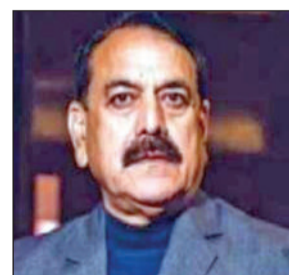
present. Matron, Nursing Staff and Paramedical Staff attended the function.

Unfortunate incident took place in Dharmari in Reasi : Jugal Kishore

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Ex-MLA and former Cabinet Minister from Reasi and current Provincial President (Jammu Region) DPAP, Jugal Kishore Sharma said, "The unfortunate incident that took place in Dharmari in Reasi district on Saturday whereby unidentified vandals damaged idols and ransacked a Shiv Temple is a matter of grave importance and requires immediate action from the Administrative authorities."

"Reasi has always been a tranquil area where individuals from various religions



and communities have lived harmoniously, and such an incident has never occurred there. I strongly believe that the administrative authorities need to address the matter promptly, as any delay will only exacerbate the issues," he said.

AAP promoted mafias in Punjab, failed to deliver for common man in Delhi

Bhagwant Mann, Kejriwal should quit on moral grounds: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday said that the AAP government in Punjab has not failed the people of the state but has brought them to near collapse. In a

statement, Chugh said the Bhagwant Mann government has failed to deliver any of the promises made during the elections in 2022 and now at the Jalandhar Assembly by-election he is holding out promises to different government organ-



isations in violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

He said the Bhagwant Mann government has promised to regularise services of contractual employees, but nothing was done in this direction.

The Bhagwant Mann gov-

ernment has failed dismally in controlling the drug and sand mafias and has proved to be one of the most inefficient and ineffective governments in Punjab. Chugh said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has also failed to deliver to the

state and since he is facing so many criminal cases both as a chief minister and the AAP Convenor, he has no business to continue on the post on moral grounds.

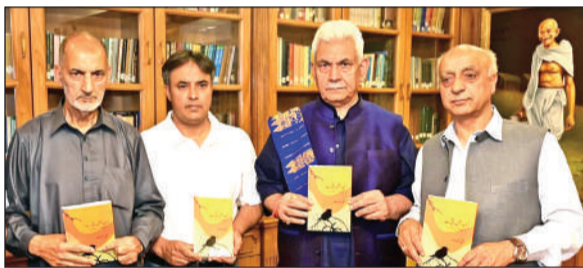
He should immediately quit his office, Chugh added.

LG releases book titled "Umeed Abhi Baqi Hai"

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday released a book titled "Umeed Abhi Baqi Hai", authored by Bashir Ahmad Buch, at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the author.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha releasing book titled Umeed Abhi Baqi Hai.

Awareness session on on-boarding local products on GeM held



STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) in collaboration with the District Administration on Monday held an awareness session on onboarding local products onto the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), with focus on products under the District as Export Hub

(DEH) and One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives. On the occasion, Trout Fish rearing, a DEH product from Anantnag with high export potential, was highlighted. District officials emphasized the administration's commitment to promoting Trout Fish and other DEH products like Red Chillies Honey, Mushk Budji, and

cricket bats. Over 200 participants, including artisans, exporters, and government officials, attended the drive. Experts provided detailed guidance on GeM onboarding and its benefits.

JKTPO continues to support J&K entrepreneurs through various initiatives, including trade fair participation, e-commerce onboarding, and export awareness programs.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpuri on Monday chaired the council meeting in the meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the progress of various developmental projects under CAPEX Budget 2024-25.

Vice-Chairman, District Development Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; CEO DDC, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; ADC Kupwara, ADC Handwara, Members of District Development Council, besides, District and Sectoral Officers attended



the meeting.

At the outset, the CPO Kupwara, presented a detailed overview of the ongoing and completed projects under District CAPEX Budget 2024-25 including Minor Irrigation, R&B, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, PHE, NFB, United Grants, ADF (DDC/BDC/PRI grants), Aspirational District Plan, Aspirational

Block Development Programme (ABDP) etc.

The meeting was informed that proposed outlay for new works involves Rs.9141.24 lakh and funds released in the month of April 2024 is Rs.2497.44 lakh. It was also informed that 2059 works have been physically completed so far and target of 234 works are set to be completed during the ongoing financial year.

The chairman took a

detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex schemes and sectors including minor irrigation, PWD(R&B), elementary education, secondary education, PHE, Health, Urban Development, RDD, Youth Services & Sports, Samridhi Seema Yojna etc.

During the meeting, council members projected various demands concerning their respective constituen-

cies including issues of buffer stock of transformers, hike in power tariff and speeding up of work on developmental projects etc.

After reviewing the sector wise progress of the works, the chairman impressed upon all the departments / executing agencies to expedite the work and ensure completion of projects so that all targets for the current financial year are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, directed the officers to put in their best efforts for timely completion of works for optimum utilization of funds under different schemes.

Dir Agriculture visits 'Snow Peas' farmers of Pulwama Distt

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal on Monday met Pulwama farmers particularly Ab Rashed Mir and others, associated with the cultivation of snow peas.

During the visit, the Director praised the concerned farmers for their efforts in making snow peas a success story. Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture on behalf of farmers of UT of J&K, expressed his

deepest gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the appreciation of farmers of Kashmir during his 'Mann ki Baat' radio program. Talking to the concerned farmers, Director Agriculture assured them of every possible technical guidance not only during the cultivation of snow peas but also the other Agriculture crops including, chilies, tomato, potato, garlic, onion, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumber etc in their future endeavours. Worth men-



tioning, the Prime Minister in his 'Mann ki Baat' programme on Sunday appreciated Pulwama farmers including Ab

Rashed Mir for achieving a major milestone by exporting locally grown snow peas to London. Director Agriculture

said that they have been successfully sending Kashmir based vegetables to international markets like Dubai, Sharjah etc from last three years and now sending first consignment of snow peas to London from South Kashmir's Pulwama district is achievement of a very big milestone. He said it is the recognition of dedication of farmers of South Kashmir in particular; and the farmers of UT of J&K in general whose hard work has gained acclaim.

Self-employment schemes, labour welfare initiatives in Shopian reviewed

STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb on Monday chaired a meeting of Officers of Labour and Employment Department besides other concerned to review progress under various schemes.

During the meeting, the DC took thorough review under various self employment generation schemes, including Mission Youth sponsored schemes of Mumkin, Tejasvani and Spurring Entrepreneurship Schemes, run by the Employment department and reviewed the effectiveness and success of these schemes in generating self employment for the youth.

Various other government

initiatives for the welfare of unorganised construction workers of the labour department were also reviewed by the chair.

The DC instructed the concerned to visit self-employment units to check their operability and efficiency of livelihood creation.

He also emphasized upon improving the performance by sponsoring more cases. He asked for removing the bottlenecks in the implementation of schemes in vogue and taking required measures to improve the performance and reach of the schemes to maximum youth by also organising more awareness programmes for registration and conducting job fairs for placements.

ARI & Trainings Dept team conducts administrative inspection of GMC Baramulla

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: In a significant move towards reinforcing administrative reforms accountability and transparency, the Administrative Reforms, Inspections (ARI), and Trainings Department of Jammu and Kashmir is conducting comprehensive inspection across various departments. On Monday a team led by Secretary Technical, ARI, Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar visited Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla and conducted its detailed inspection.

This inspection was aimed to gather insights into current operational challenges and the effectiveness of the model pro-

cess.

The team inspected various departments, wards, and OPDs and also interacted with Principal GMC Baramulla, Dr. Ruby Kishi, faculty members, HODs, doctors, patients, and other stakeholders.

"Our primary objective is to ensure effective implementation of administrative reforms on various aspects and regulations. By identifying areas for improvement and working collaboratively, and having first-hand knowledge we can enhance efficiency, better time management, and public service delivery," stated Dr. Kabir. Such inspections foster

accountability and transparency, helping institutions to provide targeted solutions, he added.

On the occasion, Principal GMC, briefed the visiting team and appreciated the team's efforts, highlighting the positive impact of inspection on the institution's functioning and service delivery.

The Administrative Reforms and Inspections Department remains committed to assist all the departments ensuring accountability, enhancing transparency, and delivering efficient conduct of official business, administration and public services, and reinforcing the government's commitment to good governance.

Echoes of green Amarnathji Yatra resonate at Pantha Chowk Yatri Niwas



STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk Srinagar on Monday welcomed pilgrims with a grand reception, highlighted by a mesmerizing performance and a remarkable display of cleanliness. The event was graced by the presence of senior Officers from various line departments.

The Housing and Urban Development had enlisted a specialized Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) and cultural team for awareness initiatives. The team, 'Swaaha' IIT Indore Startup, in collaboration with the artists' group Hanuman Dhvaj Pathk, captivated thousands of pil-

grims with a dynamic one-hour performance.

Through the "Swachhita ka Shiv Naad" program, over 50 artists and volunteers utilized drums, cymbals, and tambourines to inspire Amarnath ji yatri towards a clean pilgrimage experience. The artists performed splendid dances and songs that left the pilgrims enthralled and inspired.

The campaign aimed to encourage pilgrims to minimize plastic usage and refrain from littering. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation, along with Urban Local Bodies Kashmir (ULB), are delivering satisfactory performance in SANJY-2024.

Sameer Sharma from Swaha shared insights on

the extensive cleanliness campaign led by the Housing and Urban Department, Jammu Kashmir, for the Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024. Numerous cleanliness camps have been established along the yatra route, accompanied by various programs designed to educate pilgrims on the importance of cleanliness.

The Nukkad Natak performances generated tremendous enthusiasm among the pilgrims, who wholeheartedly pledged to maintain cleanliness along the yatra path and boycott plastic usage. These engaging street plays will continue to be showcased in various ULBs along the entire yatra route throughout the pilgrimage period.

Meeting with political parties for Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls held

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: In order to discuss various pre-revision activities of the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, a meeting was held on Monday at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting discussed

revision activities, rationalization of polling stations, and other necessary measures in view of special summary revision.

During the meeting, political parties were briefed about rationalisation of polling stations, location changes, AMF in polling

stations, and related issues. They were also apprised of roll updation via Form 6, Form 7, and Form 8.

Representatives from political parties actively participated in the discussion, providing valuable insights and suggestions to enhance the revision

process.

The ADDC, while interacting with the representatives, took feedback from them and sought their cooperation to facilitate a smooth and inclusive revision process.

The meeting was chaired by ADDC Bandipora,