

Good Morning Kashmir

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Soldier Dies Of Bullet Injury Near LoC In Poonch

JAMMU: An Army personnel died of a bullet injury from his own service rifle near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a police official said on Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

Sepoy Amritpal Singh was deployed to a forward post in the Mankote Sector. His colleagues found him in a pool of blood after hearing a gunshot around 5 am, the official said.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Singh died of a bullet from his own service rifle, he said. The official added •P-02

LeT Terrorist Associate Arrested In B'la



SRINAGAR: Police along with security forces arrested a terrorist associate linked with the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT/ TRF and recovered incriminating materials, arms, and ammunition from his possession in North •P-02

New Kashmir Heading Towards Peace, Prosperity: Prez Murmu

ABID BASHIR

SRINAGAR: The president of India Droupadi Murmu Wednesday said that "new Kashmir has taken a new turn" and is heading towards peace, prosperity and development.

Addressing the Civic Reception hosted in her honour at Rajbhawan Srinagar, President Murmu said that she was touched by the warm welcome given to her in Kashmir. "This is my first visit to Kashmir as the president of India. The memories of warm welcome given to me will go with me and stay with me forever," she said.

She said on her arrival, she paid tributes to the fallen soldiers and reiterated that the soldiers deserve all tributes and the "veer naris" a great round of applause.

"I can feel that the new Kashmir has got a new direction. The new Kashmir has taken a new turn and is heading towards peace, prosperity and development," President Murmu said.

She said that there has



been great infrastructure development, e-governance, women empowerment and inclusive growth. "I congratulate LG Manoj Sinha for this achievement," president Murmu said.

"I was told that this year 1.70 lakh tourists visited J&K which is a record. This year, a successful G-20 meeting was held in Kashmir in which international dignitaries participated. They went back to their respective countries with a good message and I believe the successful G-20 meeting will help to further improve tourism here," President Murmu said.

She said that earlier in the day, she addressed the Kashmir University's 20th convocation where she saw great enthusiasm among the young women and •P-02

'Sustainable Development Is Part Of Kashmir's Heritage'

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said finding ancient, organically grown knowledge is the duty of the academia in the country.

In her address at the 20th convocation of the Kashmir University, the President noted that the new •P-02

Prez To Pay Obeisance At Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Today

YOGESH

President Droupadi Murmu, who is on a two-day median visit to Jammu and Kashmir, will pay obeisance at Vaishno Devi shrine at Katra-Reasi today (Thursday) and inaugurate a newly constructed skywalk •P-02

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

MoEFCC Tells UT Govt To Come Up With Zonal Master Plans

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to come up with a Zonal Master Plan for eco-sensitive zones within two years.

As per a fresh notification from the MoEFCC, the UT government has been directed to form a Zonal master Plan in consonance with the relevant Central and Union Territory laws for the conservation •P-02

Terrorist Hideout Busted In Bhadrawah



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said to have busted a terrorist hideout in upper reaches of Bhadrawah in Doda district.

In a statement issued by Doda Police, police said that acting on a specific information about a terrorists hideout, •P-02

EASTERN LADAKH ROW

India, China Hold 20th Round Of Military Talks

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India and China held two days of military talks in an "open and constructive manner" for an early and mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh and agreed to maintain peace on the ground.

A statement issued on Wednesday by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)



on the 20th round of military talks on October 9 and 10 provided no indication of a breakthrough to end the lingering standoff in the remaining friction points.

It is learnt that in the talks, the Indian side strongly pressed for resolution of the lingering issues at Depsang and Demchok.

The MEA said the two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through the relevant military and •P-02

Grateful To Prez For Gracing KU's Convocation Ceremony: LG

UNI

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that he is the Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji for gracing University of Kashmir's Convocation Ceremony with her august presence.


Sinha made these while addressing 20th Convocation of Kashmir University here at Srinagar.

Addressing the 20th convocation of the University of Kashmir here, the Lt Governor said "learning fosters critical & analytical thinking in professional careers, enabling steady contributions to ongoing social transformation in our fast-growing economy".

He said learning should be lifelong and in the •P-02



Votaries Of Art-370 Were Its Biggest Abusers: Dr Jitendra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has said, votaries of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir were its biggest abusers.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, by using the alibi of Article 370 and 35A, both Congress and National Conference had for decades together denied the common man the benefit of Central Laws like property rights for women, voting rights to refugees from Pakistan, the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 in order to appease certain sections of society for vote bank. The same votaries however never felt shy of extending the term of State Assembly to 6 years and refusing to revert back even after the constitution amendment was brought in by the Morarji govt, •P-02

'54 PC OF CALLS FROM FEMALES'

Tele-MANAS Mental Helpline In J&K Receives Average 80 Calls Daily

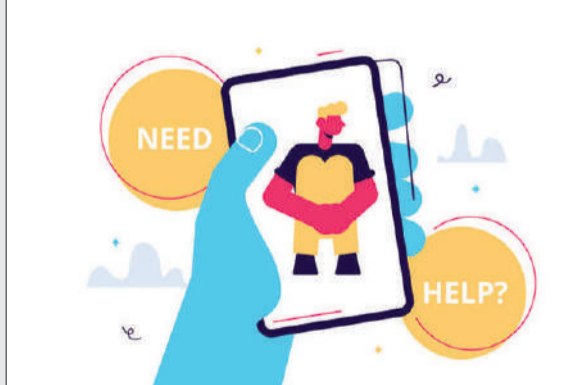
JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The UT-level Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) cell, at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, is receiving an average of 80 calls daily, with approximately 12 percent of those calls coming from individuals with self-harming thoughts.

Launched on November 4, 2022, this mental health helpline operates on a three-tier system, staffed with mental health counsellors, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists ready to assist callers.

Since its inception, the Tele-Manas has handled about 27,000 calls, addressing concerns related to stress, drug addiction, suicidal tendencies, and anxiety.

Dr Qazi Haroon, the State Program Manager for Mental Health in Jammu and Kashmir, informed that a total of 26,743 calls have been registered to date, with a slight predominance of female callers (53.97% female, 45.87% male, and 0.16% other). He said that approximately 87.36% of calls were routine inquiries, while 12.09% involved crisis interventions for individuals with self-harming ideas.




"On average, the helpline receives 80 calls daily, with the highest daily call volume reaching 214 calls. The average call duration is approximately 12 minutes," he said.

Dr Haroon also cited the major reasons for contacting the helpline, which included anxiety (2,854 calls), mood-related issues (2,790 calls), palpitations (2,428 calls), reduced interest (1,931 calls), •P-02

Famous KP Actress Visits Her Sgr Home After 3 Decades

REHAN QAYOOM MIR



SRINAGAR: With tears in her eyes, a famous Kashmiri Pandit actress, Sandeepa Dhar, broke down on Wednesday after returning to her home in Kashmir after 30 years.

She says she had to leave her home overnight, taking with her only memories.

Sandeepa Dhar is an Indian actress born in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, into a Kashmiri Pandit family. She has appeared in Hindi films and web series. She made her acting debut in 2010 with 'Isi Life Mein.' For her performance in the film, she was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut, the Star Screen Award for Most Promising Newcomer, and the •P-02



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Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Asian Games Glory

The Indian contingent put up a glorious performance at the recently concluded Asian Games. India's stellar performance at the elite sports event of Asia helped the country fetch 107 medals including 28 Gold medals. This is truly remarkable. The support shown by the current government at centre has been the most impactful. The current government is working round the clock to spawn a baseline sports infrastructure at the school and village level. You cannot train a javelin thrower in a year or do. India's ace javelin thrower is a result of years and years of training. It is great to see India doing well in core athletic games as well. India did remarkably well in archery and boxing as well. The current hockey team looks like a force to reckon with in the next year's Olympics. From what we are seeing and gauging, India should be all set to win a couple of dozen medals at the Olympics at least – let us hope a lot of them would be gold medals. Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally congratulated the athletes – in a way it was deserving. For the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir we would say hard luck that we could not produce many medal-winning athletes for our country. But as we said, winning a medal takes years and years of infrastructure building, government support, travelling, commitment and unwavering discipline. The athletes of the union territory have done remarkably well in standalone sports. It is time we hone their skills properly, provide them with proper platforms, incentivize an unwavering commitment in them, and throw open windows of opportunities for them. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has done remarkably well in revitalizing the sports infrastructure in Kashmir valley as well as the Jammu region, now this has to translate into massive participation by our athletes in international competitions and ultimately into winning medals for the country. There is plenty of scope in the valley for Cricket, Football, and Skiing. Time is ripe. It is time to further improve the standard and produce world-famed sportsmen and sportswomen. We once again congratulate the Indian contingent at the Asian Games concluded recently. All this would not have been possible without unwavering and unflagging support from the government.

Women Empowerment - Let Them Soar

ANEFAQH HIDAYAT

Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH), once said, "The best of you are those who are best to their women." Similarly, Hazrat Imam Ali (RA) wisely remarked, "Be respectful to women, for they are the mothers of mankind." These words reflect the significance of women empowerment as a sign of social freedom. Women are the beautiful and glorious creations of Almighty Allah. Defining their strength and voice fosters the identity of an entire nation. Women's voices declare, "I know my worth, I embrace my power." Women empowerment means enabling them to make their own decisions for personal development. It entails elevating women's status through education, respect, awareness, and training.

Developing leadership, providing equal opportunities, eradicating violence, and offering education and training are the principles that empower women. They are not just women; they are mothers, daughters, and devoted wives. They nurture, and they are the building blocks of a nation. Being mothers, women play an essential role. As American journalist Gloria Steinem put it, "A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men."

Women share responsibilities in society. Their names define them, and their voices give them strength. Let's put a smile on their faces and encourage their growth and rise. In Islam, figures like Hazrat Aisha (RA), the zealous wife of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Hazrat Maryam (AS), the icon of modesty, and Hazrat Khadijah (RA), a woman full of honesty, have taught us invaluable lessons about the status of women and leading a happy life.

Hazrat Fatima-al-Zahra, the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), taught the lessons of modesty. During



a time when people in Makkah buried their daughters alive, the birth of Hazrat Fatima Zahra (RA) firmly established the value of women in Islamic society. Women empowerment symbolizes females. Women are obedient wives and mothers. They have the perfect right to freedom and the liberty to choose their husbands. They are entitled to achieve the position of a mother. Give them respect, love, and empathy, for they are the ones who nurture you. They are the ones who exhibit strength through their sorrows. Never underestimate women, as they are the ones who shine with golden grace. They never let anyone cry. Women are the true architects of society; let them soar. They are the women of today, women of strength and love. Women empowerment is

their vision, a vision of confidence and communication. It is their ultimate story and right of inspiration that defines their name as women.

Gender equality is a human right for both males and females. It is necessary for achieving comprehensive and sustainable development.

Government Policies to Promote Women Empowerment

The government of India has taken various steps to empower women in every field, encompassing social, cultural, educational, and economic aspects, such as the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" scheme and the "Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)" to ensure women's social security.

While the government provides training institutions for women, there is room for improvement to help women

identify their potential. They are the pride of the nation.

To empower women, the following laws should be upheld:

- Dowry Prohibition Act
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
- Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act

Let's spread fragrance and empower women. Avoid gender-based violence. Provide women with peace and security, information, education, and communication because they stand beside you in your shadow. Supporting women's rights is the responsibility of every individual. Let them define their potential, spread positivity, and empower women.

The Writer is a student and a budding calligraphy artist. He can be reached at shahaneeqah@gmail.com

Developing Communication Skills

BY SAHIL MANZOOR

You need an environment if you want to develop your communication skills. There are a number of basic things through which we can develop our vocabulary. It is simple: if we want to become a public speaker, an effective motivator, an educator, or a counsellor, we need a gallery of knowledge. Sometimes it works that we have little knowledge by titbits and can make things to some extent, but the thing is that to motivate a gathering or an individual, we need extensive deep knowledge of the subject on which we are making a speech. Today, the competition level is quite high among the learners. Primary school-going students have good communication skills, which they have developed from their environment, like friends, family, school teachers, etc. Teachers play an important role in developing a number of languages among the learners at the school level. No doubt, mother language plays an immense role in inducing diversity of knowledge in a very simple and proper way. Complex concepts can be taught in a very simple and effective way in the mother tongue. One thing that must be known to us is that in educational institutes there is a vast diversity of culture; different languages are being spoken by students. So, we are giving importance to certain languages like Urdu and English that are commonly understood by an impressive average rate of students.

It takes students almost 6 years to get admission to 1st grade, as per NEP-2020 (National Education Policy). So, the teachers are supposed to admit into first class a student who is 6 years old. During his or her primary schooling, students spend most of the time playing different games and learning things through play-based methods like learning A to Z, counting, and Urdu letters through rhymes. Rhymes are very important for the students in pre-primary and primary

school, as rhymes develop their vocabulary and fluency. Repeating rhyming words or other study material always helps students to a certain extent. Even teachers should keep one day a week for basic things for the students at the secondary and higher secondary levels.

Basic things I mean here to throw at them differently

questions from all the subjects, like English, Mathematics, Science, Urdu, Kashmiri, etc. The test paper should be student-friendly, and conceptual things should be touchable. Students who are clear on the basics are feeling good at their own level. When the basics are not clear, students are baffled and lack interest and confidence as well. For learning, there is no age bar at any level; we can see what we are lacking and what we need to improve.

If we see the trend today, most people are emphasizing on communication skills and the English language. No doubt, communication skills are very necessary, and we have to improve with every passing day. At the same time, we have to keep in mind that there are people who are talented, have



hold, and are real gems, but unfortunately, they lack hold on English and are weak in communication skills. So, for me, we have to give time to those who are real gems in our country and provide them with what they deserve. After that, they will accumulate the basics, like the English language and good communication skills.

This is not fair that at the time of the interview, inter-

For every learner, book reading is vital and can play a great role. Book reading develops our vocabulary and continuously adds new words to our minds. Book reading builds our level of confidence and keeps us updated. So, it is up to you; you

have to prioritize your demands accordingly. You can register at a public library, where you get books. If we are financially sound, you can create a mini library at home. Selected books can be kept there. Reading books improves your skills and enhances your knowledge. Reading habits develop a number of things for you, like the power of understanding what a sentence explains. We should read a question or any other material a number of times for better understanding.

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Breaking Access Barriers And Bringing Quality Healthcare



BOBBY RAMAKANT

Unless the full cascade of quality healthcare services reaches closer to the underserved communities, how will we deliver on the promise of #HealthForAll? One positive ray of light comes from an underserved block of Meghalaya, a northeastern state of India.

State-of-the-art screening and diagnostic tools, medical nurses and doctors, medicines, counselling, government-run health insurance, and other support services were brought closer to the people when a free health camp was organised in Thadlaskein block in the West Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya.

“Thadlaskein block has poor access to health services for people living in hard-to-reach areas. This block also has the lowest vaccine or immunisation coverage, and a maximum number of children aged 2-5 years that have not been immunised with measles Rubella vaccine 1 or 2. It is important to note that all the people who have been mobilised by the Block Development Office and self-help groups are able to get a wide range of healthcare services at one place on the same day,” said Dr Helen J Uriah, Maternal and Child Health Officer, West Jaintia Hills District.

Several government agencies and other partners united to organise this camp, where same-day test and treat for a range of health conditions became a reality for almost a thousand people, along with health awareness, counselling, and a continuum of care.

Adapt and replicate this comprehensive health camp model

This is the first of its kind health camp in Meghalaya where quick and state-of-the-art rapid molecular diagnosis became a reality in a field setting for various diseases using RT-PCR technology – as well as – linkage to treatment and care was facilitated under the relevant government-run programmes on the same day.

“It is for the first time in India that for a free comprehensive health camp, all the vertical healthcare programmes have converged together on a single point of access. Vaccination for children and adults, medical consultation, routine screening and highly-specific diagnostic tests for multiple diseases, linkage to treatment and care, medicines, counselling, and a wide range of other healthcare facilities are being provided together – and closer to the underserved communities,” added Shiva Sriram, Vice President of Molbio Diagnostics (makers of WHO recommended Truenat).

In addition to Truenat - a point-of-care, decentralised and multi-disease molecular testing platform, this health camp brought more diagnostic technologies closer to the people, such as, MobMon - a point-of-care, battery-operated and handheld ECG machine of Kallows; an ultraportable, point-of-care and battery operated x-ray machine of Prognosys; Thermolytix – a point-of-care breast cancer screening tool of Niramai; among others.

People who came to this camp were triaged at the registration counter itself by a team of doctors and nurses, followed by a second round of triaging. Free medical consultation was provided by a range of doctors of different specialities (such as, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, medicine, ENT, among others), along with screening and diagnostics for a range of health conditions, such as, Tuberculosis (TB), Cervical cancer, Breast cancer, malaria and dengue, chikungunya, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, influenza, other



respiratory diseases, scrub typhus, among others.

To ensure continuum of care, all those diagnosed for a range of conditions listed above were linked to respective government programmes under the National Health Mission (NHM), such as those for TB, HIV, and maternal and child health, among others. Medicines were provided on the site as well for some of

“It is for the first time that multiple sectors are coming together to organise a free comprehensive healthcare camp. Government agencies, research institutions, university, private sector, non-governmental organisations, and financial institutions, among others, have joined hands to make multi-stakeholder collaboration a reality. This is extremely essen-

Society -MSRLS, Community groups, International NGOs (Rotary Club of Jowai, Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics- JHPIEGO, North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society - NESFAS), local NGOs (Grassroots - Shillong, Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya - VHAM) and Molbio Diagnostics. Public education and awareness

Laloo, General Manager of Molbio Diagnostics.

High HIV and TB rates in Meghalaya

According to the Sankalp 2022 report of the Indian Ministry of Health's National AIDS Control Organisation, Meghalaya state has double the HIV incidence (0.42%) in the general population than that of the country (0.21%). Compared to 2010 rates, 2021 data shows that the number of annual new HIV infections has declined overall in India and so has AIDS-related mortality, but in Meghalaya, both have increased. Meghalaya has the 3rd highest HIV prevalence (0.58%) among pregnant women as well as the highest Syphilis seropositivity (0.77%) among pregnant women (the national average is 0.10% syphilis seropositivity among pregnant women).

According to India TB Report 2023 of the Ministry of Health's National TB Elimination Programme, Meghalaya deploys WHO-recommended molecular tests for TB upfront to a higher degree: 71% of presumptive TB cases in Meghalaya get diagnosed using one of these molecular tests (36,209 tests a year). 4989 new TB patients were notified in Meghalaya in 2022 out of which 5% were of drug-resistant TB, and 71.4% had TB of the lungs. Over 92% of those diagnosed with TB were initiated on anti-TB treatment. Meghalaya had 84.8% TB treatment success rate in 2021.

As per the India TB Report 2023, there are 55 Truenat molecular test machines deployed for TB testing in Meghalaya by 2022, which performed 29,086 tests in the same year. Of those who got tested for TB on Truenat, 1829 people were detected with TB disease, and 124 people had rifampicin-resistant TB. In 2022, 244 people were tested for extrapulmonary TB in Meghalaya on one of these Truenat molecular test machines, out of which 12 people were found to have active disease.

Bobby Ramakant is a World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General's WNTD Awardee 2008 and Health Science Editor at Citizen News Service. Follow him on Twitter @BobbyRamakant or read: www.bit.ly/BobbyRamakant



the diseases listed above, along with counselling for nutrition, adolescent health, STDs, TB, HIV, malaria, cancers (breast and cervical), and other related issues.

Meghalaya government's State AIDS Control Society had brought a special van to the camp, which is referred to as “Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) van”. This van is equipped with dual testing kits for screening of HIV and Syphilis, as well as provides information about HIV prevention, counsels people to undergo testing, and links the positive people with treatment, care, and support system.

Multi-sectoral healthcare response at the grassroots

and should be adapted and replicated across the country to reach as many people as possible, and take healthcare closer to the patients,” added Shiva Sriram.

This versatile health camp demonstrates the importance of ground-up synergistic inter-agency collaboration in bringing integrated healthcare closer to the most in-need communities in Meghalaya. The partners included: the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the District Medical and Health Office, West Jaintia Hills district administration through the Thadlaskein Block Officer and Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods

talks on various health issues including Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0) children's immunization initiative, TB, HIV, and other issues were an ongoing feature all day long.

“The aim of this health camp was to promote early screening, detection and linkage to treatment and care for a range of diseases; and raise people's health literacy thereby improving the health of the community. It was also to develop long-term health-seeking behaviour of the population. Investing in free health camps helps accomplish an optimal level of healthcare with individuals, communities and all the institutions working together in coordination,” said Dr Darivianca E

Hamas leader's relatives killed in Israeli airstrike



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GAZA: The relatives of Mohammed al-Deif, chief commander of the Al-Qassam Brigades - armed wing of Hamas -- were killed during an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian media outlet reported on Wednesday.

An Israeli warplane targeted the Deif's brother's house in Khan Younis city, Xinhua news agency quoted the Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa Channel.

The airstrike destroyed the house and killed the commander's brother as

well as the latter's son and daughter, the channel added.

It is unknown whether al-Deif was present in the house at the time of the bombing.

The channel also reported that the raid resulted in several people being injured.

Since Israel declared a war on Hamas in retaliation to the militant group's surprise attack on the country on October 7, the Jewish nation has been battering Gaza with continued airstrikes.

On Tuesday night, Israel

air strikes destroyed more than 80 targets in Gaza.

Two Hamas political officials were killed in an Israeli raid on Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it struck naval targets in Gaza which were reportedly used by Hamas militants to carry out attacks on the Israeli coastline.

The operation was carried out by IDF naval soldiers, IAF and the Israeli Artillery Corps, it said in a separate statement, adding that the targets included

docks, which were hit using artillery fire from missile boats, military helicopters and ground artillery batteries.

In addition, Israeli naval forces killed a Hamas diver who attempted to infiltrate into Israel from the Gaza shores earlier Wednesday, the IDF added.

According to the latest official Palestinian and Israeli statistics, at least 900 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli army, while Hamas has killed more than 1,200 Israelis since the start of the conflict.

Tech honchos condemn Hamas attack on Israel, pledge employees' security

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NEW DELHI: Tech giants like Google, Microsoft, Amazon, and others that have offices in Israel, employing thousands of workers, have condemned the unprecedented Hamas attack on Israel and promised the safety of their employees in the country.

Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai took to X, saying: "Deeply saddened by the terrorist attacks in Israel this weekend and the escalating conflict underway. Google has 2 offices and over 2,000 employees in Israel.

"It's unimaginable what they're experiencing. Our immediate focus since Saturday has been on employee safety. We've now made contact with all of our local employees, and will continue supporting them."

On October 7, Hamas militants broke into Israel, killing hundreds of people in streets and homes close to the Gaza border and causing gunbattles in Israeli communities for the first time in decades.

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said:



"Heartbroken by the horrific terrorist attacks on Israel and the escalating conflict. My deepest condolences are with all those killed and impacted. Our focus remains on ensuring the safety of our employees and their families."

Microsoft employs nearly 3,000 employees in Israel.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy called the attacks against civilians in Israel "shocking and painful to watch."

"The attacks against civilians in Israel are shocking and painful

to watch. I have been in touch with our teammates there to make sure we do everything we can to help support their families and their safety, and to assist however we can in this very difficult time," Jassy wrote on X.

In 2014, Amazon established its first office in Tel Aviv, and since then, it has grown and made investments in its Israeli client base.

Chuck Robbins, Chairman and CEO of Cisco, has been in touch with Cisco Israel teams over the past three days to understand what they need most in the

face of war, devastation, and loss of life.

"First and foremost, we've been focused on their safety and well-being and that of their families. We've also launched humanitarian efforts to support those most vulnerable in addition to ensuring continuity of critical communications and security services," he posted on LinkedIn.

The death toll in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict in the Gaza Strip has increased to more than 2,100, with more fatalities expected as the violence continues for a fifth day.

China secures 6th term as member of UN Human Rights Council

UNI

UNITED NATIONS: China secured its sixth term as a member of the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday, becoming one of the most frequently elected in the council.

China previously held a seat as a Human Rights Council member in 2006-2012 (re-elected in 2009), 2014-2016, 2017-2019, and 2021-2023.

It was one of 15 states elected by the UN General Assembly to serve in the 47-member council for a three-year term starting Jan. 1, 2024.

Through secret ballot, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi (for Africa); China, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait (for Asia-Pacific); Albania, Bulgaria (for Eastern Europe); Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic (for Latin America and the Caribbean); France, the Netherlands (for Western Europe and other states), were elected.

Russia in the Eastern Europe group and Peru in the Latin America and the Caribbean group lost their bids. Russia failed to pass the threshold of 97 votes needed for election, while Peru, with 108 votes in favor, was outperformed by the three other contenders in the group.

Candidates in the groups of Africa, the Asia-Pacific, Western Europe

and other states won comfortably as they were not challenged.

China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, France and Malawi were re-elected.

Ten states will leave the Human Rights Council by year-end, namely Gabon, Senegal (for Africa); Nepal, Pakistan, Uzbekistan (for Asia-Pacific); the Czech Republic, Ukraine (for Eastern Europe); Bolivia, Mexico (for Latin America and the Caribbean); Britain (for Western Europe and other states).

The Geneva-based UNHRC is an inter-governmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. About a third of its 47 members are replaced every year so that the council members serve staggered three-year terms for the sake of continuity.

Seats of the UN Human Rights Council are allocated on the basis of regional groups for the sake of geographical representation: 13 each for Africa and the Asia-Pacific; eight for Latin America and the Caribbean; seven for Western Europe and other states; six for Eastern Europe.



Hindus world over stand in Israel's support

MEENAKSHI IYER

NEW DELHI: Hindus from across US, UK, Canada and Australia have slammed the brutal wave of terror and violence unleashed by the Hamas militant group in Israel and urged their governments to take firm action against the war criminals.

Israel has been left reeling by Hamas's unprecedented attack that has left thousands dead on both sides, and the fatalities are expected to rise with the conflict entering its fifth day on Wednesday.

In a display of solidarity, Hindu and Jewish communities across Canada turned up in sizable numbers for a protest march in Toronto, condemning the Hamas attacks that have been called by many as Israel's 9/11 moment.

The march called by the Canadian Hindu Forum saw the two communities peacefully marching along, holding Indian and Israeli flags, according to videos shared on X on Tuesday.

A peaceful rally was also held in Chicago by Indian-Americans to express solidarity with Israel.

"Terrorism is not only an Israel issue, it's an ongoing humanitarian issue. It must be stopped before it gets too late!" members of the India-American community said in a statement.

Strongly condemning the acts against innocent

civilians, US-based advocacy organisation, Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA), said they stand in solidarity with the Jewish community in their mourning of the loss of innocent lives.

"Violence, especially one that targets innocents, that exults in the degradation of women should never be tolerated by any civil society. We stand with the Jewish community in their mourning of the loss of innocent lives. May peace break out in a thousand different forms," CoHNA said in a statement.

On behalf of Hindus in Britain, the Insight UK group expressed its unequivocal condemnation of the violence against women, children and elderly by Hamas terrorists.

"The world once again witnessed the brutality of Islamists on innocent women, children and the elderly, including the abduction of children and the use of mass rapes as a weapon of war against Israelis. The victims of the terror attacks included men, women and children from Thailand, Nepal, India and beyond," Insight UK said in a statement.

"As members of minority communities ourselves, we empathise deeply with the plight of the Jewish people in facing such hatred and violence. We support the right of Israel to defend itself and its citizens against such brutal acts of terror," it said.

Unifor, GM reach tentative agreement ending brief strike in Canada

IAN S

OTTAWA: Unifor, Canada's largest union in the private sector, and General Motors (GM) have reached a tentative agreement following a brief strike at the automaker's facilities in the country.

According to Unifor, the strike actions which began early Tuesday at GM's Oshawa Assembly Plant, St. Catharines Powertrain Plant and Woodstock Parts Distribution Centre were on hold to allow the membership to vote on the tentative agreement, reports Xinhua news agency.

The deal follows the pattern agreement Unifor reached with Ford Motor Company last month.

The pattern agreement includes base hourly wage increases of nearly 20 per cent for production workers and 25 per cent for those in skilled trades over the lifetime of the three-year agreement.

"When faced with the shutdown of these key facilities General Motors had no choice but to get serious at the table and agree to the pattern," said Unifor National President Lana Payne.

"The solidarity of our members has led to a comprehensive tentative agreement that follows the pattern set at Ford Motor Company to the letter, including



all items that company had initially fought us on such as pensions, retiree income supports and converting full-time temporary workers into permanent employees over the life of the agreement," Payne said.

"All members will benefit now that the pattern is in place at GM, whether they're temporary workers, new hires, or already at the top of the pay scale," said Unifor Ford Master Bargaining Chair Jason Gale, adding that this agreement delivers the kind of historic pay increases and significant pension improvements.

The new tentative agreement covers almost 4,300 autoworkers at Unifor and details of the agreement, including local and facility-specific information, will be made available to members prior to ratification votes, Unifor said.

Unifor represents some 315,000 workers in every major area of the economy, including about 18,000 workers at the Canadian facilities of the Detroit Big Three -- GM, Ford and Chrysler parent Stellantis.

American Airlines cancels Israel flights until Dec 4



IAN S

WASHINGTON: American Airlines announced that it was cancelling all flights to Israel's main international airport until December 4 "as a result of the current operating environment."

The airline operates flights from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport, located less than 40 miles from Gaza, reports CNN.

"We will continue working closely with our partner airlines to offer assistance to those looking to exit TLV with safety and security remaining our highest priorities," American Airlines said in a statement late Tuesday.

The airline said it has also "extended our travel alert providing additional flexibility to customers whose travel plans are impacted by this adjustment."

On Monday, Delta Air Lines, which operates flights to Israel from Atlanta, JFK, and Boston, said it was canceling flights for the rest of October.

The State Department

said on Tuesday that it has been encouraging airlines "to consider resuming travel in and out of Israel".

Since Israel declared a war on Hamas as retaliation against the militant group's unprompted attack on October 7, multiple airlines have cancelled or suspended flights to the Jewish nation.

While Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific canceled its Tuesday flight to and from Tel Aviv, Air Canada announced the suspension of all its flights for now.

Ireland's Ryanair said it was canceling flights in and out of Tel Aviv until October 11, citing operational restrictions.

Air India and Lufthansa announced that they were canceling flights until October 14, and Norwegian Air said it is canceling flights until October 15.

Korean Air canceled one of its three regularly scheduled weekly flights into Tel Aviv on Monday, but the South Korean flag carrier said it is planning on flying a 218-seat plane from Tel Aviv and to Incheon on Tuesday in order to bring Korean nationals back home.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG HQ AWANTIPORA
GIST

GIST for E-NIT S. No. 41 / MIDA of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders in two cover system valid for 180 days, are invited from reputed and experienced Mechanical contractors/other firms / SSI unit holders/ workshop holders duly registered for the below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Documents	Earnest Money @2% of Adv Cost	Time for completion	Major Head	Position of AAA/TS	Position of Funds
1	Fabrication and erection of 10'x10' CGI shed for operational staff at LIS Semthan Drought	1.525 lacs	500/=	3050/=	20 days	M&E 2702	Available 17-MCO of 2023-24 Dt 17.08.2023	Budgetary Provision under M&E for FY 2023-24

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	10	10	2023	04:00 PM
2	Download start date	10	10	2023	04:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date	10	10	2023	04:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	16	10	2023	04:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	17	10	2023	11:00 AM or any date convenient to Deptt

All the terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in e-Nit & PWD form No.25-double.
 No.MIDA/ 2881-87
 Dated:-10.10.2023
 DIPK-10218-23
 Dt: 11/10/2023

Sd /=
 Executive Engineer,
 Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag
 HQ Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT AND COUNSELLING CENTRE BARAMULLA
 Email ID: decbaramulla@gmail.com

PUBLIC INFORMATION
JOB FAIR At URI on 18-10-2023

District Employment and Counselling Centre (MCC) Baramulla is going to conduct Job Fair on 18-10-2023(Wednesday) at Govt Degree College Uri. Around 10 reputed companies with more than 600 Job Vacancies are participating in the event. Therefore, all the Unemployed Youth (Job Seekers) falling in the catchment area of Baramulla District who are desirous to participate in the event are requested to get registered on the Employment portal "www.jakemp.nic.in" which is integrated with the National Career Service (NCS) portal(www.ncs.gov.in). Further, for hassle free participation in the said event interested candidates can also register themselves on google Link <https://tinyurl.com/2s3fm4fm> or QR Code below, specially designed for the event. All the desirous candidates are requested to kindly bring their Resume/CVs with them at the time of fair.

Details of Sector/Field/Post wise Vacancies are as under:

S.No	Sector/Field/Post	No. of Vacancies	Eligibility
1	Engineering	06	MTech with experience
2	Architecture		MTech with experience
3	Business Development Officers/Manager/Supervisor	240	Graduate with experience
4	Insurance Advisors	350	10 th & above
5	Career Advisors	10	12 th & Above
6	Courier Services	100	10 th with Motorcycle License
7	Hotel/Housekeeping/F&B	15	Experience in Hospitality
8	Office Executives	10	12th + Computer Knowledge

Note: 150 Vacancies are reserved for Ex-serviceman.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE FREE TO CONTACT:
9055502282/9906568970/9906433809

No: DE&CC/Bla/MCC/Job Fair/2023-24/2439-43
 Dated: 10.10.2023

Sd/-
 Assistant Director
 DE&CC, Baramulla

Nation to prosper more when youth would follow peace, prosperity: Prez Murmu

ABID BASHIR

SRINAGAR: The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, Wednesday said that when youth would follow the path of "peace, prosperity and discipline", the nation would automatically prosper and progress more.

Addressing the 20th convocation at Kashmir University, President Murmu said that the nation would prosper more when more and more youth would follow Aman and Chayen (peace and prosperity). "When youth will follow discipline, nation will progress," she thundered from the stage of KU convocation hall.



President Murmu started her speech with "Ye Che Mouj Kashmir" and received a huge round of applause. "I am glad to be here. I have been to various convocations and at various institutions and universities of the country but let me tell the youth this campus is more beautiful than others. Kashmir University has had the blessings of Hazratbal in the past and the same will remain," she said.

She said that she was happy to ward a local boy Kifayatullah at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi for taking part in the Republic Day parade in 2023 and for his social services.

"I would like to see Kashmir University Students taking part in social services too besides pursuing higher education so that a change in the society takes place," the President said as per KNO.

After distributing gold medals among 21 toppers out of 462 students, she said: "I am glad to see 55 per cent of the toppers were girls. Our girls and women are proving their mettle in every field. Today's awardees are our tasveer and taqdeer," she said.

Stressing on protecting the environment, natural gifts bestowed to Kashmir,

she chose the Kashmiri proverb: "Ann poshe teli yele wan poshe. It is our responsibility to protect nature and this is where youth have to play their role. Kashmir University is trying its best to protect the Himalayan glaciers and I have learnt that a series of researches are going on many fronts," she said.

The president congratulated J&K for implementing the National Education Policy in full and taking the lead on other States and UTs. She wished all the awardees a better future ahead.

Referring to the motto of

the University of Kashmir which means 'let us move from darkness to light', the President said: "That the more our youth move towards the light of education and towards the light of peace, the more our country will progress."

Speaking about sustainable development, the President said that the lessons of sustainable development are part of Kashmir's heritage. She urged Kashmir University to be alert in preserving the Himalayan ecosystem. She was happy to note that work related to glaciology, biodiversity conservation and

the Himalayan Ice-Core Laboratory is at different stages. President Murmu expressed confidence that the university would work at a fast pace in all such areas.

Earlier, President Murmu arrived in Kashmir and she was received by the LG Manoj Sinha at the airport where she was given a guard of honour. From the airport, she air-dashed to the army's 15 corps headquarters in Srinagar to pay tributes to slain soldiers at the war memorial. She will stay in Srinagar for a night and later in the day, she will interact with the local tribal groups and women Self Help Groups. The president will also attend a civic reception to be hosted in her honour at the Raj Bhavan Srinagar. On Thursday morning, the president will leave for Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra, Jammu tomorrow to inaugurate a remodelled Parvati Bhavan and Sky Walk. Top officials from the police and administration including DGP Dilbagh Singh, ADGP Vijay Kumar, Special DG (CID) RR Swain, SSP Srinagar Rakesh Bhalwal, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bhiduri, DC Srinagar Aijaz Asad, Mayor SMC Junaid Madoo, Waqf Board chairperson Darakshan Andrabi and others were present in the KU Convocation—(KNO)

INTER-STATE NARCOTICS NETWORK

J&K police, Punjab counterparts arrest key accused

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major blow to inter-State narcotics network, Jammu and Kashmir police and Punjab police arrested one drug smuggler from Mullanpur, Dakha and seized Rs 4.94 crore along with 38 fake vehicle number plates.

DGP Punjab wrote on X, the arrested person is one of the key accused in 30 kg heroin recovery made in Jammu recently. "Investigations ongoing to establish backward and forward linkages. Police said that the revolver was also recovered from the arrested

person. On October 1, two narcotic smugglers were arrested with 30-kg heroin worth crores of rupees from a vehicle in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. The recovery was made from a Punjab-bound vehicle on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway—(KNO)

Srinagar Wins Provincial-Level Football Tournery Title

AZHAR HAJINI

SRINAGAR: The District Team of Srinagar emerged victorious while defeating Budgam in the provincial-level football tournament. Hosted by District Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar, the tournament was organised for girls under 17 & 19 years. Team Srinagar beat Budgam by 6 goals to Nil.

Budgam made their best efforts but couldn't score a single goal. With this final the tournament came to an end for under 17 age group. The competitions in the same discipline for under 19 girls is scheduled from 12/10/2023 at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar. The Tournament is being played under the theme of 'MERI MAATI MERA DESH' and Drug free Srinagar campaign.

In another important activity of the day, all age groups participated in the Annual Athletic Meet for Boys and Girls Inter-school/ District Level at S P College Ground Srinagar. Meanwhile Inter District/ Provincial level softball tournament is underway at Gindun Ground Rajbagh Srinagar in which Six Districts of Kashmir Province are participating.

Bridge on B'pora-Sgr road suffers damage, locals demand new bridge

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: Following the structural damage to Naninara Sumbal Balley bridge in Bandipora district, residents and commuters on Wednesday demanded construction of a concrete bridge to replace the aging structure. Local residents said that the iron Bridge on Bandipora-Srinagar road sustained damage and they raised concerns about its condition several times to no avail.

"The bridge is our lifeline to Srinagar. I appreciate the alternate route through Mansbal, but we need a concrete bridge that can withstand the test of time," said Hina Farooq of Bandipora. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Bandipora issued an order stating that due to the damage occurred to Balley Bridge at Naninara Sumbal and in an effort to prevent any accidents, the bridge is temporarily closed to both vehicular and pedestrian

traffic. Commuters are advised to utilize alternative routes, including Hajin, Sopore, and Mansbal, until the necessary repairs are completed, it said. Following it's damage, an official said that the commuters traveling from Srinagar towards Bandipora will now have to travel through Sumbal Hajin route. "For those traveling from Bandipora to Srinagar, the new route directs vehicles through the Mansbal Baroosa route," he added—(KNO)

SFFC orders DPS Srinagar to revise fee structure

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the School Fee Fixation Committee (SFFC) has issued a directive to the management of Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar, addressing several fee-related concerns raised by parents.

The order, issued by the Chairman of SFFC, instructs the school management to make key adjustments to the fee structure, including tuition fees and security deposits.

Tuition fee increase and instalment payment: The SFFC has taken note of the abrupt 20 percent increase in tuition fees mid-session and recognized that it could pose a financial burden on parents.

In response to this concern, the SFFC has directed the school management to charge the raised tuition fee in two instalments. Specifically, 10 percent of the increased tuition fee will be

charged in the 2023-24 session, with the remaining 10 percent to be levied in the subsequent academic year, 2024-25.

Security deposit clarification: One of the key issues addressed by the SFFC is the charging of a substantial security deposit, set at Rs 90,000, which parents contend is being misrepresented as an admission fee.

"This practice is not in compliance with the law and is expressly prohibited by statute. As a result, the parents who have paid this amount to seek a refund from the school management," the SFFC order reads.

Annual fee and payment structure: The SFFC has noted an average increase in the annual fee, rising from Rs 8,700 to Rs 14,000. To alleviate the burden on parents, the committee has directed the school management to charge the enhanced annual fee in two instalments, as outlined in

the order passed on August 14, 2023.

Parents will have the opportunity to pay the second instalment of the annual fee up to February 2024.

Furthermore, the SFFC has mandated that future annual fees be collected in two instalments: the first at the beginning of each new session and the second in July each year.

Late fee policy: The SFFC has set clear guidelines for the imposition of late fees, specifying that late fees will only be charged if a parent fails to deposit fees consecutively for three months. "No late fee will be applied to payments delayed by less than three months," it reads.

Transport fee inquiry: The SFFC has stated that concerns were raised regarding the school's transport fee, which was allegedly exceeding the limit set by the SFFC. The committee has directed the school to provide an

explanation within one week as to why transport fees exceeding Rs 2,000 are being charged from students availing transport services. The matter has also been reported to be under challenge in the High Court.

Grievance redressal committee: In response to parents' complaints about the lack of a redressal forum, the SFFC has directed the school management to establish a grievance redressal committee, which will not include members of the school trust. The details of the committee's members are to be submitted within one week.

The SFFC has advised parents to approach the committee whenever they are aggrieved by the actions or orders of the school management, reaffirming their commitment to ensuring fair and transparent fee structures for the benefit of students and parents—(KNO)

Wetland Div rebuts news 'Wetland presents eerie image of dry landscape'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Wildlife Warden Wetland Division Kashmir Srinagar Wednesday refuted the news item titled 'Wetland presents eerie image of dry landscape: EPG' published by a local daily newspaper about Shallabugh Wetland Reserve.

In a statement issued here, it was informed that the e-Tender for Plugging of breaches and all Habitat improvement works at Shallabugh Wetland Reserve have been floated/invited by this Division multiple times and due to the fact of poor response, and the successful e-tenders/ works stand allotted and are presently under progress.

The consolidation of 5 KM Ring bund has been completed which was mandatory for increasing



the water holding capacity and retention of optimum water level within the Shallabugh Wetland Reserve, the statement read.

It was also given out that the creation of water pools within the wetland area are imperative to attract the migratory birds and due to such interventions made by this Division after a long time Shallabugh Wetland witnessed arrival of 3 to 4 lakh migratory birds during previous winter season, which speaks

volumes about the hard work made and cannot be termed a mimic.

The water retention process shall be started after the execution of all Habitat improvement works is completed and the water level within Shallabugh Wetland area shall be retained to its optimum level, read the statement.

It was also informed that the survey of identified critically silted areas within the Shallabugh Wetland Reserve has been taken

up by this Division and the identified plots shall be put to e-Auction shortly with the definite aim and purpose to increase the water holding capacity of Shallabugh Wetland Reserve exponentially.

Further, it may be noted that during the fall season the water table is always at its lowest ebb all over the Valley especially during the current season due to shortfall in the downpour most of the feeding channels do not carry the required quantity of water.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Showcases Hilux at the East Tech



SRINAGAR: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today showcased two special-purpose iconic Hilux, modified with the support of an authorized external vendor, at the East Tech 2023 (ET2023), a technology-showcase annual event conducted by the Eastern Command of the Indian Army in association with Government of Assam.

Commenting on the occasion, Varinder Kumar Wadhwa, General Manager - Strategic Business Unit (East) of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We, at TKM, take great pride and are deeply honoured to have the opportunity to present the customized variants of the iconic Hilux, at the East Tech 2023. TKM

through its authorized external vendor has made certain modifications on the versatile Hilux.

TKM has applied two distinct modifications through an authorized external vendor, to the Toyota Hilux namely the Field Diagnosis Vehicle (FDV) and the Forest Patrolling Vehicle (FPV), to serve specific needs and other special consumer requirements.

In addition to these modified versions, the general-purpose Hilux (catering to the general customers' personal and business uses) was also on display at the Expo being held during Oct 10-11th at the Mani Ram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati.(KNT)

J&K Govt hosts civic reception in honour of Prez Murmu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: President Droupadi Murmu attended a civic reception hosted in her honour at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar Wednesday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the President thanked the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the warm welcome on her first visit as the President of India. She was happy to note the presence of eminent personalities of Jammu and Kashmir who have made their mark in different fields. She said that they have enhanced the reputation not only of this region but of the entire country.

The President said that Kashmir has been a major centre of art, culture and education since ancient times. About 2000 years ago, the 4th Buddhist Council was held in Kashmir. Scholars believe that about 1300 years ago, in Srinagar, Shankaracharya had composed Saundarya Lahari and Ananda Lahari to describe the glory of Shakti. The words



of Lal Ded and the advice of Sheikh Nooruddin are still showing the right path to humanity. Rulers like Zain-ul-Abidin promoted etiquette and spirituality. Abhinavagupta who made amazing contributions in both the fields of religion and literature, had explained a very good principle of literature in the 10th century which proves to be true for every aspect of life. He had said that 'Shanta Rasa' is the source of all 'Rasas'. The

President emphasised that we have to continuously strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's legacy of considering peace and tranquility as supreme.

The President said that today's Kashmir is taking a new turn following its heritage. A new era of progress, peace and prosperity has begun. There has been a massive change in infrastructure development, e-governance, healthcare, housing, women empowerment, tribal outreach and

inclusive development. She was happy to note that till September this year, about 1.7 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir, which is a record.

In his welcome address, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said, Hon'ble President's life has been inspirational.

"She has devoted her life to empowering deprived sections of society and socio-economic empowerment of women, providing them confidence, sense of self esteem. Her vision and ideals will continue to guide the world's largest democracy," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the developmental journey of UT of J&K since August 2019.

"Growth history of J&K since 2019 is an example of remarkable economic progress and inclusive development. Our focus is high growth rate, infra, industrialization, transforming cities and villages to improve the lives of the people. Well-being of all is our

prime objective today. We have been able to establish an exploitation-free, corruption-free and fear-free society that has ensured social equality and all sections of society are benefitting from the growth and development," the Lt Governor added.

Earlier in the day, the President interacted with the members of local tribal groups and women Self Help Groups at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that the Self Help Groups are playing an important role in the socio-economic empowerment of women in J&K and enabling them to take control of their lives.

"Tribal communities in J&K were marginalized for a very long time. Government implemented Forest Rights Act, key reforms and initiatives have been taken for transformation of tribal society and our focus is on holistic development to provide new strengths and capabilities to the community," the Lt Governor said.

GDC Ajas celebrates 'International Girl Child Day'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: To celebrate 'International Girl Child Day', the Government Degree College (GDC) Ajas Bandipora Wednesday organized an event under the theme 'Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being' to address the importance of empowering girls and advancing gender equality.

Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Kousar delivered an inspiring presidential address that centered on the importance of the girl child. She highlighted the significant accomplishments of women worldwide and shared examples of women who have made remarkable contributions to society.

Dr. Kousar encouraged the audience to recognize the immense potential and capabilities that girls possess, urging them to excel in all fields.