



THE ECHO



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Journalism
& Mass Communication

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LOWS OF HIGHWAY | 136 accidents on NH1A reported in 2014

AABID BHAT

What could have been the happiest day of his life turned into a nightmare for him within no time. He left his home in a blissful mood to accompany his pregnant wife to hospital. However, all his dreams of a beautiful future were shattered on his way, when he lost his wife and unborn baby forever in the ambulance.

Irfan Ahmad (name changed) of district Pulwama was heading towards the Lalla Ded Hospital, Srinagar on a chilly winter day earlier this year to admit his wife. But

Due to the extremely deplorable condition of this road, we were stuck in traffic for hours, which led to the death of my beloved wife and unborn baby

destiny had something else in store for him—the loss of his loved ones, courtesy dilapidated Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

“Due to the extremely deplorable condition of this road, we were stuck in traffic for hours, which led to the death of my beloved wife and unborn baby,” says Ahmad, while pointing towards the highway.

Ahmad is among scores of people, who have fallen victims to the pathetic condition of the artery road. One way or the other, they often have to bear the brunt of what they call government negligence.

The 300-kilometer NH1A



Vehicles plying on dilapidated Srinagar-Jammu national highway. AABID BHAT/IUST

or national highway 1A has been in deplorable condition especially for past two years that went from bad to worse due to September 2014 floods. The massive landslides have narrowed the width of the road to half at over a dozen of places, causing frequent traffic jams. Besides, the uneven patchwork and innumerable potholes on the highway give a tough time to commuters every day.

So far numerous untoward incidents have taken place on NH1A owing to its pathetic condition. According to the data collected from the Awantipora Police Station, 136 cases of accidents have been registered in 2014. Seven death and 67 injury cases have been reported during the period. In 2015, six accidents, one death and seven injury cases have been registered so far.

Many students of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) often miss their first class due to frequent traffic jams on the highway. “It usually takes us two hours to reach the campus and sometimes even more. It not only wastes our precious study time, but we often miss one or two classes in the

The massive landslides have narrowed the width of the road to half at over a dozen of places, causing frequent traffic jams

morning,” says Riyaz Ahmad, a student of IUST.

NH1A has become a nuisance for the residents too. The billows of dust on the bumpy

road have compounded their troubles. “It is very difficult to live in such a dusty atmosphere. We are not able to stand on the road even for a while without covering the face with cloth. We can’t even keep our windows open for fresh air,” laments a woman residing at Lethpora.

The residents complain the dust has given rise to nasal, throat and eye infections and even chest ailments, while health experts agree with them. “We do not let our kids to move out because of fear of mishaps and health issues,”

says Shah-i-Jahan Ahmad Malik, a resident of Barsoo.

Drivers fear threat of life while traveling on the highway. “No vehicle is safe on this road. Besides, it is filled with sharp objects that lead to tyre punctures,” says Abdul Ahad, a truck driver.

Talking to *The Echo*, Chief Executive Engineer, Road and Buildings department, Satish Razdan, says since the Srinagar-Jammu national highway falls under the jurisdiction of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), “the role of state government remains limited in this regard.”

He adds that Ramky Infrastructure Limited—a construction and infrastructure development company—has signed a contract with NHAI, as per which Ramky is supposed to repair the highway. “However, they stopped the repair work suddenly after the concerned bank discontinued to fund them. Meanwhile, floods also hindered their work,” he says.

Razdan, however, adds the road shall be revamped by the end of May, “which Ramky Infra assured the government recently.”



AABID BHAT/IUST

ROYAL RIDE GOES RARE

Tongas ply scarcely on city streets



Traditional horse driven carts plying on Dalgate Road in 1945. FILE PHOTO

SAQIB UR REHMAN

“Only some decades back, Tonga would be the sole source of earning for our family. It was more than sufficient for eight of us. But now the things have entirely changed,” laments 50-year-old Nissar Ahmad Bhat.

Bhat is a professional horse carriage driver, who was grown up watching his father and grandfather earning livelihood by riding a Tonga. Hailing from district Anantnag, Bhat has to toil hard now to meet his daily needs.

“Ever since Tongas were re-

placed by modern day vehicles, scores of horse carriage drivers lost their livelihood. And some of them, who are still associated with it, face lots of hardships owing to meager wages,” he divulges.

Tonga or horse driven two-wheeled cart is one of the oldest modes of transport in Kashmir. An environment-friendly vehicle, it perfectly fits the socio-cultural fabric of the Valley.

The sound of the horse’s hooves had been ringing on the Valley roads for centuries. From the Mughal period through the British Raj, Tongas have survived all times in history. However, once considered a royal vehicle, Tonga now hardly plies on the streets of the Valley, except for a few remote areas.

“Tonga would be the only kind of vehicle available in the Valley some six or

seven decades ago. It formed a good source of income for the people belonging to lower middle class,” recalls 85-year-old Ali Muhammad Pandit, another horse carriage driver from Anantnag, adding that the Tongas would not only carry the passengers, but also were used for the transport of goods.

Tongas have been popular especially with tourists. People visiting Kashmir from various places would enjoy long horse cart rides. “Earlier when I used to visit the Valley, I would make sure to enjoy Tonga ride along with my family. The fare would be as meager as 50 paisa. It is sad not to find the Tongas around any-

more,” opines Anurag Sen, a visitor from Kolkata.

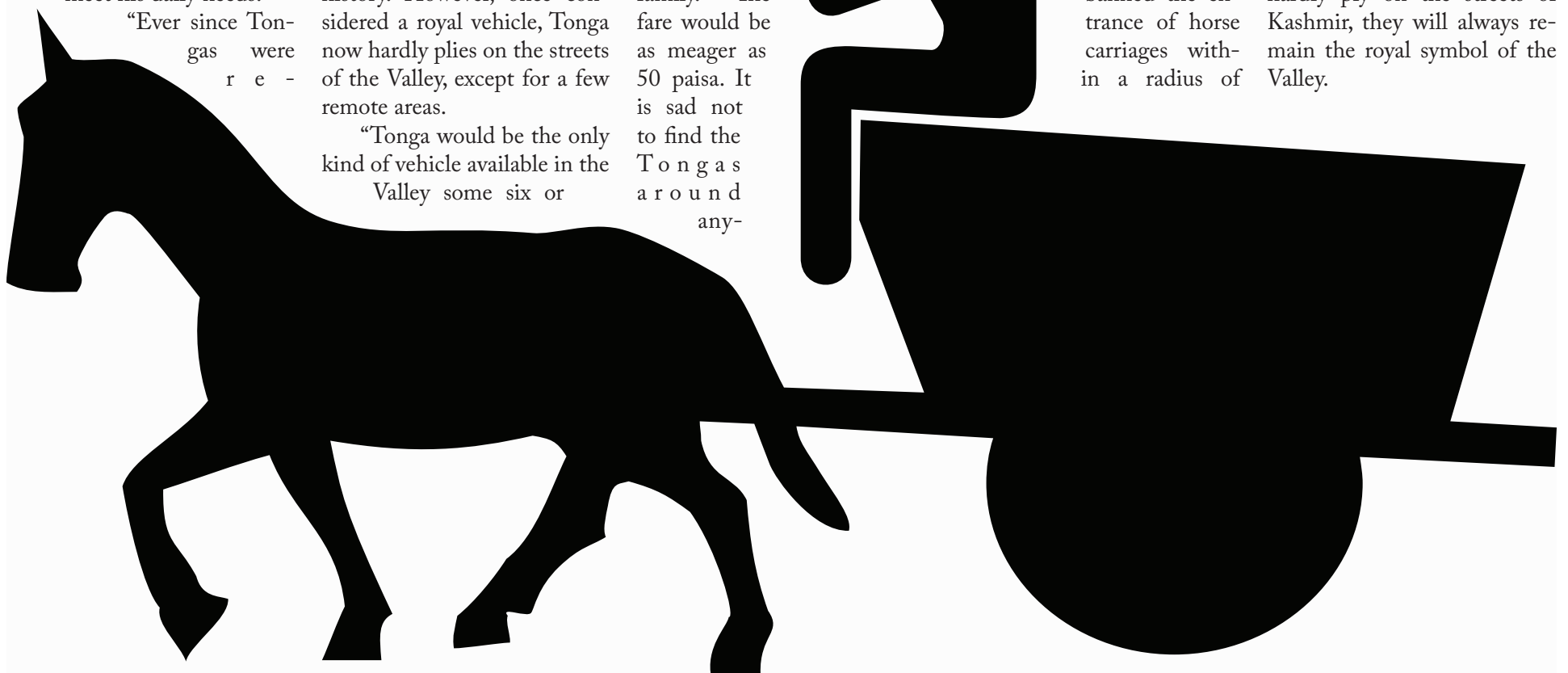
It is believed that the time-consuming factor of the horse driven carts has been responsible for its erosion from the streets. “It’s obvious for people to prefer to travel in time-efficient vehicles. That is why we have no takers in the modern age,” says Bhat.

Tongas are also believed to create nuisance for other vehicles, especially on dilapidated and narrow roads. This is why some municipal councils and notified areas in the Valley have banned the entrance of horse carriages within a radius of

three to five kilometers of the respective towns. This has also put to trouble the horse carriage owners.

The Tonga drivers accuse the government of failing to rehabilitate them. “We have been demanding for long that the authorities should provide us a loan at low interest, so that we can at least replace our horse carriages with some affordable passenger vehicles, but nothing has been done so far on their part,” says Muhammad Amin from Rajouri Kadal.

They say, ‘be loyal to the royal within you’. Even though nowadays Tongas hardly ply on the streets of Kashmir, they will always remain the royal symbol of the Valley.





MUZAMIL SHAFI MATOO/ IUST

Scooty drive has become popular among girls in Kashmir.

Girls on Wheels

UZRAT NIZAM

Gone are the days when women in Kashmir would remain confined to four walls. They can be seen now taking active part in all spheres. What makes their job easier is their smooth Scooty ride.

Scooty bikes have become a craze of late with girls in Kashmir, mostly students and working ladies. Nowadays, numerous young women could be seen riding two-wheelers. Tired of unsafe and slow public transportation, they mostly prefer to ride Scooty—a gearless, motorized two-wheeler.

Scooty is an Indian brand of Scooters designed for women by TVS Motors, a leading two-wheeler manufacturing company of India. It is the largest selling Scooter brand in its segment. Other motorcycle manufacturers also design scooter models for women, such as Yamaha Ray.

Razia, 26, says, Scooty bikes have helped Kashmiri women be independent and have also made them feel safe. Razia teaches in a private school, where she has to reach early morning.

“Earlier I used to board local buses that would often be overcrowded. So it would take me a lot of time to reach school. In fact, many a time, I was rebuked by school authorities for being late,” she shares.

“Then I thought to purchase a Scooty to save my time. Now I feel independent to go wherever I wish to go,” she says.

The trend of Scooty riding picked up in Kashmir in 2010 when two-wheelers for women were introduced by Honda Motors, a leading automobile dealer in Srinagar. In the same year, Jammu and Kashmir Bank announced its ‘Special

Scooty Scheme’. It aimed at helping Kashmiri women to buy two-wheelers with financial aid of up to Rs 50,000. This had to be repaid in 60 monthly installments. The move proved to be useful for working women and female students.

Many girls argue, the Scooty culture has provided them with a sense of liberation from the daily hassle and eve-teasing they faced “while travelling by public transport”.

“I have faced many eve-teasing incidents in passenger buses. I took the decision of buying a Scooty after I was harassed by a middle-aged man in bus,” reveals Humaira Shah, a university pass-out, adding that now she feels safe and independent.

Similarly, a BBA student, Nowseeba Bhat, 21, says she bought a Scooty, for she did not find it safe to travel alone in public transport in wee hours.

“I leave early in the morning for tuitions. Earlier my dad had to accompany me daily to tuition centre in auto. He would even wait for me till my classes finished,” she divulges.

“Then I saw some girls riding Scooty bikes. I insisted my parents to buy me one so as to remain independent,” she says, adding that it took her only a few days to learn to ride Scooty, as she had already learnt cycle riding.

The best part is girls have now female Scooty instructors to train them. The girls feel the Scooty trend among women should be encouraged. “I recommend to every girl to learn riding Scooty as it has become a necessity in today’s world,” says Humaira.

It is heartening to see women shunning the traditional taboos. With their favourite transport under their palms, they seem all set to scale new heights.

IRANIAN IS IN Kashmiri girls opt for modern Hijab

HANAIN SIKANDER

Persian culture is known to have influenced Kashmir for ages. Be it language, festivals, crafts or cuisine, everything about Kashmir bears an element of Iran. Taking this Persian legacy ahead, young girls in Kashmir have added another trend to the list— Iranian Hijab.

The trend of wearing Iranian Hijab or veil is growing in Kashmir. For past some years, scores of girls, especially students, can be seen observing Hijab in a different way.

Iranian Hijab has become a style statement among young women in Kashmir. In a bid to maintain their religious identity and look trendy at the same time, Kashmiri girls observe Hijab with slight add-ons.

Ask them what prompted them to adopt this new out-fit, they are quick to say, “It’s a blend of tradition and modernity.”

Modern Hijab provides them a freedom to look different in accordance with the religious obligations.

“Iranian Hijab looks stylish. I feel there is nothing wrong in being fashionable within the limits of religion,” says deems 17-year-old Madiha.

Another young girl, Zia, believes nowadays it is equally important to look good as preserving one’s identity. “Hijab is obligatory in Islam. It is my identity, that is why I observe Hijab,” she opines.

“However, when I observed that a friend of mine looked much prettier in Iranian Hijab than ever before, I too followed the trend,” she adds.

Some girls divulge the

Hijab prevents them from ogling eyes, while others feel it saves their time, which otherwise would have been “spent unnecessarily in managing hair”.

“Every morning I get ready to move out, I don’t bother much about my looks. Unlike many others, I don’t have to spend hours in front of the mirror,” shares Mansha, a university student.

Many young girls in Kashmir are combining Hijab with western outfits. They prefer to wear the combination of jeans, kurta and headscarves.

Kashmir, but now the sales are surging with each day due to varied designs available,” says Abdul Majeed, owner of an Ab-baya shop at the city centre, Lal Chowk.

The rising inclination of Kashmiri women towards Hijab in a modern way is seen as inheriting the trend from the Middle East.

“My cousin stays in Dubai with her family, where she observes Iranian Hijab. She would often send me her pictures. This is how I was inspired to observe the Hijab. It has

“Iranian Hijab looks stylish. I feel there is nothing wrong in being fashionable within the limits of religion

A survey carried out in 10 districts of Kashmir by department of Sociology, University of Kashmir, in 2013-14, reveals that 66 percent of women in the Valley have voluntarily adopted Hijab, while 31 percent did it after being persuaded. Merely three per cent did it after being forced.

The Hijab sellers in Kashmir say the trend of Iranian Hijab has given a boost to their sales. “Some years back, the demand for Abbayas was quite low in

been six months now,” says Falaq, who teaches in a private school.

They may have their own reasons to observe Hijab. The fact is the veil adds to the beauty of the most beautiful creation of the Almighty.



Floods hit Kashmir tourism

Arrival of tourists falls to lowest decline

UMMAR M DAR/
ISHTIYAQ MAGRAY

Known for the splendor of its landscape and water bodies, Kashmir is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world. For decades the Valley has been attracting tourists from every nook and corner. This is why the tourism sector has been the largest employment provider in the Valley.

However, the devastating floods of September 2014 have been harsh enough to badly hit Kashmir tourism with the footfall receding to a record

low. With arrival of tourists falling to the lowest decline, tourism players have suffered huge losses. Most of the properties associated with tourism influx in and around Srinagar city have been annihilated by the floods.

“The losses suffered by the Valley-based tourism traders in the backdrop of flood fury are very huge, for there has been a steep decline in the number of tourists visiting the Valley,” laments Tariq Ahmad Shah, a travel agent.

According to the Quick Random Survey undertaken by Assocham Social Development Foundation (ASDF) in the Valley, the tourism sector has been hit to the extent of

55 percent owing to floods. The Assocham reported 70-75 percent cancellation of hotel rooms, airlines and trains in Kashmir.

The Assocham report also figures out that the people who make their livelihood on tourism sector are badly affected. They earn enough money in six months to make a living all through the year, which, however, has taken a hit.

According to official estimates, in comparison to 1900 tourists (per day) in November 2013, merely 600-800 tourists visited the Valley per day in November 2014.

“Floods affected the occupancy rates too to a large extent. Tourists

opted for safer places like Goa, Nanttal, Rajasthan, Karela and others for holidaying,” says Mushtaq Ahmad, a hotelier.

Even as the famous ski resorts Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg remained unaffected from floods, there has been less influx of tourists to these places as well.

Reportedly, 7.36 lakh tourists visited Kashmir in 2010, including 23,000 foreigners. In 2011, it touched the 10 lakh mark. During 2012-2013, the state witnessed 70 percent increase in tourist flow indicating the growth and development in tourism industry. However, September floods played a spoilsport.



Boulevard Road wearing a deserted look. MUZAMMIL SHAFI MATOO/ IUST

Gloomy Bloom

SAJID ALI

Come spring and flowers come into full bloom. But this year it has been a gloomy spring for flower growers. While devastating floods of September 2014 did not spare any sector of economy in Kashmir, floriculture has been no exception.

Floriculture has been one of worst hit businesses of last year's floods. According to official estimates, the sector has suffered a loss of Rs 17 crore due to the floods, whereas the Valley-based flower growers' association claims that the losses could be much more.

Talking to *The Echo*, the president of the association, Mushtaq Ahmad, said the floods washed away most of their flower nurseries and

green houses, particularly in Srinagar and Badgam districts. The floods damaged seeds, saplings and plants of various precious flowers, which remained under water for a couple of weeks.

“As if floods were not enough, the incessant rains of February and March did further damage,” he said.

Nearly 160 families residing in the areas of Nowpora, Khayam, Alamdar Colony and adjoining areas in Srinagar city are associated with the business. “Due to the huge losses we have suffered and steep slump in the market, we are on the verge of starvation,” said a flower vendor, who has put up his stall at Lal Chowk area of the city.

The flower growers and vendors further said the concerned authorities had assessed the losses and even promised



A flower vendor awaiting customers at Lal Chowk, Srinagar. SAJID ALI/ IUST

them a fair compensation, “but to no avail.”

“All we have been provided with is a meager sum ranging between Rs 2300 and Rs 3800 each, where as each grower has suffered a loss of over Rs one lakh,” lamented Ghulam Hassan, a flower grower.

“If authorities shall continuously be reluctant to compensate us, we will have no option but to take to the streets along with our families,” he said.

When contacted, Director Floriculture Sunil Misri said they had assessed the situation

soon after the floods and sent the report to floriculture ministry. “Now it is up to them to announce a package for the flower growers. We have done our job,” he said, adding that the government might soon come up with some relief for the farmers.

'Food preservation no more a challenge'

MIR BURHAN/
SHOWKET RASHID

With an aim to boost food industry of Kashmir, the department of Food Technology was set up in 2006. Dedicated to bring a change in the traditional food industry of Kashmir, the department offered B.Tech and Masters courses in food technology.

In Kashmir, most of the population is associated with food production. However, food preservation has always remained a challenge for the Valley. There has been a dire need to have food engineers to serve the industry in this regard. In this backdrop, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), took the step of setting up the Food Technology department.

"As production of food is important, so is its preservation," says Suman Vikas, Assistant Professor, department of Food Technology.

"We are living in a place, where on one hand a huge quantity of food goes waste and on the other thousands of people die hungry. The need of the hour is to take necessary measures for the preservation of the food," he suggests.

The department is equipped with two research

laboratories and three student laboratories to provide training of food processing to students. It is planning to offer PhD programme in food technology in near future.

Where University of Kashmir and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) have been producing food technocrats, IUST too is not lagging behind. Every year the department produces a good number of food engineers to serve the food industry of state as well as other parts of the world.

"We are glad that our students are doing well in the field. A number of ex-students have set up their own small-scale food units. Then a large number of students are working in foreign countries, like Saudi Arabia," shares Vikas.

Food industry is believed to have begun flourish in Kashmir, since some Valley-based colleges too



A food technology student working in departmental laboratory. MIR BURHAN/ IUST

offer food technology courses. "Food technology has a dynamic scope in Kashmir. Here you get to serve hundreds of people on a single occasion," says a food technologist.

Kashmir is known for producing diverse varieties of cuisines, pickles, spices and bakery products. Food technologists believe that the initiatives taken by people to set up their own food industrial units shall prove useful to the food industry, and can also help tackle unemployment in the Valley.

CAMPUS TALENT

Budding footballer dreams big

MOHSIN HUSSAIN

When he was a child, he dreamed of playing for Manchester United. As a teenager, he made it a routine to play football in his school. By the time he graduated, he had already played at national level.

Syed Fakhar Imam Geelani, a budding footballer from Srinagar, is a Journalism and Mass Communication student at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). Born with an innate quality of playing football, Fakhar, 23, joined journalism course in 2013 to please his parents.

"Football is my first love. Journalism happened by chance," shares Fakhar, with an impish smile on his face.

Though he enjoys his stay in the department, he says, football is what he is actually made for. A staunch supporter of Uruguay—a professional footballer, Luis Suárez, Fakhar dreams of playing the highest national league Santosh trophy, while representing J&K state.

Fakhar played his first football match for an inter-house tournament at Tyndale Biscoe School, Srinagar, in 2003. "This is where from I imbibed the knack for playing football. After our team won the tournament, I pledged to pursue my career in football," he recalls.

While he was studying in 11th grade, he joined Iqbal Academy of Iqbal Sports Club—the biggest private club in Srinagar offering football coaching.

"This is how I was selected to play for Iqbal Sports team. I played at super-division level, the

highest league of J&K Football association," says Fakhar.

Later he played for Young Maharaja Football Club, Srinagar, which he is still a member of. In 2012, Fakhar was selected to play at national level for University of Kashmir in inter-university tournament held at Haryana. After he got admission in IUST, he represented the university at national level in an inter-university north zone championship. In another tournament organised by Directorate of Physical Education, IUST, namely 'IUST Futsal', Fakhar was adjudged 'player of the tournament'.

Noted author, Norman Vincent Peale has said, "You can succeed at almost anything for which you have limitless enthusiasm. The world belongs to the enthusiastic." This is what Fakhar believes in. And this is what makes him believe his dreams.



Syed Fakhar Geelani

Around the campus



AICTE team visits Polytechnic College

A three-member team from the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) visited the Government Polytechnic College, IUST, on March 21 following a proposal sent to them by the latter to approve its various polytechnic courses.

The team visited the campus to inspect the infrastructure and interact with the teaching staff.

The college principle,

Er SSA Ruffai informed the team that the college was sharing its laboratories with B.Tech departments, "which we shall continue even after we have our own department."

Talking to *The Echo*, Er Ruffai said they had been waiting for the AICTE approval for past two years. "The team was satisfied with the college infrastructure and the facilities provided to the students," he said.



Journalism students visit Kashmir Times

As part of its series of field visits to media organisations, the department of Journalism and Mass Communication organised a field visit for second semester students to *Kashmir Times* office, Srinagar, on April 13.

The purpose of the visit was to apprise the students of functioning of various departments of a newspaper organisation. The students visited various sections of the organisation, including news room, technical section and business department.

They also had an interaction with Zahoor Ahmad Malik, senior editor of the organisation. Malik shared his journalism experiences with the students and also briefed them about the challenges faced by journalists in Kashmir.

The students said the visit proved useful to them, "as it helped us to understand about how a newspaper organisation functions." They added that they expected more of such visits in future.



Journalism students attend FAEA-WISCOMP workshop



The students of Journalism and Mass communication department attended a three-day workshop on 'Media and Peace Journalism' on December 27-29, 2014 at Lodi Road, New Delhi.

The workshop was organised in collaboration by Delhi-based NGOs, Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) and Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP) for journalism students. The aim of the workshop was to bring together budding journalists from Delhi and Kashmir to have an understanding of peace journalism.

Students from University of Kashmir's Media Education Research Centre,

Jamia Milia Islamia and Delhi University also participated in the workshop. The students discussed Kashmir conflict at length. "The workshop helped to clear the misconceptions of students from Delhi about the Kashmir conflict," said Muzzamil Shafi, an IUST student.

Prominent journalists of the country deliberated upon topics like conflict, peace journalism and role of journalist to make a way for peace. "After interacting with and listening to the journalists, I realised that journalism is not confined to class rooms and news organisations, but is beyond that," Muhammad Faheem, a participant from IUST said.

IUFA organises lecture on income tax management

The Islamic University Faculty Association (IUFA) organised one-hour expert lecture on income tax management on March 17. The lecture was delivered by Prof Bashir Ahmad Joo from the Business School, University of Kashmir.

Prof Joo deliberated upon the methods commonly used by tax payers to minimize tax liability and various sections of tax law.

The lecture was attended by the faculty from various departments of the university. "It was quite a useful session. Through this lecture, we came to know about various methods to minimize tax liability, like tax avoidance, tax evasion, tax management, tax planning and so on," said a faculty member.

IUST to hold first convocation soon

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) is going to hold its first convocation later this year. The students who have been declared qualified for M.A, M.Sc, MBA, BBA and B.Tech degrees between 2007 and 2013 shall be conferred their degree certificates. The eligible candidates have been advised to get themselves registered for attending the convocation.

Valley catches online shopping fever

RIYAZ BHAT

In an age when time has become the rarest commodity, shopping is seen as a tedious task. Visiting several shops for a single product is no longer enjoyed by the current generation. In order to save their time, they have, thus, switched to online shopping.

Online shopping or e-shopping is developing as a trend in Kashmir. The advent of shopping websites has made shopping easy, convenient and hassle-free. "Online shopping is the need of the

hour. It saves our time as well as energy," says Shaista Khan, an online shopper.

The growth of online shopping has been characterised by strong consumer demands, and the type and variety of goods available. Online stores offer the products of all kinds under one roof called Internet, which sometimes are not available in traditional markets. Be it jewellery, outfits, gadgets, books or home appliances, all one needs is a click to order his favourite product.

"Here, you can get every kind of product without even stepping out of the home.

With advanced technology

Online shopping is the need of the hour. It saves our time as well as energy

available, shopping at one's own doorstep has become

a reality," says Muhammad Khalid of Bagh-i-Mehtab.

Online products are believed to be more affordable than the products sold in markets. "Besides, we enjoy a lot of benefits through online shopping, like heavy discounts, guarantee on products, etc, whereas the traditional shopkeepers usually provide a maximum of 20 percent discount during off-season," says Feroz Ahmad Bhat of Pantha Chowk.

Online shopping has given shoppers the liberty to choose a product from a number of stores. The most popular shopping websites among

the young e-shoppers are *Flipkart, Ebay, Jabong, Myantra* and *Amazon*.

The trend of online stores is believed to have affected the business of shopkeepers to some extent. "Since online stores offer various benefits on their products, I was compelled to offer guarantee and warranty on all the products, so as to stay in business," says Mehraj ud din, a shopkeeper at Lasjan.

Experts believe the trend of online shopping shall increase in future. Even some noted companies have started their online stores to expand their market base.

SUGGESTION BOX

As told to Syed Kaiser Andrabi

Hygiene is very important for good health. So, proper hygiene needs to be maintained in the canteen.

Aamir Ali,
Department of
Journalism and Mass
Communication

Technical assistants should be made available in the laboratories. There is always some risk involved when students handle the equipments on their own.

Muzammil Yehya,
B.Tech Department

There should be separate laboratories for Government Polytechnic College, IUST, and B.Tech department.

B.Tech students

A television studio should be set up in the campus on the lines of radio studio.

Journalism students

There is a need to have a sports ground in the university, where at least inter-university level tournaments can be played.

Aamir Yaseen,
B.Tech, Electronics
and
Communication

Apart from central library, the university should also have a reading room for students.

Ifra Aalam
Department of
International Relations



Carving Splendour

Stone carving is an ancient and one of the most popular arts of Kashmir. The inception of the art in the Valley dates back to many centuries ago. Earlier, people used to carve stones into sculptors. The ancient impure lime stone, Devri, which is extracted from the earth at several parts of Kashmir, is used even present. The stone can be moulded into any form or shape to prepare various products. However, the demand for the products made of stone has declined to a large extent.



PHOTOS BY RIYAZ BHAT



The Echo

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