

Good Morning Kashmir

Office of LG J&K
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Peace is the first step in the journey of development. And, we do not believe in buying peace but in establishing peace. There is no distinction in policy & intent. Discriminatory policies imposed for 70 years are gone & citizens are getting equal opportunities for development.

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JULY RAINFALL Sgr Breaks All Previous Records

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Amid the frequent wet spells in Jammu and Kashmir this month, the summer capital of the Union Territory—Srinagar has broken all previous records as for the first time since 1891, the station has received a precipitation of 187.2 mm.

It has been after 131 years that Srinagar has witnessed such a huge precipitation in July month.

Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng said that Srinagar records wettest •P-02

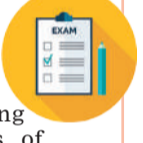


DAK Demands NEET-DM Exam Center In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday has demanded to set up National Eligibility cum Entrance test (NEET) center for DM/MCh courses in Kashmir.

“That would bring relief to hundreds of aspiring candidates who are appearing for various super speciality courses,” said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said with no center in Kashmir, the aspirations of doctors in the valley are under the threat of going down •P-02



Transformation Of J&K In Less Than 4 Years Phenomenal: LG

Says People Have Freedom To Live Their Life As They Desire

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir UT in less than four years has been phenomenal.

Addressing a roundtable discussion on development scenario in Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor shared the stellar journey of Jammu Kashmir towards peace, prosperity and unprecedented development.

“The transformation of J&K UT in less than four years has been phenomenal. We have decimated discriminatory system prevalent for almost seven-decades and implemented inclusive policies that fostered development and touched the lives of millions. People have freedom to live their life as they desire, rather than dictated by others,” the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the reforms introduced by the government to establish a peaceful and conducive environment empowering the citizens of Jammu Kashmir.



“For the first time after independence, the common citizen of J&K can think freely and express their feelings without any fear from separatist-terrorist network. It is one of the biggest transformations common man is witnessing under leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji,” the Lt Governor said.

He said, apart from fast economic development and unparalleled growth with

“LG’S MULAQAAT” LG Interacts With Citizens, Addresses Their Grievances

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday interacted with the citizens who had registered their grievances on JKIGRAMS, during “LG’s Mulaqaat” at the Civil Secretariat.

The Lt Governor also reviewed action taken by the Deputy Commissioners and concerned officers •P-02

equity, there is a rapid social change which is reflected in day to day lives of common citizens. There is growing aspiration in the society to excel, he added.

“Peace is the first step in the journey of development. And, we do not believe in buying peace but in establishing peace. There is no distinction in policy and intent. Discriminatory policies imposed for 70 years are gone and citizens are getting equal opportunities for development,” the Lt Governor observed.

He said, the peaceful conduct of the G20 summit, Muharram procession being taken out in Kashmir after 34 years, revival of cinemas, unprecedented tourists visiting J&K UT has sent the message that J&K is on the move.

Sh Ram Madhav, President India Foundation; Sh B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog; Sh Alok Bansal, Director, India Foundation; Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), eminent personalities, experts, senior functionaries and members of India Foundation shared •P-02

BJP Ready For ULB, Panchayat Elections In J&K: Raina

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is ready to face Urban Local bodies (ULBs) and Panchayat elections in the Jammu & Kashmir, stated Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP.

J&K BJP President Sh. Ravinder Raina along with party General Secretary (Org.) Sh. Ashok Koul and other senior leaders addressed a series of meetings throughout the day at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

In the first •P-02



Police Asks Vehicle Owners To Remove Tinted Films

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police have instructed all the vehicle owners to immediately remove from glasses the tinted films.

Citing judgment of a Writ Petition by Apex Court, the police said, “No film of any transparency is allowed at all as per Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment in Writ Petition (civil) no 265 of 2011.”

“All vehicle •P-02



Pakistani Intruder Shot Dead In Arnia Sector



JAMMU: The Border Security Force on Monday said that a Pakistani intruder was shot dead by its alert troops along the International Border in Jammu division today.

A spokesperson of BSF said that its troops gunned down the intruder when he ignored the repeated warnings and tried to flee after managing to cross the border fence near Jabowal border outpost in Arnia sector of Jammu district at around 1.45 AM today.

He said on the intervening night of July 30-July 31, the vigilant troops observed suspicious movement across the •P-02

Tattoo Ground To Be Developed For Tourism Activities

Defence Ministry Signed MoU With MHA Through UT Govt For Transfer Of Land

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Defence signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Home Affairs through Government of UT of J&K for transfer of Defence land measuring 139.04 acres situated at Tattoo ground to Ministry of Home Affairs for the promotion of tourism and other developmental activities in the region.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha presided over the MoU signing ceremony at Raj Bhawan.



Ministry of Defence was represented through Local Military Authority of Tattoo Ground Garrison and Defence Estate Officer Kashmir Circle Srinagar. The land will be handed over by the Ministry of Defence within the period •P-02

J&K Admin Orders For Decoration Of Educational Institutions

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Monday ordered to decorate all educational institutions to be decorated with lights besides hoisting the national flag for Independence Day-2023 celebrations.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta said this in a review meeting for arrangements of Independence Day-2023 celebrations.

In the meeting, Mehta informed that the main Independence Day function shall be held at Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Sonawar, Srinagar and Maulana Azad Stadium at Jammu. “ADGP Security •P-02



Amarnath Yatra Completes One Month; 4 Lakh Pilgrims Perform Darshan

JAMMU: The pilgrimage to holy Amarnath cave shrine has completed one month, with nearly 4 lakh devotees performing darshan of the Ice-Shivlingam.

Official sources said that since the commencement 3,97,272 pilgrims visited holy cave during last 31 days and performed darshan of Holy Ice-Shivlingam of which 6,136 pilgrims paid obeisance till 5.00 pm on Monday (July 31).

Amid foolproof security arrangements and effective management, this year's yatra outnumbered all the previous records.

This year many celeb-



rities, including Badminton Champion Sania Nehwal, Sara Ali Khan and people from abroad visited the cave shrine and took blessing of Lord Shiva.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also made a spherical mention about Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra during his recent Maan ki Baat programme and praised the administration for the arrangements.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said that Amarnath Yatra pilgrims, coming from across the country and abroad, are now the brand ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, amid tight security •P-02

IED Detected, Defused On Sgr-B'la Highway



SRINAGAR: Security forces on Monday detected and defused an improvised explosive device (IED) on Srinagar-Baramulla highway thereby averting a major tragedy.

Officials said that a joint team of Rashtriya Rifles, local police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) rushed to the spot on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway where a suspicious object was found.

“Bomb disposal squad was immediately called in and the suspicious object was found to be an IED.

“The IED was •P-02

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<p>Rocky aur Rani KI PREM KAHANI</p> <p>11:35AM 3:15PM 6:50PM (Hindi Atmos) UA</p>	<p>OPPENHEIMER</p> <p>10:40AM 2:30PM 6:20PM (English) With English Subtitles UA</p>
<p>Mission Impossible</p> <p>2:50PM 6:05PM (English) UA</p>	<p>Barbie</p> <p>12:15PM (English) With English Subtitles UA</p>

Rana Reminds Mehbooba Of PDP's Dubious Role In Kashmir Politics

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU- Hitting out at the Peoples' Democratic Party leadership for its dubious role in promoting separatism and creating disharmony in the inclusive Jammu and Kashmir over the decades in different avatars, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Monday advised them not to test public memory, as they stand exposed for their dubious politics and double speak.

Reacting to remarks of PDP President Mehbooba Mufti, against BJP at the PDP Foundation Day, Mr. Devender Singh Rana on the side-lines of a party function here while talking to the reporters said the people of Kashmir are well aware about the dubious role played by the PDP and its leadership in different forms and colours to instigate and exploit the people.

"When it suits the PDP leadership, they can go to any extent in raising communal passions,

as they did in 1984 and 1987", Mr Rana said, recalling the Years of Mufti Mohammed Sayeed as Home Minister when the national interest was hugely compromised. He said the PDP's close links with anti-national and subversive elements, especially during 2002 and 2009 are well known. He recalled the sinister observations of the then PDP Chief who went to the extent of telling terrorists in 2002 that they need not worry as their representatives were in the Assembly.

"Much water has flown down the Jhelum during the past five years after abrogation of Article 370 that brought about discernible turnaround in the situation in the Valley and opened up vistas of economic opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of focused attention towards infra-structural development and massive investments", Mr Rana said while addressing the workers.

He advised the opportunistic



political entities in public space to shun colour blindness and muster the courage to move outside their comfort zones and ask the people associated with tourism and allied industries and they will tell them

about the dividends of peace that has brought cheer in the lives of millions, they kept them deprived of for over three decades as a sinister strategy to remain in the power corridors. Normalised and peaceful Kashmir doesn't fit in with their schemes, which is why they can't conceal their discomfort on seeing the Valley humming with activities round the clock, be it summer or the winter. Never ever has Kashmir witnessed such a tourism and pilgrim boom that is directly associated with the economy of both the regions of Kashmir and Jammu, he added.

Devender Rana said whenever self-proclaimed representatives of Kashmir feel politically irrelevant; they raise the bogey of talks with Pakistan, terrorists and separatists, forgetting how severe miseries they have brought to the people. On the other hand, they used to remain in close proximity to those at the helm to bargain for power. However, such a strategy of 'blackmail

and exploitation' has ended under the dynamic and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the scenario has now changed because Delhi now has a strong determined government that wants the common people to be the end beneficiaries of the schemes and funds allotted for Jammu and Kashmir with no role for the 'middlemen' in terms of dubious politicians.

Cautioning against the double speak of rejected political leaders, who were attempting to strain Jammu and Kashmir trust with progress, development and harmony as per the cherished agenda of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi's solemn pledge of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Priyas, Mr Devender Rana said the people cannot be dissuaded from their chosen path of being the part of the country's growth story, with equal opportunities to all, irrespective of region, religion or caste.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Transformation

their views during the roundtable discussion and lauded the steps and initiatives taken by the UT administration for the equal and inclusive development of J&K.

"LG's Mulaqaat"

on the past grievances received from the citizens.

The Lt Governor said, citizens' growing trust in grievance redressal mechanism is an indicator of effective and efficient system, improved quality of public services, responsiveness and reliability.

"Responsiveness is crucial for the various administrative departments to ensure quality of life, and socio-economic growth. Implementation of all the welfare schemes, based on the principles of transparency and integrity, is fostering inclusive development," the Lt Governor said.

On the complaints of Sh Manmeet Singh, resident of village Dhangri, Rajouri and Sh Haji Amir Ud Din from Ashtangoo, Bandipora pertaining to Revenue department and implementation of water supply scheme, the Lt Governor directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to personally visit the spot and submit the report to the Lt Governor's Secretariat.

Sh Anayat Parvez from Lohai Malhar, Kathua drew the attention of the Lt Governor to the construction of bridge over Bheni River in his locality, on which the Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B) informed the chair that the work for the construction of the said bridge will start in the coming months.

Responding to the complaints of Sh Jahangir Hassan Sheikh from Baramulla and Sh Aman Hussain from Ramban regarding sanctioning of land compensation, the Lt Governor directed the Divisional Commissioners and concerned departments to take appraisal of the similar matters put forth by the complainants and address the issues on merit.

The Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners to look into the unresolved complaints/cases and submit action taken reports to Lt Governor's secretariat.

Deputy Commissioners should also monitor the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan in the Districts. Swachhata Abhiyan must be the priority of district administrations, he added.

He further impressed on the officials for ensuring operationalization of District-wise help desks for industrial investment proposals.

The Lt Governor also took appraisal of the Power scenario, efforts being put in to end the practice of beggary, saturation of Unique Identity Card, reducing the gap in granting old age pension.

Road accidents due to old and dilapidated vehicles should be looked into seriously to reduce the accidents, he added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of all officials and stakeholders for the smooth conduct of Muharram and ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

He also reviewed the preparations of District Administrations, all the departments for the Independence Day celebration.

Ms Rehana Batul Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

Sgr Breaks All

July in at least 131 years, saying that the Rambagh Observatory in Srinagar received the highest total rainfall in July since its establishment in 1891, recording 187.2 mm of rainfall this July.

"The majority of this rainfall occurred during three spells: 20.0 mm on 08 July, 50.6 mm on 20 July, and 53.4 mm on 27 July," he said, adding that before this year, the highest-ever rainfall recorded in the month of July was 182.6 mm in 1988.

Some of the areas in the Valley also received record-breaking precipitation in the month of July, he said, adding that Qazigund in South Kashmir has recorded the highest rainfall in this month in 28 years.

A total rainfall of 197.7 mm was recorded in July 2023 at Qazigund, he said, adding that the previous record and all-time record is 280.1 mm in 1995, saying that the highest rainfall has been recorded since 1996.

In Pahalgam, a precipitation of 225.5 mm was recorded in July 2023 while the previous & all-time record is 232.6 mm in 2021, adding that this month's precipitation is the second highest rainfall since the weather observatory was set up in 1978 or 2nd highest rainfall in 45 years.

At Kokernag, highest rainfall was recorded in the last eight years as a total rainfall of 198.0 mm was recorded in July 2023 while the previous record was 204.3 mm in 2015.

However, he said that the all-time record in Kokernag is 246.2 mm in 1995, therefore, the area has received the highest rainfall since 2016.

In Gulmarg, highest rainfall has been recorded in the last 13 years as a total rainfall of 144.8 mm was recorded in July 2023, he said, adding that the previous record was 220.9 mm in 2010 and the all-time record is 255.3 mm in 1993. "Therefore, Gulmarg a famous ski-resort has recorded highest rainfall since 2011," he said—(KNO)

DAK Demands

the drain. While Jammu has been provided with a center, but for majority in Kashmir there is no centre which is unfair.

"This would jeopardize the career of hundreds of aspirants who would not be able to write the examination," he said.

The DAK President said most of the doctors who are appearing for the test are working in various hospitals and going to Jammu for the test would affect the functioning of the hospitals.

"Going outside Kashmir means lot of expenses on travelling and hotels which for many aspirants becomes financially unviable," he said.

"The increasing travel costs, combined with the uncertainty caused by frequent closures of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway due to inclement weather has left aspirants in a state of distress," he added.

"NEET-SS is a single window entrance examination for various DM/MCH courses and it has replaced all state level tests," said Dr Nisar.

"The test for the academic session 2023 will be held on September 9 and 10. This online examination will be conducted by the National Board of Examination that has provided 45 test centers across the country," he said.

BJP Ready For

meeting, Sh. Ravinder Raina, Sh. Ashok Koul, and party General Secretaries Adv. Vibodh Gupta and Dr. Devender Kumar Manyal addressed a meeting of Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary constituency Core Group that was attended by the respective core group members.

Ravinder Raina, Ashok Koul, former Dy. CM Sh. Kavinder Gupta, former MP (Rajya Sabha) Sh. Shamsher Singh Manhas, former Minister Sh. Sat Sharma and Dr. Devender Manyal addressed a meeting of Assembly Constituencies Prabharis, Assembly Constituency Sanjoyaks, District Prabharis and District Seh-Prabharis besides Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency Core Groups members.

Similarly, in another meeting, the BJP senior leaders, held discussions with Urban Local Body, Panchayati Raj Institutions Convenors and Co-convenors, District Prabharis, District Presidents and district Seh-Prabharis.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the meetings, stressed upon the party leaders holding important responsibilities at different levels, to further gear up their activities in view of the upcoming elections of ULBs and Panchayats.

"The BJP is always in field with its leaders and ground level activists in regular contact with the masses while undertaking door to

door campaign, education them about various welfare schemes and extending help in availing the benefits of social security schemes of the Union government", Raina said and added that the party is fully ready to go for these elections.

Ashok Koul, in these meetings discussed various programmes to be held in the upcoming months while emphasizing that these programmes will also help them in their outreach to the masses at ground level. He asked them to work more vigorously for the organizational expansion while reaching out to the masses during party programmes and also while carrying out ensuring public welfare schemes to the needy.

Police Asks Vehicle

owners are instructed to immediately remove tinted films from all glasses, failing which vehicle will be seized & legal action will follow. No film of any transparency is allowed at all as per Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment in Writ Petition (civil) no 265 of 2011," the police wrote on Twitter. (GNS)

Pakistani Intruder

International Border (IB) in Arnia border area and an intruder was observed approaching towards the BSF fence.

The troops neutralised him and thwarted the infiltration attempt, he said. The body is being retrieved from the scene—(KNO)

Tattoo Ground

of 120 days. The Lt Governor termed the MoU as a momentous occasion in developing major tourism space in J&K UT.

Hailing the Army for its cooperation, the Lt Governor said the administration and security forces are dedicated to welfare of people.

We will make honest and dedicated efforts to fulfill all the conditions of the MoU and develop tourism and other related activities in such a way that the tourists visiting Kashmir valley find Tattoo ground as one of the most attractive destinations, he said.

The Lt Governor also discussed with the senior Army officers the 'Mera Mati Mera Desh' campaign to honour the martyrs and preparations for Independence Day events.

Lt General Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Sh Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; senior officers of the Army and UT Administration were present on the occasion.

J&K Admin Orders

of Jammu and Kashmir divisions shall ensure foolproof security arrangements at all venues across the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Inspector General (Traffic) shall devise a proper route and parking plan for the main events at Srinagar and Jammu," Mehta said.

He said that no government employee shall avail leave on Independence Day, 2023, except under exceptional circumstances. All employees shall invariably participate in the Independence Day celebrations.

"All government buildings and offices including Schools, Colleges, Universities, Urban Local Bodies, Panchayats, Blocks, Tehsils, Patwar Khanas etc. shall be decorated with lights and shall hoist the National Flag on the respective buildings, offices and share videos of the same with the respective Divisional Commissioners," Mehta said.

He said that it shall however be ensured that the national flag is hoisted in an appropriate and befitting manner having due regard to the flag code, for which purpose the Information Department shall generate awareness amongst all the stakeholders.

The Chief Secretary also said that the housing and urban development department and Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Rai shall ensure the participation of all public representatives of ULBs, DDS, BDCs and Panchayats in all the ceremonies.

He said that special ceremonies, including

hoisting of national flag and installation of Shlla Phalakam on Amrit Sarovars shall be held in all districts of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"All Government Officers and the general public at large hoist tricolour over their houses. It shall however be ensured that the flag is hoisted in an appropriate and befitting manner having due regard to the flag code," Mehta said.

The Chief Secretary further said that all officers shall use selfies with images of Jhanda, Mitti and Diya (Earthen lamp) as the display picture on their social media handles. All people to be encouraged to be a part of the Meri Mitti Mera Desh campaign.

Mehta said, "Special National Anthem singing, essay, debate, prabhat pheris and sports competitions shall be organized in Schools, Colleges and Universities across the Union territory and prizes amongst winners shall be distributed."

The Jammu and Kashmir also said that the Independence Day speeches should include the initiatives of the government under digital J&K, Corruption free J&K, Swachhata, Nasha Mukht Bharat, number of projects completed, Jan Bhagidari, Aap ki Zameen Aap ki Nigrani etc.

"Innovations at Panchayat, Block, District, Divisional and UT level shall be recognized and felicitated appropriately," it reads.

"Adequate preparations shall be put in place in advance for holding of smooth functions in the event of rains," Mehta said.

It also said that refreshment for students and other participants in the functions shall be arranged both at Jammu and Srinagar.

The government also said that the cultural events and programmes shall be organised in the Independence Day celebrations both at Jammu and Srinagar with due attention to the outfits of the artists/participants as also the quality of programmes presented.

"Proper arrangements for parking shall be made by traffic police at all venues and shall be supervised by IG, Traffic," Mehta said. "Traffic advisories shall be issued well in time for the benefit of the public."

Mehta further directed that proper protocol shall be maintained and followed by all concerned with regard to parking of vehicles/ arrival & departure at and from the venues.

"All dignitaries invited to the functions shall be accorded due protocol and seating arrangements shall be made as per the Warrant of Precedence," he said.

The Chief Secretary further said that all departments shall inaugurate projects executed over the last one year as also lay foundation stones for important projects starting today until Independence Day.

"Prominent Government offices and iconic buildings and landmarks at all locations shall be duly illuminated," Mehta said.

The government also said that all departments shall film short videos of two to three minute duration highlighting important achievements of their departments and furnish the same to the Information Department for wide publicity. "Every department shall plan Independence Day celebrations with vigour and enthusiasm."

Mehta said that the participation of officers of the Central Government, posted in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in Independence Day celebrations shall be ensured—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatra

arrangements, the 29th batch of over 1550 pilgrims including 1165 Male, 354 Female, 07 Children, 19 Sadhus and 05 Sadhis left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, Jammu for Kashmir valley in a cavalcade of 66 vehicles under tight security arrangements.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31—(KNO)

IED Detected,

successfully defused by the bomb disposal squad after which traffic was restored on the busy highway," officials said.

Tribal community will play significant role in maintaining biodiversity: LG

Inaugurates two-day workshop on Pastoralism in JK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the two-day workshop on Pastoralism in Jammu Kashmir Monday.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor commended the endeavour of Tribal Affairs Department J&K and Regional IYRP Support Group of South Asia (RISG-SA) for organizing the workshop to deliberate the issues, challenges, resilient livelihoods and sustainable development of Pastoralism in UT of J&K.

"Pastoralism is one of the oldest professions in the world. Nomadic livestock plays an important role in the business and livelihood of the communities and it is deeply connected with heritage, culture, traditional knowledge and co-existence with nature," the Lt Governor said.

The workshop will help



in developing a holistic strategy and action plan for improved livelihoods and regeneration of pasture land and rangelands, he added.

At the inaugural session, the Lt Governor highlighted the concerted efforts of the UT Administration, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, to bring transformation in the lives of pastoral communities such as Gujjar,

Bakarwals, Gaddi-Sippi.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has empowered the tribal community of J&K UT and migratory population has been brought to the mainstream of development. Forest Rights Act, rights on forest produce and various other initiatives have brought a new dawn in their lives," the Lt Governor observed.

He said, the world is recognizing the significance of Pastoralism and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2026 as International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

"I consider our tribal community as protectors of forests and the climate warriors. They will certainly play a significant role in maintaining biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and contributing to growth and food security," the Lt Governor said.

He also shared the measures taken by the administration to extend the socio-economic benefits and livelihood opportunities to the youth and members of families of pastoral communities and facilitate their smooth movement during migratory season.

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme has given priority to the community dependent on livestock and a campaign has been launched to conserve open range and

increase green cover in the UT, he added.

Sh P Vivekanandan, Vice Chair, RISG South Asia, shared his view on the theme of the workshop and gave a powerpoint presentation.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department and Dr Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir highlighted the efforts of Lt Governor led UT administration for welfare and development of pastoral communities of Jammu Kashmir.

They also shared the unprecedented and historic initiatives taken and implemented by the UT administration, especially for the tribal communities.

Sh Roshan Jaggi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; faculty members of SKUAST, scientists, researchers, officers of UT administration and a large number of members of pastoral communities were present.

Banks disburse 1100 Crores in priority, non-priority sectors in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Monday chaired District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) of district for taking review of the performance related to quarter ended March 2023.

At the outset, Lead District Manager Ganderbal, Shabir A. Dar informed the meeting that banks operating in the district have disbursed an amount of Rs 473.95 Crores in priority sector against the annual target of Rs. 637.47 crores and Rs 627.82 Crores in non-priority sector against the annual target of Rs. 224.62 Crores thus registering an achievement of 280%.

While reviewing the

achievement bank wise it was informed that J&K Bank alone has disbursed Rs.423.44 crores under priority sector and 546.30 crores under Non priority sector aggregating to total credit of Rs 969.75 showing an achievement of 88 percent contribution towards total credit disbursement in the district.

It was also informed that there has been a total credit disbursement of 1101.77 crores against the yearly target of Rs 862.08 crore registering an achievement of 128% of the annual credit plan 2022-23 for quarter ending March 2023.

The DDC emphasized the need for improving the credit flow in Agriculture and allied sectors under HADP plan. Besides the credit flow in renewable energy sector was also emphasized upon.

The performance with respect to social security schemes under Janasuraksha was also discussed and the DDC emphasized the need for roping in the people under social security schemes with joint coordination of all concerned agencies.

Besides reviewing the performance of Banks and Govt. departments under various schemes, the Chairman of DCC & DLRC meetings directed the line agencies to sponsor quality cases and the Banks for speedy disposal of Govt. Sponsored cases.

The meeting was attended by, LBM Ganderbal; DDM, NABARD; GM, DIC; CAO, CAHO, AD Fisheries, AD Handicrafts & Handloom, District Coordinators of all Banks and representatives of other development agencies.

PQT of Mission Youth held in District headquarters

Dr. Shahid compliments DCs for support

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Mission Youth J&K successfully conducted the Parvaaz Qualifying Test (PQT) in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir for selecting candidates from marginalised communities for free coaching of competitive exams like IAS/JKAS.

The scheme had witnessed an overwhelming response as more than 7000 candidates registered for the program and the examination was held at all district headquarters yesterday.

Speaking on the successful culmination of test, CEO Mission Youth, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary complimented district administrations and their respective Deputy Commissioners for their collaboration, which played pivotal role in making program a resounding success. He emphasized the significance of this initiative in providing aspiring candidates an invaluable opportunity to receive top-notch guidance for their civil services preparation.

Dr. Choudhary further highlighted the accomplishments of the previous year's PARVAAZ scheme, which initially provided 1000 seats



for IAS/JKAS to underprivileged candidates. He highlighted that in response to the overwhelming demand and enthusiasm from the ground, the allocation of seats has been increased by an additional 50%, opening up even more avenues for young individuals to pursue their dreams.

Mission Youth, in its commitment to empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, has taken this significant step to help students from marginalised communities. This transformative program has been designed to support and assist aspiring marginalised candidates in their journey to crack these prestigious administrative examinations.

The PARVAAZ scheme, initiated by Mission Youth, stands as a beacon of hope for eligible candidates by offering high-quality coaching and comprehensive guidance. Participants are

granted access to a wealth of valuable resources, including study materials, interactive learning sessions, test series, and personalised mentorship from experienced faculty members. The overarching objective is to equip candidates with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the fiercely competitive exams.

This transformative initiative epitomizes Mission Youth's unwavering commitment to nurturing the untapped potential of young individuals from Jammu and Kashmir and empowering them to achieve their aspirations. From the program's inception to the conclusion of the PQT, the entire process of registration was end-to-end digital and user-friendly, completed within a remarkably short span of just one month, a testament to the Mission Youth's dedication and efficiency.

SP College starts admission process for various UG, PG programs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sri Pratap College Srinagar has started admission process for various PG and UG (NEP-2020) programs offered by the college from 27th July, 2023.

Accordingly all those students who are desirous to seek admission in College are informed that they will be admitted through common admission portal <https://jkadmission.samarth.ac.in/> for undergraduate programs under NEP-2020 and through <https://www.cusrinagar.edu.in/NEP/> for post graduate programs.

The candidates are advised to go through the eligibility conditions of the courses available on our university website <https://www.cusrinagar.edu.in/> and check admission notifications. The admission to both the programs will be strictly as per Cluster University guidelines.

As per the communique of college, major subjects offered by the College Under NEP-2020 are Botany, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geology, Geography, Information Technology, Mathematics, Physics and Zoology.

Similarly, the Post Graduate programs are offered in Botany, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Informational Technology and Zoology.

The college admission committee is extending all possible support to the desirous candidates. For any query the candidates are advised to contact Convener, college admission committee Dr. Gowhar Hamid Dar on Mobile no. 7006082223 and email dargowharhamid@gmail.com.

آر سی کی گمشدگی

میری گاڑی (ماروٹی 800) زیر رجسٹریشن نمبر JK01L 3907 کی آر سی گم ہو گئی ہے۔ اب مذکورہ آر سی کی ڈیپلیٹ کیٹ کا پی ٹکائی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض اندر سات یوم ریجنل ٹرانسپورٹ آفیسر سرینگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

اتل کول ولد دادا کرشن کول
ساکنہ: باغات برز لہر سرینگر

CORRECTION

I Tamana Jan Khan D/O Ali Mohd Khan & Masrata Begum resident of Om Buran, Pattan would like to bring your kind notice, that my name and date of birth have been mistakenly mentioned in school records as Muntaza Ali with D.O.B 10-10-2014. But as per hospital records, my real name is Tamana Jan Khan and my actual D.O.B is 05-03-2014. Now, I want to correct the same on my school records. Anybody if having any kind of Objection in this regard may file the same at Zonal Educational Office Nihalpora, Pattan within 5 days of period from the date of publication of this notice, after the passage of time no objections shall be entertained.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION (KPDCL) GANDERBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236 E-mail: edgbl123@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT no: 64of 2023-24 dated 27/07/2023

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDC Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Class A Electrical Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC /MES for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	CDR Amount (In Rupees)	Cost of tender document (Treasury Challan)	Completion Period	Position of funds
SITC for Augmentation of 1x100KVA -200KVA and installation of LED Street Lights on 8mtr Poles at Zaban Anderwan-A, Gund-B, Wakura-B DDC Grants For the year 2023-24.	10.49	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs 1000/-	Within 60Days from the date of issuance of LOA	Authorized (50% Released)

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPD or <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/uploading of e NIT	21-07-23	18.00 hrs
2.	Documents Download/Sale start date	21-07-23	18.00 hrs
3.	Clarification Date Start	31-07-23	18.00 hrs
4.	Clarifications Date End	17-08-23	14.00 hrs
5.	Bid submission Start date	01-07-23	09.00 hrs
6.	Bid submission end date	17-08-23	14.00 hrs
7.	Opening date for E-tender	18-08-23	14:00 hrs
8.	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

No: EDG/V/1360-67/TS Date: 31-07-2023 SD/- Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal

General Information/Check list: Availability of tender document : www.jktenders.gov.in

Enclosures without which tenders is liable for rejection:

- Scanned copies of following documents needs to be uploaded by the bidder while submitting E-tender, Treasury Challan to Govt Head 0801 Pledged to Executive Engineer ED-V Ganderbal for an amount of Rs 1000 payable at Ganderbal.
- Earnest Money in the shape of the CDR/FDR 2percent of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal.
- Valid Registration license issued from competent authority.
- Latest tax clearance (GST) from commercial tax department.
- PAN registration certificate including Labour license.
- Tender document, as token of acceptance for the terms _ conditions.

DIPK-NB-2327-23 DT: 31/07/2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION KULGAM

(Office email: xenkul98@gmail.com) (Fax No: 01931-295049)

M/S Valley Road Construction Company No:-4984-88
Lasjan Bypass Srinagar. Dtd:- 27-07-2023
Prop. Ferooz Ahmad Mir
S/o Jalal ud-din Mir
R/o Urchersoo Pulwama.

Subject:- Upgradation of Kader Nunmal Yaripora road including allied links under NABARD XXVI. Ref:- i. SE R&B Circle Ang/ Kulgam's allotment No.8001-4 Dated:-30-10-2021 ii. AEE R&B Sub Division Kulgam's No:- 711-14 Dtd:- 18-7-2023

The above mentioned-work-stands-allotted to you vide this office above referred allotment. Despite lapse of about 2 years ,you have not resumed the said work till date as reported by the concerned AEE and stopped balance work for no reason. The issue has been raised by the general public in various Block diwas held by the worthy District Development commissioner Kulgam but by your irresponsible attitude , the delay in completion of the project has caused which often some times face embarrassment before the higher authorities during the review of development works.

You have been notified several times for resumption of the of work but you did not respond with the result the execution of the work has unnecessary hampared and it has become imperative for the department to taken the action as per the allotment of contract and as per the terms and conditions of NIT. The District administration-has viewed the matter seriously in the recent review meeting of the development works of the District Kulgam and also in the Block Devis and directed for completion of the same within the time frame. Being the work of importance in nature and keeping in view the harsh directions from the worthy deputy Commissioner Sahib ,You have been given final opportunity to resume the work within 2 days on war footing basis or face the action under rules for backout from the contractual obligations.

The NOTICE be treated as FINAL repeat FINAL
DIPK-6084-23 Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kulgam
DT: 31/07/2023

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC KPDCL DIVISION SHOPIAN EXTENSION OF e-TENDER

Subject: Corrigendum to critical dates to Enit No.15 OF 2022-23 (e-tendering) Dated: 22-07-2023

Due to poor response in the above subjected ENIT, the last date of Bid Submission is hereby extended upto 05-08-2023 (11.00 Hrs), to get more response.

ENIT No	Last date of Submission Of e-Bids (extended)	Date of opening of Technical bids (extended)
EDS/E-TENDER/15 OF 2023-24 DATED 22/7/2023	Upto 05 -08-2023 (11.00 Hrs)	05-08-2023 (14.00 Hrs) or as convenient to tender Opening Committee

NO.EDS/AS/-sd- DATED: 31-7-2023 DIPK-NB-2315-23 Executive Engineer, KPDC Division Shopian DT: 31/07/2023

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION-IST, BASANTBAGH SRINAGAR. LIMITED TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDC, Srinagar, Sealed offers are hereby invited from registered agencies/ expert photographers having experience in photo shooting / photography for below mentioned job as per description as mentioned below. The offers should reach to the undersigned on or before 8-8-2023 at 3.00 PM. The offers received late/incomplete /not in the enclosed format shall be summarily rejected.

S. No	Particulars	Unit	Qty	Rate	Amount (Rs)
1	Videography of public hearing to be held on 12-8-2023 by Joint Electricity Regulatory Commissioner, Ladakh and J&K UT at Banquet Hall Srinagar Videography duration (Full event) Digital still photography = (Full event) and submission of same in pen drives.	Job	1		
2	Backdrop flex banners 4'x8'	No	2		
3	Pen drive 32 GB	No	2		
Total					

Advertised cost Rs.16300.00 The participating bidder shall submit the bid in closed envelope.

- Terms and conditions
- The rates should be inclusive of all taxes and duties.
 - Payments are subject to verification of bills from Asstt. Ex. Engineer, Sub Division Sheikhbagh.
 - All terms and conditions shall remain the same as laid down in PWD form 25.

No.EDI/3256-64 Dated:31-7-2023 DIPK-NB-2324-23 Executive Engineer, QED-Ist, Srinagar. DT: 31/07/2023

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Writers Forgetting People

Writers in Kashmir often complain that people at large are ignoring them. They claim that their opinion is no longer sought on matters of socio-economic importance. New players in the civil society, it appears, have overthrown them and they are what they claim they are now- impact less. What brought this sky fall? What happened in society that people started ignoring writers, poets, and scholars? One line of argument may be that contemporary writers and poets only write panegyrics to keep a particular section happy. Though it may not be entirely true, but a vast majority among them does not wish to toe the pro-people line. Besides, the contemporary writers and poets do not write for the poor and the marginalized. They write about the doe-eyed beauty, the "arrows" of gazes that pierce the heart, the rosy-cheeked women, the flower and the bulbul and the lamp and the firefly. In short story writers, there is redundancy of thought, the unprecedented hurry to get more and more books published, the abject disdain to understand the socio-economic stratification of their people, and shameless copying of plots from western writers. As a writer the primary job is to get an award. Writers plumb to great depths when it comes to bagging such. A few do not hesitate to work in the kitchen of a high-ranking officio, some others willing offer being a house servant for some days. At times the writer being ignored is not entirely true. The thing is that the writer and the poet have failed to provide a proactive commentary on the contemporary socio-economic changes and have thus plumbed to cul de sac of oblivion. While you might also find our authors have so bad memories. You know research has found that approximately 56% of information is forgotten within an hour, 66% after a day, and 75% after six days, so keep mum and let them write the junk they write.

The climate crisis reaches a tipping point

BRYAN DYNE

A joint statement released Thursday by the European Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirms that the first three weeks of July have been the warmest three-week period ever recorded and predicts that the month will be the hottest ever experienced by human civilization.

Carlo Buontempo, the director of C3S, noted as part of the statement, "Record-breaking temperatures are part of the trend of drastic increases in global temperatures. Anthropogenic emissions are ultimately the main driver of these rising temperatures." He continued, "July's record is unlikely to remain isolated this year, C3S' seasonal forecasts indicate that over land areas temperatures are likely to be well above average, exceeding the 80th percentile of climatology for the time of year."

The record broken this July was last set in August 2016, when the global average temperature spiked to 16.92 degrees Celsius (62.46 degrees Fahrenheit), as measured by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). But since July 3, the worldwide temperature averaged every 24 hours skyrocketed past that, reaching a new height of 17.23 C (63.01 F) on July 6. The coolest day since then was July 14, falling to 16.94 C (62.49 F), still just above the previous peak.

Earth's tropics and Northern Hemisphere have been hit particularly hard by the ongoing heatwave, with temperatures in those regions currently about 0.9 C (1.6 F) and 1.2 C (2.1 F) above average, respectively. Ocean temperatures in the North Atlantic have been shattering seasonal records since March, reaching almost 1.5 C (2.7 F) above average, while world ocean temperatures outside the poles remain 0.8 C (1.4 F) above average, including a new record 21.1 C (69.98 F), also set in March. It is increasingly likely that 2023 as a whole will become the hottest year ever recorded. Among the most catastroph-



ic consequences of the record temperatures this year have been the wildfires in Canada, which have burned more than 100,000 square kilometers (38,600 square miles), nearly double the previous record set in 1989, and blanketed the North American Northeast with toxic levels of smoke and ash. Large portions of Southern Europe, the Middle East, South Asia and the entire Southern US were or still are under heat alerts. Floods have killed 47 people in the US, including 13 from the flash floods in July, while wildfires in Europe and North Africa have killed more than 40. Hundreds have died from heat stroke in Algeria, China, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Mexico and Spain.

Moreover, the disasters caused by climate change now are the precursors to even more catastrophic events. The water temperatures off the Florida coast—38.38 C (101.1 F)—and the extent of Antarctic sea ice—more than 2.6 million square kilometers (about 1 million square miles) below average—are indicators of what is to come. Warming oceans threaten critical coral systems and the global plankton population with disease and mass die-off, which in turn threatens the base of the entire food chain. The lack of Antarctic sea ice constantly poses the mortal danger of land ice falling into the ocean, raising ocean levels worldwide and permanently flooding coastal areas where an estimated 3 billion people live.

All scientific evidence points to the fact that nothing short of the socialist reorganization of the world economy—in which the planetary environment would no longer be held hostage to either the profit motive or destructive nationalist interests—will achieve the reductions in greenhouse gases necessary to prevent disaster.

Every international conference to address climate change, most recently the COP27 climate summit, has ended in abject failure, as a result of the impossibility of addressing a fundamentally global problem on the basis of feuding capitalist nation-states, all of which are reneging on whatever climate pledges they made in an earlier period as they massively expand military spending.

The capitalist profit system, which organizes society on the basis of the self-interest of the capitalist class, is organically incapable of the massive level of social planning and organization necessary to address the climate crisis.

According to the Carbon Majors Report, which was most recently updated in 2020, the top 108 fossil fuel companies (e.g. Saudi Aramco, Chevron, Gazprom, BP, ExxonMobil) are responsible for 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions since 1751 (the year often used as the baseline for global warming), half of which have been emitted since 1990. Just 20 of those companies are responsible for 30 percent of global emissions.

The profits are astronomical. The head of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, stated this past February that oil and gas profits globally shot up to \$4 trillion in 2022, further enriching the investment firms and financial institutions in every major capitalist country that control these companies.

While multimillionaires and billionaires gorge themselves on the resources of the Earth, it is the working class and rural masses who pay the price. The heat wave in Europe last year killed more than 61,000 people, a toll that is expected to be equalled or surpassed this year. Last year's climate change-induced flooding in Pakistan displaced 33 million people. Around 500 million people who farm livestock are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Nearly 1 billion people are at risk of starvation as the land they rely on for sustenance becomes too arid to sustain human life.

In other words, the fight against climate change is fundamentally a class question. The impact of climate change is most directly and catastrophically felt by the working class, including through droughts, famine, wildfires and floods. To this one can add all the workers who labor under and die as a result of extreme weather and the myriad other consequences of global warming.

All appeals to any section of the capitalist ruling elite are therefore bankrupt. Whether led by the Democrats or Republicans

in the US, or the Conservatives or Social Democrats in Europe, the major capitalist powers stand exposed as incapable and disinterested in dealing with the crisis. They are far more interested in enriching themselves through various "carbon trading" schemes and invading and destroying whole countries.

The response of world governments to the coronavirus pandemic serves as a further example of the interests of this tiny social layer. Rather than initiating a global campaign to prevent the spread of the deadly disease, the US and every major power first sought to ensure that corporate profits, not human lives, would be protected. The underlying policy of "malign neglect" has left an estimated 24 million dead and tens of millions more suffering from Long COVID.

As for the middle class environmental movements, their evolution is epitomized by the Greens, who have become supporters of militarism and critical instruments of class rule. The German Green Party, in particular, has, as a result of its support for capitalism, become one of the most fervent advocates of imperialist war, including the US-NATO war against Russia in Ukraine.

The record-breaking upsurge in global temperatures is taking place at the same time as the emergence of a massive strike movement around the world. Just this past year has seen sharp struggles in the auto, healthcare and logistics industries, with explosive class battles at UPS, USPS, West Coast docks and the Big Three auto companies already taking shape in the United States alone. Just as with the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and imperialist war, the fight against climate change is inexorably bound up with the development of the class struggle.

It is urgently necessary to arm these mounting working class struggles with a socialist perspective for the reorganization of society on a rational basis to address human needs, not private profit. This is the only means by which the climatological catastrophe can be averted. (C-Counter Currents)

A Peep into our History

Principal of Rajdharma



DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

In ancient times, the role of a king or ruler used to be quite benevolent and impartial. The paramount duty of a King was to administer complete justice to his people, as he understood that justice was the foundation of social harmony and peace. Upholding equality among individuals from different classes was another essential quality of an ideal king. He recognized the inherent dignity of all individuals and ensured that the poor and needy were free to pursue their chosen vocations without any hindrance.

Again, a crucial responsibility of the king was to maintain perfect law and order throughout his kingdom. This included a commitment not to punish the innocent and to ensure that those who deserved punishment did not escape justice. Kings who exemplified such qualities were eternally remembered and admired in the annals of history.

One illustrious example of such an impartial and just king can be found in the 'Rajtarangini,' an epic Sanskrit chronicle penned by the celebrated Kashmiri poet Kalhana in the 12th century. The epic recounts the remarkable story of King Chandrapida of Kashmir (711-719 AD), whose unwavering dedication to the 'Rule of Law' and profound empathy has left a lasting

impression on the followers of peace, harmony, and justice in Kashmir. The incident goes like this: the king's officials sought to build a temple

on a piece of land occupied by a low-caste cobbler. Despite orders from the officials, the cobbler staunchly refused to vacate his humble hut. When the officials brought the matter to the king's attention, instead of blindly supporting their cause, the wise monarch reprimanded them for attempting to encroach upon the cobbler's property.

The king admonished his officials, saying, "Stop the construction immediately and find another location for the temple. As those entrusted with the duty to discern right from wrong, we must not act unlawfully, for if we do, who will then abide by the law?" The king's remarkable sense of justice and fairness moved the cobbler, who sought an audience with the monarch to express his gratitude. In the presence of the king, the cobbler lovingly spoke, "Just as this Palace

pray for your long life! Through your actions, you have undoubtedly upheld the supremacy of the law." The cobbler's words carried immense wisdom, underscoring the essence of Rajdharma, the duty of a king. It emphasized the virtues of humility and adherence to principles, no matter how low was the status of the individual. Chandrapida's adherence to the supremacy of the law and his protection of the weak and marginalized have left an indelible mark on the history of Kashmir, earning him admiration from generations to come. Such rulers are remembered as beacons of hope, guiding societies towards peace, harmony, and prosperity.

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Author is Former Fellow, IAS, Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla. He can be mailed at skraina123@gmail.com



was dear to Your Majesty, so was that humble hut precious to me. I cannot bear to see it destroyed. However, if Your Majesty insists, I shall willingly surrender it to you, for your just and benevolent conduct has deeply touched my heart." In response to the cobbler's selflessness, the king, displaying generosity and compassion, decided to purchase the hut from him, providing the cobbler with a satisfactory price. The cobbler, with profound humility, further conveyed, "Yielding, kneeling, and attentively listening to others, regardless of their caste or status, and adhering to the principles of Rajdharma, are the sacred responsibilities of a noble king. I wish you all the best and

immense wisdom, underscoring the essence of Rajdharma, the duty of a king. It emphasized the virtues of humility and adherence to principles, no matter how low was the status of the individual. Chandrapida's adherence to the supremacy of the law and his protection of the weak and marginalized have left an indelible mark on the history of Kashmir, earning him admiration from generations to come. Such rulers are remembered as beacons of hope, guiding societies towards peace, harmony, and prosperity.

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

WHO award shines spotlight on Thailand's statistical agency and tobacco control



BOBBY RAMAKANT

Tobacco industry has used deception and lies to market its deadly tobacco products and lure children and young people to killer addiction over the decades. But it was only data, science and evidence that provided rock solid ground to health justice and corporate accountability advocates worldwide to expose the nefarious designs of tobacco industry, and advance historic progress in form of global tobacco treaty, as well as range of domestic laws and its enforcement.

It is indisputable that tobacco kills, and there is no safe limit of tobacco use. Over 8 million die of tobacco use every year worldwide – each of the deadly disease or untimely death due to tobacco use could have been prevented. “Tobacco is entirely a preventable epidemic,” said Dr Tara Singh Bam, Asia Pacific Director of International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union).

The United Nations (UN) health agency, the World Health Organization (WHO) confers its World No Tobacco Day awards every year to recognize stellar contribution of those advancing lifesaving tobacco control policies worldwide.

Prestigious WHO award 2023 to Thailand National Statistical Office

Among the 2023 WHO Director General's World No Tobacco Day Awardees is Thailand National Statistical Office (TNSO). TNSO's data has provided a strong evidence-base to implement tobacco control effectively in Thailand and help save lives.

Dr Piyanuch Wuttisorn, Director-General, National Statistical Office of Thailand, said in an exclusive interview with CNS (Citizen News Service): “A lot of policy making bodies such as tobacco control agencies, use tobacco control data and information from us (TNSO). For example, information on awareness about tobacco health hazards is important. It is only because of data from our surveys that we know which

province in Thailand has higher problem of tobacco use. This data is vital so that we can tailor the measures and activities targeted in these specific areas. This helps us and other relevant agencies to impact change and reduce tobacco use.”

Most of tobacco use begins among children and young people, as tobacco industry continues to ‘hook them young.’ Dr Piyanuch said that “We do not want children and young people to begin tobacco use. But if survey shows young people are getting involved in tobacco use, we can have stricter policy implementation to control that early on. That is why TNSO's survey is so important.”

The TNSO's survey has generated data on range of other important information that has helped shape more effective policies in Thailand. For example, expenditure on particular items in different provinces of Thailand is known because of such a survey. Increasing taxation on all forms of tobacco products is among the strong evidence-based policies of Thailand to improve tobacco control. TNSO's data also shows tobacco user type, or quantity of tobacco products consumed (and this includes electronic cigarettes or other forms of electronic nico-



“Our surveys have shown if tobacco control policies were effective or not – this monitoring and evaluation is vital so that relevant national policy making bodies can use our data and improve enforcement and public health outcomes,” said Dr Piyanuch.

tine delivery systems or vaping products). Thailand had banned electronic cigarettes in 2014 setting an important precedent to follow for several other nations worldwide.

“Our surveys have shown if tobacco control policies were effective or not – this monitoring and evaluation is vital so that relevant national policy making bodies can use our data and improve enforcement and public health outcomes,” said Dr Piyanuch.

There is an important legal principle that says “ignorance of the law is no excuse,” because violators of any law cannot defend their actions by saying ‘they did not know that it was



illegal.’ But there is no doubt that awareness about laws should reach far and wide.

It is important that prohibition on sale of tobacco to anyone below the age of 20 years in Thailand, should be widely publicized and enforced strictly. “If our data shows health information is not reaching a population, then we can tailor our advocacy activities for better adherence to health laws and policies” said Dr Piyanuch.

“We need to encourage that all people are aware about the prohibition of any form of tobacco advertising, promotion or sponsorship, because such marketing activities, either online or offline, are banned. TNSO's monitoring and evalua-

tion of the compliance of tobacco control law 2017 in Thailand is playing an important role,” said Dr Piyanuch.

National Statistical Office of Thailand has done surveys and generated data on range of issues. National Health Behaviour Survey is one of them. TNSO looked at tobacco control, alcohol intake, other diseases and activities that impact health adversely, and range of other indices.

Dr Piyanuch who leads TNSO, had earlier served as Inspector-General, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand; Director, Social Data-based and Indicator Development Office, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Coun-

cil; Senior Advisor in Plan and Policy for Director of the International Cooperation office, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council; and Secretary-General, Office of the National Digital Economy and Society Commission of Thailand.

Despite key role of data, challenges remain

“Stakeholders who are involved on various health issues have high demand and high requirement for credible and reliable data. Disaggregated data is even more in demand. As of now, Thailand has disaggregated data up to the provincial level (called ‘Changwat’ in Thai),” said Dr Piyanuch.

Also, many stakeholders want TNSO to add more questions in the survey questionnaire to collect more information that may prove valuable for policy making, monitoring and evaluation.

“But it is very difficult to ask people so many questions frequently. People are fatigued. Also we need to realize that in urban areas, people tend to deny answers to questionnaire from any governmental agency. In urban areas it is hard to get them to respond,” said Dr Piyanuch.

People are also concerned about sharing personal data. Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act or PDPA is considered the first Thai law designed to govern data protection in the digital age and has been considered comparable to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Key aspects of the PDPA include data processing, data collection, data storage, and data consent protocols.

“This is why it is very challenging to drill down any further than provincial level,” said Dr Piyanuch.

Although national tobacco use has dropped substantially over the years in the land of smiles, still TNSO data has shown that tobacco use among young people and males, needs to be more effectively addressed. Those growing tobacco crop should be encouraged to transition to other crops. Those who are using tobacco should benefit from tobacco cessation services in Thailand and get rid of this deadly addiction, said Dr Piyanuch.

Bobby Ramakant was awarded the 2008 WHO World No Tobacco Day Award and serves as Health Editor of Citizen News Service.

Parliament passes Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill amid uproar over Manipur

UNI

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Monday passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 with the Lok Sabha approving the legislation amidst the ongoing protest by opposition parties over the Manipur violence.



Rajya Sabha has already passed the Bill.

The Bill seeks to curb the menace of film piracy, revamp age-based certification given by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) as well as maintain uniformity in the categorisation of films and content across platforms.

Talking to UNI after passing the Bill, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said, "The bill will benefit every person associated with the film industry and will check piracy which is causing a huge loss to the film industry."

He said because of piracy, the film industry

incurs a loss of Rs 22 thousand crore annually.

"It (the legislation) will open new avenues and job opportunities in the industry," he said.

In his remarks in the Lok Sabha, Thakur said, "The Bill is also intended to prohibit the unauthorised recording of the films and ease the process of licensing procedure as the certificates will be perpetually valid".

Lauding the achievement made by Indian Films and documentaries in the annual Oscar awards, he said, the feature film RRR and documentary The

Elephant Whisperers have earned laurels for India on the world stage.

Exuding confidence that the Indian film industry will win more awards in the future also, Thakur said, "The Indian film industry has a huge potential to become a content hub of the world".

Slamming the opposition over the disruption of parliament, he said, "Opposition is against the rising soft power of the country and the film industry".

The Bill to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, under which the certificate issued by the Central

Board of Film Certification was valid for 10 years. Now, the certificate will be perpetually valid.

As per the provision of the Bill, certain additional certificate categories have been added based on age. Films with an 'A' or 'S' certificate will require a separate certificate for exhibition on television, or any other media prescribed by the central government.

Among other things, the bill introduces three certifications under the 'UA' category, UA 7+, UA 13+ and UA 16+, which means that children younger than the given age limits can access such movies with parental guidance.

The Bill also prohibits the unauthorised recording and exhibition of films.

According to the Bill, attempting an unauthorised recording will be an offence with imprisonment between three months and three years, and a fine between three lakh rupees and five percent of the audited gross production cost.

ED attaches Lalu family's properties valued at Rs 6.2 Cr in land-for-job scam case

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached properties valued at Rs 6

crore and 2 lakh belonging to former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family members in a land-for-job scam case. The properties are situated in Ghaziabad and Patna areas of Bihar. The central investigating agency has initiated a PMLA investigation based on CBI's FIR.

The CBI had registered a case against Lalu Yadav, the then Union Railway Minister, his wife Rabri Devi, two daughters, and 15 others,

including unknown public servants and private persons. "During the period 2004-2009, Yadav had obtained pecuniary advantages in the form of the transfer of landed property in the name of his family members in lieu of appointment of substitutes in Group 'D' posts in different Zones of Railways," the official said.

A number of residents of Patna themselves or through their family mem-

bers sold and gifted their land in favor of the family members of Yadav and a private company controlled by Yadav and his family.

"No advertisement or any public notice was issued for such appointment of substitutes in Zonal Railways, yet the appointees who were residents of Patna were appointed as substitutes in different Zonal Railways located at Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur, and Hazipur.

BJP to stage protest against Gehlot govt in Rajasthan today

IANIS

NEW DELHI: BJP on Monday announced that it will 'gherao' the Rajasthan Secretariat on August 1, in protest against the Ashok Gehlot-led government over various issues including 'deteriorating' law and order situation in the state.

"Tomorrow, we will gherao the Rajasthan Secretariat against the Gehlot government. There is a complete jungle raj in Rajasthan. There is no law and order. On July 28, 21 incidents took place within 24 hours," BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh said during a press conference at the party headquarters. He claimed that among the 21 incidents include murder, kidnapping and rape.

"In Rajasthan, everyday 17-18 rape incidents are reported. Women are not safe in the state. It has become the number one state in the country as far as crimes against women are concerned. It is also number one as far as Dalit atrocities are concerned," Singh said.

He said that neither Congress leader Rahul Gandhi nor Priyanka Gandhi has met the victims.

Singh also accused the Congress-led government in the state of corruption.

Assembly elections in Rajasthan are scheduled to be held later this year. It is likely that 'corruption and law and order' will be among major issues for BJP to use against the Congress government in the upcoming polls.

Won't let injustice happen to anyone: Yogi

UNI

GORAKHPUR: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday directed the officials that those who encroach on people's land and harm the weak should not be spared under any circumstances and strict legal action should be taken against them.

The CM issued the directive to the officials during the Janata Darshan held at Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan on the premises of Gorakhnath temple. He heard the problems and grievances of 400 people and referred their prayer letters to the concerned authorities.

He directed the officials towards a fast and satisfac-

factory disposal of their problems while assuring visitors that no injustice would be done to anyone during his tenure.

Yogi said that the government will provide full help for the treatment of patients seeking financial help. Handing over their applications to the officials, he directed that the estimation process of the cost of treatment be completed as soon as possible and made available to the government.

He also directed officials to resolve matters related to revenue and police with complete transparency and fairness. "Injustice should not be done to anyone. Every victim should be treated sensitively," he said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPECIAL SUB DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 48/2023-24/EE/SSDG/3614-21/E-tendering/Dated: 28-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Development of Inner Links at Kashpot, Kilshay, Zadgaj, PTL, Satni, Neeru (Satni Road)	45.00	1100	40 Days	90000	UT State Sector	BEE/AAV	PWD (R&B) Department
2	Construction of Sheikhpura Mazgund Road Burnal Link Road/Dukron	21.54	800	30 Days	43000	UT State Sector	CEE/BEE	PWD (R&B) Department
3	Construction of Mazgund Jumiyal Dutt Road Km 2 nd by way of P/L of GSB G-II	12.12	600	20 Days	24300	UT State Sector	DEE/CEE/BEE	PWD (R&B) Department
4	Completion of 4 roomed double story Building at High School Jumiyal Tulail	3.33	200	10 Days	6700	SSY	DEE	District Administration
5	Construction of waiting lounge at Dawar Helipad Gurez	25.23	1100	50 Days	50500	5452 State Plan	BEE/AAV	District Administration
6	Up-gradation of Kashpot Kilshay road (Phase II) Sudhey Kilshay checki Beyant Road by way of Crate work at spots. (2 nd Call)	8.76	300	20 Days	17500	BADP	DEE/CEE	District Administration

- Position of AAA: Accorded
- Position of funds: Available
- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	28-07-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 31-07-2023 (10:00AM) To 07-08-2023 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 31-07-2023 (10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 07-08-2023 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	08-08-2023 (11:00 AM)

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez Major Head 0059-Rev.Misc.[Tender Inviting Authority](Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dtd 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan/CDR/FDR should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date)pledged to Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez(Tender receiving Authority)..
- All bidders have to pay 2% of advertised cost of the work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender.
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract value as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP.
- Instruction to bidder (ITB)
- All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.
 - All bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with .
 - Cell No. and Correspondence Address.
 - All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan/2% of Adv Cost.in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Special sub Division Gurez
 - All Bidders shall upload PAN CARD.
 - All Bidders shall upload Registration Card with latest renewal on JKPWOMS Portal.
 - All Bidders shall upload the GST No. GST (Registration Certificate) GST acknowledgement receipt along with latest GST (3B) of ending previous month & Quarterly respectively -April- June 2023/ latest month i.e. June 2023.
 - All bidders shall upload verification certificate from concerned Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card. Letter No:- Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Kashmir's :-18484-516 Dated:-21-11-2020 and No:- BS/812-44 Dated 06-04-2021.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement a/s laid down in NIT
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Special Sub Division Gurez

DIPK-6036-23
DT: 31/07/2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SPECIAL FOREST DIVISION TANGMARG

TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No: - 12 of 2023-24 DATED: - 27-07-2023

Name of Work: - Supply of Soil, Humus, Sand, polybags and seeds with preparation of potting mixture in the ratio of 3:2:1 after sieving soil, humus and sand, separating pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantities together in desired ratio & volume followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such bags in Zerim nursery beds for raising of nursery stock. Tangmarg forest division.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

S.No.	Particulars of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) (Rs.)	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Rs.)	Time of completion
01	Supply of Soil, Humus, Sand, polybags and seeds with preparation of potting mixture in the ratio of 3:2:1 after sieving soil, humus and sand, separating pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantities together in desired ratio & volume followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such bags in Zerim nursery beds for raising of nursery stock. Tangmarg forest division	9.84 Lakhs	19680	"C & D" Class Civil Contractor/ Forest Contractor	600	45 days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website: www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA: Accorded vide No.38/CCF(K) of 2023 dated .08-06-2023

Position of TS: Accorded vide No.55 /CF/Sgr of 2023 dated 12-06-2023

Publishing Date:-	28-07-2023
Download Start Date :	29-07-2023 From 12:00 Pm
Bid Submission Start Date:	29-07-2023 From 12:00 Pm
Bid Submission End Date:	12-08-2023 Up To 04:00 Pm
Date Of Opening Of Technical Bid Through Online:	14-08-2023 At 11:30 Am In The Office Of The Conservator Of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar
Date Of Opening Of Financial Bid Through Online:	To Be Opened Online At Any Convenient Date & Time After Complete Evaluation Of Technical Bids

TERMS & CONDITIONS.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD (CDR) for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Bid security in shape of (EMD), Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2023-24, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document) Affidavit cum undertaking.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

NO: - DFO/TNG/ACcts/2023-24/84-89
Dated: 27/07/2023
DIPK-6086-23
DT: 31/07/2023

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Special Forest Division
Tangmarg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM

Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111

E-mail:- xenmbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No: 68-MDB of 2023-24/5320-35 DATED: 31-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest money CDR/FDR	Time of Completion (days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Construction of Lane and drain from H/O Mushtaq Ahmad Matta to H/O Ab. Rashid Sheikh at Ward No.6	Rs.1.50 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.3000/-	10 days	DEE	IDMT	MC Beerwah

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of TS = Accorded
Project Authority: Position of funds:- = Available/Committed,
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-07-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	31-07-2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	31-07-2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	07-08-2023 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	08-08-2023 at 11.00A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
Submission of Performance Security (PS)		Within 7days of receipt of LOI. (The bidder as to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security within 7days after opening of Financial Bid) in shape of CDR/FDR

NO: EE/MDB/NIT/ 5320-35
DATED:- 31 - 07-2023
DIPK-6117-23
DT: 31/07/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Muffasil (R&B) Division
Budgam,

India's semiconductor programme part of larger endeavour to promote 'Make in India': Jaishankar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDHINAGAR: The 'Modified Semicon India Programme' is a part of a larger endeavour to promote manufacturing in India, as part of the 'Make in India' initiative and in line with the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday.



He made the remark while addressing the second day of the ongoing SemiconIndia conference in Gujarat's Gandhinagar on Sunday.

Jaishankar highlighted the nation's strategic vision and ongoing efforts to secure a pivotal role in critical and emerging technology.

Talking about its goal, the EAM said, "You are also deeply familiar with the steadily expanding production of electronic products in the country. It is a natural outcome of the journey of India from being the fifth-largest economy currently to the third largest, which is our current goal. Our strong interest in expanding this aspect of manufacturing is reflected in the Modified Semicon India Programme which provides appropriate fiscal incentives. This too is a facet of a larger endeavour to promote manufacturing in India, articulated in the 'Make in India' initiative and the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat."

The Centre launched the Semicon India Programme in December 2021 for the development of the semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India.

"A more self-reliant India will ipso facto also be more self-reliant in semiconductor production. Similarly, an India that is seeking to enhance both the quality and quantity of its exports and become more deeply embedded in global value chains will also necessarily focus today on the semiconductor domain," the External Affairs Minister added.

At the conference, he also talked about the collaboration between India and US across fields and spheres. He also invoked US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo's India visit in March during which an MoU on the Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership was con-

cluded. Jaishankar said during Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US, specific commitments were made with regard to Micron Technology, Lam Research and Applied Materials and they have been the subject of deliberations as well.

"During Prime Minister Modi's State visit to the United States in June 2023, semiconductors were also a focus of the talks with President Biden and his team. As you would be aware, the two leaders chaired a technology round-table with the brand names of the industry. The Joint Statement highlighted this aspect of our cooperation. Three US companies - Micron Technology, Lam Research and Applied Materials - made specific commitments that have been the subject of your deliberations as well. It is essential that these developments are viewed from the larger perspective of India and the United States building a technology partnership for the future," Jaishankar said.

"India's entry as the latest member of the Minerals Security Partnership is worth noting, given the importance today of diversifying and securing supply chains in that area. Similarly, cooperation between the two countries has been a visible tailwind in the sphere of advanced telecommunications. Even as India's 5G rollout starts to gather momentum, it is noteworthy to seek Bharat 6G and the American NextG Alliance co-lead research. Launching Open RAN deployments and participating in the US Rip and Replace Programme is also worth noting. This collaboration today extends to new initiatives and additional domains and can be expected to grow steadily," he added.

On Space collaboration,

the EAM said India signed the Artemis Accords and promoted stronger ISRO-NASA collaboration. The Innovation Handshake between Indian entities and the National Science Foundation (NSF) holds much promise. So too does the INDUS-X innovation bridge in defence technologies.

Minister Jaishankar underlined the significance of critical and emerging technologies in elevating India's position on the global stage.

Jaishankar said it is an intrinsic element of the knowledge economy that is steadily unfolding and one of its primary characteristics is that it embeds technologies in a manner that profoundly influences all aspects of our lives.

He said, "The depiction of a Chip War may be somewhat overstated, but it has more than a fundamental kernel of truth. To a considerable extent, concerns in the ICET field are influenced by how market shares and production dominance was leveraged in other areas."

"Technology trade is not just trade; it is as much about political science. The truth is that we are seeing the re-emergence of export controls as a response to strategic assertions of economic strength. How to do business needs to be tempered with where and with whom to do it," he added. (Milap News Network)

PM Modi thanks US for returning over 100 rare, ancient Indian artefacts



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed his gratitude to the US government for returning over 100 rare and ancient artefacts to India.

"A few days ago, social media was abuzz with the news that America had returned over 100 rare and ancient artefacts to India. These artefacts are anywhere between 250 and 2500 years old. These rare and precious items belong to different regions of the country," PM Modi said during the 103rd episode of his monthly radio broadcast - 'Mann Ki Baat' - on Sunday.

"I would like to thank the US Government for returning these items, which testify to our proud heritage. Even during my visit to the US in 2016 and

2021, many similar artefacts were returned to India," PM Modi added.

Earlier, in a tweet, PM Modi had said the return of 105 trafficked antiquities to India will make "every Indian happy".

"Grateful to the US for this. These precious artefacts hold immense cultural and religious significance. Their homecoming is a testament to our commitment to preserving our heritage and rich history," he had posted.

Earlier, the Indian consulate in New York held a repatriation ceremony for 105 trafficked antiquities handed over.

Speaking at the event, Indian Ambassador to the US, Tananjit Singh Sandhu, thanked the US, and, in particular, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and his Anti-Trafficking Unit

and the Homeland Security Investigation team for their stellar cooperation and support.

The envoy noted that for the people of India, these were not just pieces of art but a part of their heritage and culture.

Sandhu tweeted, "105 Indian antiquities to return home! Delighted to attend a ceremony in #NewYork this morning, marking the restitution of artefacts following PM @narendramodi's State Visit. Appreciate the cooperation extended in the protection & exchange of cultural property."

The repatriation ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the Homeland Security Investigation team, as per an official release. (MILAP NEWS NETWORK)

PSLV-C56 Launch

Launch of 7 Satellites by ISRO Marks Milestone in Space Partnership: IHC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SINGAPORE: The Indian High Commission in Singapore on Sunday said the launch of 7 satellites by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) marks another milestone in the Space partnership between the two countries.

"India-Singapore space partnership marks another milestone with the launch of 7 Singaporean satellites by Indian space agency ISRO today," the Indian High Commission in Singapore tweeted on Sunday.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday launched PSLV-C56 carrying seven satellites, including the primary satellite DS-SAR and six co-passenger satellites, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) Sriharikota. The launch vehicle lifted off from Sriharikota at 6:30 am on Sunday. PSLV-C56 Launch Video: ISRO Successfully Launches PSLV-C56 Rocket With Six Co-Passenger Satellites From Sriharikota, Says 'The Mission Is Successfully Accomplished'.

"PSLV-C56/ DS-SAR Mission: The mission is successfully accomplished. PSLV-C56 vehicle launched all seven satellites precisely into their intended orbits. Thanks to @NSIL India and Singapore, for the contract," tweeted ISRO.

This PSLV flight marks the 58th overall and the 17th using the Core Alone configuration. The upper stage of the rocket was placed in lower orbit after injecting all the satellites to assure its shorter orbital life.

The PSLV-C56, according to ISRO was launched from the First Launch Pad (FLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota. PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR is the Dedicated Commercial Mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore. DS-SAR, a Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite is the primary satellite for the mission. In addition to this, there were 6 co-passenger customer satellites also belonging to Singapore.

All satellites would be

injected into a 535 km circular with 5 orbital inclination, the ISRO stated in a release earlier. DS-SAR satellite has been developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering. Once deployed and operational. It will be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore. PSLV-C56 Carrying Seven Singapore Satellites Successfully Placed in Right Orbit, Says ISRO Chairman S Somanath.

ST Engineering will use it for multi-modal and higher responsiveness imagery and geospatial services for their commercial customers. DS-SAR carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). This allows the DS-SAR to provide for all-weather day and night coverage, and is capable of imaging at 1m resolution at full polarimetry, the ISRO said. (Milap News Network)

Pahari Tribe Jubilant over Introduction of ST Status Bill in Lok Sabha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a historic moment for the Pahari tribe of Jammu and Kashmir, the introduction of a bill granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status has been met with jubilation and gratitude.

Decades of peaceful struggle have finally borne fruit, and the Pahari community expressed their appreciation to the central government, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Senior political leader and former MLA of Karnah, Raja Manzoor, expressed his elation, stating, "We will get our right after a four-decade-long struggle, which we carried out with peace. We always put forth our demand within the constitution; we are thankful to the Government of India, particularly PM Narendra Modi."

Syed Shabir Gellani, a retired officer from the Jammu and Kashmir police and a Pahari activist, emphasized that the Paharis are about to attain their long-awaited rights, calling it a time of celebration for the entire tribe.

Zubair Qureshi, a young writer and journalist, sees this development as a step towards positive change. He remarked, "Now Pahari youths will get their rights,

and they will also contribute to the welfare of society."

The joyous celebrations were not limited to Karnah alone, as a large gathering of Paharis in the Rajouri area of the Pirpanjal range also joined in the festivities in their region.



DDC member Surankote, Sohail Malik, expressed his gratitude to every member of the Pahari community who supported the struggle, irrespective of caste, colour, creed, or religion. He also thanked the Government of India for ensuring that the ST quota of already enlisted communities remains intact with no changes.

Kamran Aijaz, a local Pahari youth, praised the BJP for keeping their promises, stating, "The BJP has always turned its slogans into reality. BJP made a promise to Paharis that they will get their genuine right, and it was announced by the Union

Home Minister multiple times, and now this dream of Paharis has come true. We are very thankful for this."

High-ranking BJP officials, including Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Ravinder Raina and J&K's General Secretary Vibodh Gupta,

attributed the success to the BJP government, with special acknowledgement to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

While the atmosphere is filled with joy and celebration, Sohail Malik also appealed to all citizens to abide by the law and ensure that the festivities remain lawful.

The granting of Scheduled Tribe status to the Pahari community marks a significant milestone in their journey towards recognition and inclusion, promising brighter prospects for their future within Indian society. (Milap News Network)

"This is admirable...will continue to grow further"

NK Singh on IMF's India growth projection



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: While lauding the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) economic prediction for India from this year, NK Singh, Chairman of 15th Finance Commission of India has said that the projection will "continue to grow further."

The co-chair of the G20 expert group's remarks came on the sidelines of the India-Japan forum, where Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the first volume of the NK Singh and Lawrence Summers report, which was published recently.

When asked about his views on the IMF upgrading its economic prediction for India from 5.9 per cent to 6.1 per cent, Singh told ANI, "This is admirable and you will see in the coming times that it will continue to grow further."

Reiterating the four issues stated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to make India a

developed nation, he said that this can contribute to "strengthen multilateral development banks, debt, crypto-digital and urban sectors."

Speaking at the India-Japan Forum, Sitharaman said, "The govt is aiming at building an India which will reach its destination of being a developed country by 2047. So in this phase, the emphasis has been on 4 different issues- infrastructure, investment, innovation and inclusivity."

The second part of the report will be released in October for discussion by finance ministers ahead of the G20 Annual meeting at Marrakech (Morocco).

It will set the road-map for the transformation of MDBs (Multilateral Development Banks) that will have to evolve to address the ongoing and upcoming challenges faced by the global economy, Sitharaman said. (Milap News Network)

US hunts Chinese malware designed to disrupt America's Military: Report

GMK NEWS NETWORK

WASHINGTON DC: President Joe Biden led administration started the hunt for malicious computer code as they believe China might have inserted them, designed to disrupt the US military operations in the event of a conflict, including if Beijing moves against Taiwan in the coming years, according to The New York Times citing the American military, intelligence and national security officials.

This came after Microsoft said it had detected mysterious computer code in telecommunications systems in Guam, the Pacific island with a vast American air base, and elsewhere in the United States. Although it was only the narrow slice of the problem that Microsoft could see through its networks

it triggered fears among the US administration. The discovery of Malware has raised fears that Chinese hackers, probably working for the People's Liberation Army, and also the issue was touched in the White House in recent months, as senior officials from the National Security Council, the Pentagon, the Homeland Security Department and the nation's spy agencies attempt to understand the scope of the problem and plot a response.

The malware, according to a congressional official, was essentially "a ticking time bomb" that could give China the power to interrupt or slow American military deployments or resupply operations by cutting off power, water and communications to U.S. military bases. But its impact could be far broader, because that same

infrastructure often supplies the houses and businesses of ordinary Americans, according to US officials.

More than a dozen US officials and industry experts said in interviews over the past two months that the Chinese effort goes far beyond telecommunications systems and predated the May report by at least a year, reported The New York Times.

They also stated that the US government's effort to hunt down the code and eradicate it has been underway for some time. Most spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential and in some cases classified assessments.

They say the investigations so far show the Chinese effort appears more widespread - in the United States and at American facilities abroad - than they had initially

realized. But officials acknowledge that they do not know the full extent of the code's presence in networks around the world, partly because it is so well hidden.

The discovery of malware was a debate inside the administration over whether the goal of the operation is primarily aimed at disrupting the military, or at civilian life more broadly in the event of a conflict. But officials say that the initial searches for the code have focused first on areas with a high concentration of American military bases.

US and China's relationship has been deteriorating since February 2023 when America felt that there was a spy balloon of Beijing that was floating in their territory. China has accused the United States of hacking into Huawei, its telecommunications giant. Secret

documents released a decade ago by Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency contractor now in exile in Russia, confirmed that American intelligence agencies did just that, as per The New York Times. The continued official visits from the US have also not been a great help to America in improving the relationship.

Meanwhile, the New York Times also reported that there might be another theory which is that the code is intended to distract.

Chinese officials, US intelligence agencies have assessed, may believe that during an attack on Taiwan or other Chinese action, any interruptions in US infrastructure could so fixate the attention of American citizens that they would think little about an overseas conflict. The New York Times reported. (Milap News Network)

IMF Deal Not Enough for Pakistan

Fitch and Moody's Raise Concerns Over Economic Risks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PAKISTAN: Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service on Monday warned of continued threats to Pakistan's financial sustainability, despite the country receiving a much-needed \$3 billion lifeline from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the weekend.

Pakistan has \$25 billion of repayments due in FY24, says Moody's rating agency

Pakistan signed a short-duration (nine-month) worth \$3 billion loan programme with the IMF last week, following the revival of the \$7 billion programme that was officially ending prematurely the same day.

The programme is expected to make the required foreign exchange available to reopen imports, help listed companies to gradually ramp up the partially closed production, and reenergize economic activities in the country.

The new programme has also signalled other donor agencies and friendly countries to extend new financing to Islamabad as they pledged \$9 billion at a Geneva meeting in January 2023.

But the two global rating agencies reminded of continued risks to the South Asian economy as the government stares at a \$25 billion debt repayment hurdle in the year starting July.

"Pakistan will require significant additional financing besides the IMF disbursements to meet its debt maturities and finance an economic recovery," Krisjanis Krustins, director of sovereigns for APAC at Fitch, told Bloomberg.

"While the IMF likely sought and received assurances for such financing, there is a risk that this could prove insufficient, particularly if current account deficits widen again." In order to secure the initial agreement with the IMF, Pakistan had to increase taxes, cut spending, and raise its primary interest rate to a historic peak.

Although the initial agreement was welcomed by the markets, causing stock to surge significantly and dollar bonds to enjoy their best run, it is still awaiting approval by the IMF Executive Board.

Grace Lim, an analyst at Moody's in Singapore, expressed uncertainty about Pakistan's ability to secure complete IMF financ-

ing during the standby period.

"It is uncertain that the Pakistani government will be able to secure full \$3 billion of IMF financing during the nine-month stand-by arrangement program," Lim told Bloomberg.

The government's commitment to continually implement reforms will be tested as it goes into elections due by October 2023, she said.

Pakistan had previously secured a \$1.1 billion loan in August, which was subsequently halted due to Islamabad's failure to comply with some of the stipulated conditions.

The towering \$25 billion debt repayment includes both principal and interest, which is nearly seven times Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, as per Moody's.

Lim said that it would only be clear after elections whether the country will be able to join another IMF program.

"Until a new program is agreed, Pakistan's ability to secure loans from other bilateral and multilateral partners on an ongoing basis over the longer term will be severely constrained," she warned. (Milap News Network)

NEET-SS aspirants write to LG seeking exam centre in Kashmir

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of Kashmiri aspirants preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Super Specialty (NEET-SS) are worried as the National Board of Examination (NBA) has not established any exam centres in the valley. The candidates have written to J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, seeking his intervention in the issue.

The NEET-SS exam is slated to take place on September 9-10, 2023, putting the students with the burden of travelling to Jammu or other states to sit the significant test. On September 4, admit cards are anticipated to be released and around 500 aspirants from Kashmir are scheduled to appear in the examination.

Several candidates who have to appear in the examination said that they will have to spend more than Rs 20,000 per head and at least three to four days of travel to other states to appear in

the examination.

"We aren't against setting up examination centre in Jammu but there is a need for such centres in Kashmir as well, where there are hundreds of candidates," they said. "In case no examination centre was being established in Kashmir, we will have to bear the financial strain of flight tickets, and hotel accommodations besides uncertainty due to the frequent closures on the highway."

The upset candidates have written to LG Manoj Sinha to intervene at the earliest so that they won't have to suffer.

The candidates have mentioned in the letter that the only examination centre for NEET SS 2023, which is in Jammu, proves to be "highly inconvenient and distant" for those hailing from Srinagar and other areas.

This not only adds to our financial burden but also causes unnecessary stress and anxiety, ultimately affecting their performance in the examination,

they said.

For a smooth and comfortable examination experience, the aspirants have sought additional examination centre in Srinagar. "By doing so, you would not only be alleviating the inconvenience faced by the candidates but also promoting accessibility and equal opportunities for aspirants from all regions of Jammu and Kashmir," the letter mentions. "This would undoubtedly be a great stride towards enhancing the educational prospects of aspiring medical professionals from our region and reinforcing the government's commitment to providing equitable opportunities for all."

Various associations including RDA SKIMS and others have also shot letters to the LG seeking his intervention.

Meanwhile, a health official told KNO that they have taken up the issue with the concerned authorities and are hopeful that a centre will be allotted in Srinagar—(KNO)

JKAACL Organises scintillating Cultural event to promote literature, folk music

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: The hilly town of Kalakote was alive with the sounds of folk music, dance, and poetry as the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages organized a one-day cultural bonanza in the Government Girls High School. The event was a resounding success, with a large number of people from the adjoining areas, including students and senior citizens gathering to witness the show.

The literary breakfast included a captivating music show, enchanting dance performances, and a composite Mushaira featuring artists and poets from both within and outside the district. The objective of the event was to promote and develop the rich cultural heritage of the Peer Panjal region, with a special focus on folk music and dance. Through such events, the academy aims to instill a sense of pride and appreciation for regional arts amongst the youth.

The event was conducted

under the supervision of Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh, while the venerable artist and poet K.K. Khaki graced the occasion as the chief guest. The headmaster of the school, Shakil Ahmad, presided over the function, adding to the aura of the event.

Cultural Officer Sanjiv Gupta, highlighted the Academy's role in promoting art, culture, and languages in the hilly areas of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The event provided a vibrant platform to local artists and poets, including Ishan and party, Ashish and party and many more to showcase their talent and connect with their audience.

The event was a true celebration of the rich cultural heritage of the region, and its success has paved the way for hosting more such events in the future. The Academy's efforts towards promoting art and culture in the region will undoubtedly go a long way in preserving the cultural identity of the Peer Panjal region.



Inviting trouble, anytime can cave in. Residents of Hawal urge authorities to stop any tragedy.

HED rationalizes Major subjects in GDCs based on student enrollment

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has taken a decision to rationalise the major subjects offered in colleges based on enrolment data.

The move, officials said is aimed at streamlining the education system and optimizing resources in the degree colleges.

Notably, the decision comes in the wake of the introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its subsequent implementation in the academic year 2022, which saw the introduction of First Year Undergraduate (FYUG) programs in all degree colleges.

In this regard, the nodal principal of Degree Colleges in Kashmir division has written to the principals of Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) of Kashmir division to direct the concerned admission conveners to visit the seat matrix portal.

"Directions have been passed by the department to the Digital Initiative Cell to open the seat matrix portal for necessary amendments," the official communication reads.

According to the data shared by degree colleges with the Higher Education

Department (HED) it has been observed that certain major subjects had an alarmingly low enrollment rate.

"In some cases, colleges had to conduct classes for a meager class strength of only 3 to 10 students," the official document reads.

The move raised concerns as these students progress to higher semesters, and the number of major-based courses increases.

To address this issue and ensure an efficient and effective education system, the Higher Education Department initiated a major subject rationalization process based on previous student enrollment data.

"As a result, certain subjects have been withdrawn as major offerings for fresh admissions in the academic session 2023-24," the official document reads.

The document reads that the subjects withdrawn as majors in individual colleges will still be available as minor and multidisciplinary courses for enrolled students during the session 2023-24.

"This step aims to provide students with alternative learning opportunities and avoid any adverse

impact on their academic journeys," the document reads.

To further streamline the admission process and optimize seat allocation, the government has directed colleges to populate the seat matrix with an intake of 80 students or in multiples of 80, based on the overall intake of the college.

"This approach will facilitate better planning and resource management in colleges," the document reads.

In light of this, the college authorities have been asked to direct their admission conveners to visit the designated seat matrix portal and make the necessary amendments as per the directions of the HED.

"The Digital Initiative Cell has been tasked with opening the seat matrix portal for the required changes," the communication reads.

A top official said the move initiated by the HED aims to create a more balanced and robust education system that caters to the needs and interests of students while ensuring the optimal utilization of resources in colleges across the Kashmir Division—(KNO)

'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign in full swing in Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In connection with celebrations of 'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign, the District Information Centre Baramulla in collaboration with Cultural Unit Srinagar and other departments Monday conducted a Cultural event at Eco Park Khadiniyar Baramulla through which a rich and glowing tribute was paid to all those heroes who made supreme sacrifices for the noble cause.

A large number of artists, poets, other prominent citizens besides concerned functionaries of all departments showed their enthusiastic participation in the Cultural programme.

The artistic performances highlighted diverse range of fascinating art forms of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage and tradi-

tional legacy.

It is worth here to mention that 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign aims at invoking a feeling of patriotism and unity in the hearts of people and promoting a sense of respect for the soil of the nation and symbols of country's Independence.

The campaign includes various components including Plantation and remembering brave hearts, Memorials / symbolic items to be placed with plants, hoisting of National Flag and singing of Rashtra Gaan (National Anthem) and Panch Pran Pledge.

As part of the campaign, Panch Pran Pledge ceremony was also undertaken by students, Volunteers and other prominent citizens at Sikh War Memorial Baramulla in connection with 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign to affirm the objective to fulfil dream of a developed India in 2047.



Mourners take out 12th Muharram procession at Sarai Dangerpora, Sumbal in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Monday. (GMK Phot / Aijaz Rahi)

IIT Jammu Inks Pacts with Five Premier Universities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023, commemorating the third anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu took a significant stride towards fostering academic collaboration and promoting knowledge exchange by signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with five renowned universities.

The MoUs signifies the institute's [IIT Jammu] commitment to inspire academic excellence and encourage the relentless pursuit of knowledge. The esteemed universities entering into these partnerships include the National Institute of Technology Agartala (NITA), National Institute of Technology Warangal (NITW), National Institute of Technology Patna (NITP), Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology (SLIET), and Mody University of Science and Technology (MUST).

The official inking of the pacts held among eminent personalities, including Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu, and the Directors of the respective institutes, namely Prof S K Patra, Director, NITA; Prof B D Subudhi, Director, NITW; Prof Pradip Kumar Jain, NITP; Prof Mani Kant Paswan, Director, SLIET; Prof Rajeev Mathur, Director, MUST. The event marked a moment of shared commitment to strengthen-



ing academic cooperation and advancing the frontiers of education and research.

Under these transformative collaborations, IIT Jammu will jointly engage with NITA, NITW, NITP, and SLIET in cutting-edge research projects that align with their mutual interests. Additionally, the institutes will collaborate on the supervision of PhD students, conduct joint workshops and seminars, and exchange academic information, scholarly materials, and publications. This exchange will also pave the way for the admission of students for direct or early MTech/PhD programs at IIT Jammu and the initiation of Joint PhD/PG programs.

The MoUs envision a shared pool of faculty expertise, fostering the reciprocal utilization of knowledge and academic resources between partner institutes. Faculty members from one institution will lend their expertise for teaching courses, conducting collaborative research, and submitting joint project proposals at the other institution, promoting a culture of academic excellence and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Furthermore, IIT Jam-

mu's partnership with Mody University of Science and Technology (MUST) holds a special significance, as it seeks to empower the girl population by providing them with world-class educational opportunities in an IT-savvy environment. Under this collaboration, IIT Jammu will offer summer internship opportunities, semester-long courses, and credit transfer options to undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students from MUST. The institute will also extend administrative support, faculty mentorship, and guidance in infrastructure development, nurturing a conducive academic ecosystem.

These MoUs reflect the shared vision of excellence in education and research among the partnering institutions, and they mark a significant milestone in advancing academic growth and promoting a collaborative academic environment. By joining forces, IIT Jammu and its esteemed partner universities are set to unlock a new era of academic exploration and innovation, inspiring generations to dream big and achieve greater heights in the pursuit of knowledge.

Demand for ban on entry of MRs to govt hospital grows shriller

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Ban on entry of medical representatives (MR) to SKIMS has revived the debate about their ban to other hospitals.

Many patients and attendants said that presence of MRs in hospitals is causing inconvenience to them.

On a visit to several hospitals, this correspondent spotted a large presence of MRs in hospitals and outside the chambers of doctors.

People question when almost 99 percent drugs are available in hospitals at cheaper rates what is the role of MRs.

"They (MRs) must visit doctors at their private clinics only," they said.

They said that elderly patients are being kept waiting for hours as doctors prefer to discuss their perks and gifts with medical representatives.

An elderly patient from Pulwama said that he had to wait for about three hours at an OPD of a hospital because over a dozen MRs entered the doctors' cabin.

"It was between 10 am-1 pm without any restrictions when patients from far off places were visiting the OPD for treatment," he said.



Recently, a circular was issued by SKIMS where authorities directed doctors that all medications prescribed should be generic medicines and not branded medicines.

Several doctors had welcomed this move as they said that this would bring relief to patients especially poor who are not able to buy expensive branded medicines.

They said that there is a perception generated that because generic drugs are cheaper, they will be less effective but that is not true and there is a need to raise awareness among people that would change their perception towards generic drugs.

They also said that other hospitals must

issue similar directions to promote generic drugs and to curtail entry of MRs when they are entering hospital for private purposes only.

A doctor who wished not to be named said that MRs must be banned from visiting doctors in government hospitals.

Citing availability of generic medicines at low rates in hospitals, he said that there is no need for MRs to promote dispensing of any other drugs through doctors in government hospitals.

A senior health official said that they will look into the issue and issue necessary directions to concerned authorities so that patients won't have to suffer—(KNO)

Lack of irrigation worries farmers in Kupwara

KUPWARA: Expressing serious concerns over the losses to agriculture, people of several areas depending on Dal Kul to irrigate their fields Monday said that their hard work is going waste without water supply.

Known as Dal Kul, it irrigates areas like Bumhama, Durgmulla, Muqam Shahwali, Bandy Mohallah and other adjoining areas.

Aggrieved locals said that the water from Dal Kul is the lone source of irrigation for about 250 acre (2000 Kanal) of land.

They said that about 20000 families have their agricultural land dry in absence of irrigation. "We are not able to irrigate our agricultural fields. The lone source has not been maintained by the authorities despite multiple requests," they said.

Abdul Khaliq, a local from Muqam Shahwali said that Dal Kul needs to be connected to the water

source at Geerhatti but so far nothing has been done.

"Our land is suffering because of a drop of water. We have approached the authorities concerned multiple times but nothing has been done," he said.

Abdul Ahad, another local, said that Dal Kul has been running dry for a long time now. "Most of the population here depends on the farming sector but the authorities seem to be unmoved. We are suffering, our land and production is on the verge of damage. Our production will suffer a massive decline," he said.

Farmers said that they are made to pay Rs 30 per kanal by the concerned department for irrigation purposes yet they are facing drought-like situation.

Asif Ali Masoodi Exon Irrigation and Flood Control department division Kupwara said that he will verify about it—(KNO)

NOTICE

I Suhail Bhat S/O Mohd Yaqoob Bhat resident of 53, Millat Lane, Lalnagar, Chanapora, Srinagar 190015 want to change the name of our daughter Laraib Suhail Bhat holding passport number U2526630 to new name Safa Suhail Bhat. Anybody having any objection may intimate the concerned office within seven days of this publication.

From: Suhail Ahmad Bhat
Father