

Good Morning Kashmir

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Amit Shah
@AmitShah



Bharat's monumental stride in the space. Congratulations to our @isro scientists on the historic launch of specialized astronomy observatory satellite XPoSat to study black holes and neutron stars in our galaxy. Brightening up the cosmos in pursuit of knowledge on the very first day of 2024 you have proven yet again that your might is our pride.

Night Chill Intensifies Across Kashmir

SRINAGAR: While the dry spell persisted across the Valley, the night chill has intensified further with Srinagar recording a low of minus 5.2 degree Celsius. However, the weatherman here has predicted mainly dry weather till January 7 with possibility of light snow over isolated extreme higher reaches in between January 4-5.

As the 40-day harshest winter period—Chillai-Kalan is ongoing in the valley, the mercury continued to settle below freezing point. ●P-06

Amit Shah To Assess Security Grid In J&K Today



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to chair a high-level security review meeting on Jammu and Kashmir in the national capital on Tuesday (Today) which would discuss the law and order situation and issues like security grid and zero terror plan, reports said.

In the meeting, which is scheduled for the afternoon, the Home Minister is to review the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security as well as development initiatives in the Union Territory.

It is learnt that the Home Minister would review the area domination plan, zero terror plan, law and order situation, cases related to UAPA and other security-related issues.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, and Director General of Police RR Swain would be present in the meeting, sources said.

The meeting will also be attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Director Generals of Police of Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force besides concerned officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Jammu and Kashmir. The Centre ●P-06

'70% Hotels Packed' Grand New Year Celebrations Held Across Kashmir



JAHANGEER GANAIE

PAHALGAM: The J&K Tourism Department held vibrant New Year celebrations at four different locations in the famous tourist destination, Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Officials from the Tourism Department informed that celebrations were held at Aru, Betaab Valley, Club and Old TRC, which drew huge crowds. They said the goal was to attract more visitors to Pahalgam throughout the year.

CEO of Pahalgam Development Authority, Tariq Ahmad Naik, expressed satisfaction with the enthusiastic conclusion of the New Year celebrations. He said all four venues witnessed fireworks and musical performances.

The main function, held at the Club, witnessed the participation of hundreds of tourists. The weeklong festivities not only celebrated the arrival of the new year but also aimed to

promote Pahalgam as a dynamic destination, he said, adding that Kashmiri Kehwa, local cuisine, and handicrafts were also showcased and received appreciation from tourists.

Naik expressed optimism about the winter season, saying they anticipate a good influx of tourists with the onset of snowfall. "Activities and events are planned to attract visitors once the snow blankets the region. Currently, a significant number ●P-06

Sonamarg Welcomes 2024 With 'Never Seen Before' Celebration

RAJA SYED RATHER

SONAMARG: Amidst the breathtaking snow-clad vistas of Sonamarg, the dawn of the new year was welcomed with unparalleled fervour as a multitude of artists graced the occasion, ushering in the festivities for the first-ever New Year celebration at this famous tourist destination.

Dr Iliyas Ahmad, the CEO of Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), said every aspect of the celebrations was meticulously arranged to cater to the influx of visitors descending upon the valley.

"We have made all arrangements for visitors to ensure a memorable experience amidst the enchanting beauty of Sonamarg," Dr Ahmad said, hailing the efforts put forth by the District Administration Ganderbal.

Tourists hailing from various states across the ●P-06

New Year Gulmarg Sees Spectacular Musical Performance

GULMARG: Gulmarg witnessed spectacular New Year celebrations with the performance of acclaimed singer Abha Hanjura.

The event took place against the backdrop of snow-covered peaks saw Hanjura's mesmerizing the audience with her soulful renditions and dynamic stage presence. The performance, held at a specially set-up venue, attracted a diverse crowd eager to welcome the new year with musical numbers.

Her repertoire ranged ●P-06

IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE local artists performing. We also enjoyed cuisines and celebrated with locals here.

'88% Schools Lack Vocational Edu Courses'



RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: While National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes on Vocational Education (VE) and skill development, contrary to it only eleven percent of government-run-schools are being covered under VE.

However, among the unaided private schools, the official figures reveal that

at least 60 percent of such educational institutes were providing vocational education to the students.

The official figures accessed, states that among the total number of schools covered under vocational education only 2587 government school educational institutes that amounts to 11.24 percent were delivering the vocational ●P-06

India, Pakistan Exchange List Of Nuclear Installations



IAN S

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Monday exchanged the list of Nuclear installations and facilities, covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

According to the MEA, the two countries exchanged the list through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.

The MEA said that the Agreement, which was signed on

December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991, provides, inter alia, that India and Pakistan inform ●P-06

Set In Motion Process For Establishment Of NDPS Courts: CS



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday in the 8th UT level Apex committee meeting of NCORD impressed upon the administration to put the ball rolling for establishment of NDPS courts for speedy trial of the convicts under this act.

The meeting which was attended by ACS, Home; Spl DG, Crime; Principal Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, School Education; ADGP, Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; IGP, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners and representatives from ●P-06

Gujjar Women Fight To Save Traditional Skull Caps Amid Cultural Shifts



SAJID RAINA

PULWAMA: Gujjar women in Kashmir struggle to sustain the fading tradition of crafting traditional skullcaps, facing diminishing orders and changing fashion trends, as they call for cultural programs and support to revive their unique cultural heritage.

In Namban village of the Southern district of Pulwama, 65-year-old Zulaikha sits on the grass in front of her kotah (mud and wood house), stitching a skullcap. Despite receiving fewer orders, Zulaikha is content, as any order brings hope that the tradition will endure.

Gujjar and Bakerwal women, forming the third largest ethnic group in the region, have distinctive traditional caps known as "topi." Stitched from cloth and embroidered with colorful threads, these caps hold cultural significance. However, the tradition is fading, especially among

the younger generation influenced by global fashion trends.

Zulaikha, crafting skull caps since the age of 18, laments the disappearing traditions, attributing it to changing fashion preferences. Younger girls in the village, influenced by contemporary fashion, are hesitant to wear the traditional topi, fearing societal discrimination.

The shift in fashion trends has impacted the income of women in Namban, with fewer ●P-06

'Awaam Se, Awaam Ke Liye' DGP Launches J&K Police Grievance Redressal Portal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP) R.R. Swain on Monday launched Jammu & Kashmir Police Grievance Redressal Portal "Awaam Se, Awaam Ke Liye" in an impressive function organised at Police Headquarters Jammu.

The portal has been launched with an aim to listen to the issues of citizen and also of Police personnel and to interact with common citizen or grievance redressal seeker in a more structured & decentralised manner and also to improve the density and quality of resolving their issues.

ADGSP M.K. Sinha, Sunil Kumar, Anand Jain and Nitish Kumar, IGP CIV/Hqrs PHQ B.S. Tuti, DIsG Sarah Rizvi, Shakti Pathak, Nisha Nathyal, Shridhar Patil and Javid Iqbal Matoo, all AIsG of PHQ and other gazetted officers were present on the occasion, a police spokesman ●P-06

INOX SRINAGAR

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Shabnam Kamili flags off farmers group for exposure visit

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, Shabnam Kamili, Monday flagged off 18 progressive farmers of Jammu division associated with production of citrus fruits from Pragati Bhawan, to Centre of Excellence (An Indo-Israeli project), Department of Horticulture, Mangiana, Haryana.



with upto date methodologies in crop cultivation on scientific lines.

Shabnam Kamili asked the farmers to enhance their technical skills in the field of integrated farming and adopt the advanced technologies for cultivation of different crops after learning from such training programs.

Secretary said that this exposure tour shall be a symbolic commencement of their educational journey and is a New Year gift from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, Abdul Hamid Wani, briefed that the aim of this exposure tour is to acquaint the farmers with the latest practices adopted by the State of Haryana in production and development of citrus fruits. Besides, the participating farmers would get exposure to the modern technological developments enabling them increase their farm income and share their knowledge with the

fellow farmers about their learned skills during the exposure tour.

He said that the training being held in collaboration with Department of Horticulture, Haryana, will cover a spectrum of topics including best practices in development of Citrus fruits, post management techniques and latest advancement in orchard development. Such initiative aims to enhance skills and knowledge in orchard management fostering sustainable practices on boosting overall productivity, he added.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for celebration of R-Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Uddin Bhat Monday reviewed the arrangements for the celebrations of Republic Day function 2024, in a meeting of officers held at the mini-secretariat, here.

The DC on the occasion instructed the officers to put in place elaborate arrangements for smooth conduct of this National function.

Threadbare discussions were held in the meeting on arrangements to be put in place at the venue including security, seating, car parking, transportation and illumination of buildings, refreshments besides accommodation for the participants.

It was decided that the main function will be held at DPL Kulgam and during the main function the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest followed by the parade



comprising contingents of JKP, CRPF, NCC, police band, women contingent, NCC and schoolchildren.

The DC issued strict instructions to all concerned departments to make advance arrangements for smooth conduct of Republic Day celebration.

The concerned departments were asked to make heating arrangements keeping in view the pre-

vailing cold weather conditions, for trouble-free rehearsals and final day celebration.

The DC directed the concerned officers and agencies to maintain close coordination while making arrangements for the national function.

KPDCL was instructed to ensure smooth power supply and put standby DG sets at the venue.

The Municipality and Power department were also instructed to illuminate the main buildings in the town.

The DC also instructed the concerned to arrange colorful cultural programmes.

Executive Engineer MED was instructed to ensure men and machinery in ready mode to ensure timely snow clearance in case of any snow spell.

All the heads of the departments and institutions in the district were also directed to unfurl the National Flag in their offices and institutions.

ADCC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC, Vikar Ahmad Giri; DPO, Abdul Rashid Dass; JDP, Zahid Sajjad; ACD, Mohammad Imran; SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan; GM DIC, Bashir Ahmad; Executive Engineers of PDD, R&B, CEO, CMO, Officers from Police, Army, CRPF and others concerned attended the meeting.

VBSY campaign conducted at Pyt. Halqa Shirmal Shopian



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) was Monday conducted at Panchayat Halqa Shirmal Shopian, with visiting officer, Director, Legal Metrology J&K, Majid K Drabu in chair, marking a significant milestone in its journey.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that the VBSY is aimed at fostering community engagement and disseminating awareness regarding myriads of government schemes and initiatives and to serve the under-served areas by reaching at their doorsteps.

He exhorted upon the participants and all locals of Shirmal Shopian to come forward and avail the benefits of various schemes of different departments meant for the wellbeing of the general public.

Amidst the Yatra's activities, participants were made aware of the benefits of various schemes emphasizing the profound significance of this campaign.

This was followed by individuals affirming their commitment to holistic national development by taking the Viksit Sankalp Bharat pledge.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain emphasized that the primary objective of VBSY is to educate the public about the various government welfare schemes so that people, especially down-trodden, can avail the benefits of these schemes to earn their livelihood. He said that it is our collective responsibility to make the people aware of the benefits of various schemes of different departments of the district.

The other speakers said that the Government is diligently working to extend the benefits of schemes directly to the people's doorsteps. They also encouraged the people to actively engage in accessing the benefits of these schemes, highlighting their pivotal role in promoting inclusive development for everyone.

Stalls had also been installed for general awareness of the people of Shirmal Shopian.

The Yatra is a significant step towards the achievement of universal coverage of eligible people under different schemes.

Assistant Commissioner Development Shopian, Hilal Ahmed Jeri; BDO, Shopian and other concerned officers and officials were present.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress under HADP



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyam-bir Monday convened a meeting of officers from Agriculture and allied sectors here to review the achievements made under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

At the outset, the DC took a thorough examination of the physical and financial progress achieved by the agriculture department and allied sectors under the HADP. He also sought details about the baseline survey and registration of eligible farmers on Daksh Kisan Portal.

Each department presented a comprehensive overview of their achievements, detailing aspects such as plan implementation, beneficiary approvals, banking connections, convergence of activities, and processing of applications through a detailed PowerPoint presentation. Highlighting the pivotal

role of HADP in establishing a robust and profitable agricultural ecosystem, the DC underscored its significance in supporting local farmers. He emphasized the need for effective implementation of the plan to ensure maximum benefits for the farming communities.

The DC directed departmental officers to streamline HADP implementation so that a commitment to optimizing its advantages for sustainable agricultural growth is achieved.

Recognizing the importance of awareness programs, the DC urged officers to conduct outreach initiatives so that all eligible farmers are covered under the programme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, District Lead Bank Manager and other concerned officials.

Info. Deptt condole demise of Mother-in-law of Staffer

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Joint Director Information Kashmir (JDIK), Mohammad Aslam Monday condole the demise of Mother-in-law of Isana Rashid, Senior Assistant of the department, who passed away on Monday.

In this connection, the Joint Director Information Kashmir convened a condolence meet in his Office Chamber, at JDIK Office Exchange Road Kothi Bagh, here.

During the meeting, the Joint Director offered

his deepest condolences to Isana Rashid and her family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul, besides courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director (PR) Kashmir, Bilal Mukhtar; Assistant Director/ FPO, M Aslam Khan; Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain and other officers and officials of Information Department Kashmir have also extended sympathies to their colleague and the bereaved family, and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Director Sericulture attends VBSY in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Director Sericulture, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat Monday actively participated in the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) in Ganderbal.

The event, held in Panchayat Halqa Haripora, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of PRIs, civil society members, and locals.

The campaign featured resource persons who underscored the significance of various welfare schemes. An Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van was utilized to showcase remarkable success stories of beneficiaries thriving under multiple schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), UMEED, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM Kissan), Poshan Abhiyan, and others.

Various government departments set up stalls, presenting a visual narrative of the numerous schemes and programs actively being implemented in the district.

Director Sericulture, along with officers of the district administration, PRIs, and locals, actively participated in the Viksit Bharat pledge, reaffirming

their commitment towards the development of the nation.

The 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani' segment showcased impactful firsthand accounts from beneficiaries, highlighting the tangible benefits and positive changes brought about by the government's welfare programs.

In his address, Director Sericulture emphasized that the main motive behind such programs is to educate the public and analyze the effectiveness of government schemes at the ground level. Under-scoring the significance of various welfare schemes, he highlighted how awareness is pivotal for the successful implementation of government initiatives.

The Director expressed gratitude for the active involvement of participants and commended the district administration for the successful organization of the program. He urged everyone to take advantage of the various self-employment schemes run by the government for employment generation.

Among others, Chief Planning Officer Irfan Giri, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Bashir Ahmad, SDM Kangan Javid Ahmad Rather, and other district officers, officials, PRIs, and the public attended the event.

VBSY SMC extends reach to 2 more locations in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) initiative, organized by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), marked a significant expansion Monday as it extended its outreach to two new locations, Sheikh Dawood Colony and Shaheed Gunj, within the SMC limits.

The events held at these locations served as a pivotal platform for officers and officials from diverse

departments to interact with the local community, fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Representatives from various departments took the opportunity to elucidate the core objectives and procedural intricacies of their respective schemes, with the goal of bridging the information gap and ensuring that citizens are well-informed about the wide array of benefits and assistance available to them.

VBSY progresses across Larnoo Anantnag with huge public response

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Monday extended its reach to various parts of far flung areas of Larnoo and Koker-nag including Gawran, Mathindoo, Gundiraman, Bidhar and Dandipora.

On the occasion, the Hon'ble Prime Minister's message was broadcasted through IEC vans to general public at several designated spots in Block Larnoo and Block Koker-nag to raise awareness about diverse welfare schemes, encouraging active participation in the spirit of "Jan Bhagidari" to achieve 100% saturation.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra goes beyond mere promises, showcasing tan-

gible improvements and in Anantnag it surpassed expectations, bringing together over 2.50 lakh enthusiastic participants. This extraordinary journey seamlessly united citizens across 335 Gram Panchayats and 138 Urban local bodies, with its momentum growing each passing day.

Traversing 16 diverse blocks and 10 municipalities, including areas with a vibrant tribal presence, the Yatra presented a picture of empowerment and community engagement, fostering a collective vision for national development. Its impact is palpable, creating a shared narrative of progress and inclusivity resonating throughout District Anantnag.

In District Anantnag,

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camps transformed into vibrant hubs pulsating with activity as people enthusiastically engaged in events and availed themselves of on-the-spot services. Health camps, a crucial facet of the Yatra, played a pivotal role by offering screenings to 93,347 individuals, addressing prevalent health concerns, including TB (20,675 screenings), sickle cell anemia (518 screenings), and non-communicable diseases. This achievement reflects the Yatra's impact in promoting health and well-being, connecting citizens with essential government initiatives for their betterment.

The collective efforts of over 16,097 dedicated My Bharat volunteers and an

impressive 2.28 lakh individuals who pledged the transformative "Sankalp Pledge" in District Anantnag exemplify a shared vision for positive change.

Accolades were bestowed upon noteworthy contributors, including 1,288 remarkable women, 3,601 dedicated students, 396 local artists adding cultural vibrancy, and 397 accomplished sports personalities, celebrating individual excellence and the diversity inherent in India's developmental journey.

Diversifying from its agricultural focal point, the Yatra proactively involved farmers through a comprehensive outreach, encompassing enlightening drone demonstrations and in-depth Soil Health Card demonstrations.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION
FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION GANDERBAL
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No: 16 of 2023-24 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following works to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal:-

S No.	Name of Work	Tentative Adv. Cost. (In Lacs)	AAA	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rupee(s)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Desilting of Deep Drain from H/O Bashir Ahmad Sofi to H/O Mohammad Yousuf Najjar at Salooro Ganderbal.	5.00	Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Ganderbal's Order No.MC/GBL/94 of 2023 Dated 15/12/2023	500	15000	30 Days	DEE	2217 M&R-Desilting (MC Ganderbal)*

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)
 Position of Funds: *Funds Available with Municipal Council Ganderbal as communicated by CEO Municipal Council Ganderbal's office letter No. MC/Gbl/2023/4920-24 Dated 23/12/2023.
 Position of AAA: Accorded.
 Position of T/S: Accorded.

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Sl No.	Event	Date and Time
01	Publishing Date	01-01-2024 04:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	01-01-2024 05:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	01-01-2024 05:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	09-01-2024 04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	10-01-2024 12:30 P.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
 3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 10-01-2024 at (12:30 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

NO: IFCD/GBL/8189-8238
 Dated : 30/12/2023
 DIPK-14540-23
 DT: 01/01/2024

Sd/-
 (Er. Iftikhar Nadeem Mattoo)
 Executive Engineer
 Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal

DC Srinagar conducts whirlwind tour of City

Inspects ongoing developmental works for Darish Kadal Bridge

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday undertook a whirlwind tour of the City to inspect and oversee the progress of works being carried out on various developmental projects in different areas of the City.

The Deputy Commissioner accompanied by the Officers of the line Departments inspected progress of ongoing works on construction of Tankipora Bridge, Darish Kadal Bridge, Development of Footpath near Aiwa Bridge and Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre for Youth affected from Substance Abuse at IMHAANS Kathi Darwaza.

The DC also took onsite appraisal of ongoing works College being executed under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) on Green spacing of premises in SKIMS Soura, Installation of Fountain at Hazratbal and Landscaping and installation of Fountain at Amar Singh with an aim to improve air quality index in the District.

While inspecting the progress of work being executed on Rs 7.42 crore project for the construction of the second span of the Tankipora bridge adjacent to the DC Office Complex, Srinagar, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised that over 95 per cent of work on the bridge has been completed so far and work is going on in full swing and shall be completed in stipulated time.



On the occasion, the DC asked the concerned to expedite the remaining construction work on development of approach sides and ensure that Bridge is completed by January 10, 2024 to ensure smooth ply of traffic on the junction.

At Darish Kadal, the DC inspected the progress of work on construction of additional Darish Kadal Bridge being constructed at a cost of Rs 6.80 crore.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to accelerate the pace of work and complete the project in the set timeline of June 2024.

Similarly, the DC also inspected the progress of works undertaken for construction of a footpath at Aiwa Bridge on Ali Jan Road Road Axis being executed by R&B Department for the convenience of the pedestrians as the road has heavy traffic rush.

At Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences

(IMHANS) Govt Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Kathi Darwaza, the DC inspected the recently completed infrastructure development and upgradation works on Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre for Youth affected j society.

The DC was apprised that the Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre for Youth affected from Substance Abuse has been established on the State of Art pattern and is equipped with Computer Lab, Interactive Touch Panel, Portable Mic System, other electronic gadgets etc.

On the occasion, the DC asked the concerned stakeholders to start imparting requisite training courses related to different market oriented trades to the affected youth to enable them to get maximum skilling opportunities and enhance job opportunities/placement so that they earn their livelihood with dignity and honour.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also took onsite appraisal of ongoing works Landscaping and installation of Fountain at Amar Singh College being executed at a cost of Rs 57 lakh under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Likewise, the DC also inspected the progress of work on construction of Fountain at Hazratbal under NCAP.

In addition, the DC also inspected ongoing works on development of Green spacing in the premises of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer R&B, Principal ITI, Bagh-i-Dilwar Khan, Medical Superintendent, Govt Psychiatric Hospital, Incharge Drug De-Addiction Centre, GMC Srinagar, Executive Engineers of R&B, SMC, Tehsil-dar South, Tehsil-dar Eidgah and other concerned.

Govt directs SED to complete process of staff rationalisation in week's time

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Monday directed the School Education Department to complete the process of rationalisation of staff across Jammu and Kashmir within a week's time.

The information was revealed by the Deputy Secretary to government for the School Education Department in a communiqué to DSEK and DSEJ.

"During the Lieutenant Governor's Mulaqaat with citizens on December-30-2023, the School Education Department has been directed to complete the process of rationalisation of staff across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir within a week," it reads.

"In this context, I am directed to request DSEK and DSEJ to complete the process of rationalisation of staff in schools falling under your respective divisions within a week's time positively and submit ATR in this regard to this department," the official said.

Pertinently, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha earlier on Saturday interacted with citizens, through video conferencing during 'LG's Mulaqaat'—a Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Civil Secretariat.

The LG on the occasion directed the officials for effective, efficient and speedy action on complaints and concerns of citizens—(KNO)

VYOM festival concludes in Baramulla

Talent of specially-abled showcased

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Young Minds (VYOM), a two-day inclusive festival hosted by the Social Welfare Department Baramulla at Government Higher Secondary School Rebban B'la concluded amidst a vibrant display of talent by the persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The festival, focused on showcasing the extraordinary abilities of persons with special needs through a spectrum of vibrant sports and cultural activities.

Throughout the event, a multitude of sports competitions, including Cricket, Carrom, Badminton, and

Table Tennis among others took place, illuminating the remarkable sporting prowess of specially-abled persons.

The festival also embraced a cultural extravaganza where participants displayed their talents, like musical and dance performances, art making etc, captivating the audience and highlighting the creative capacities of the participants.

Later, the winners of the different activities were felicitated for their outstanding performances acknowledging their efforts and enthusiasm throughout the festival.

Ladakh braces for another fight against Covid as cases surge

TASADUQ HUSSAIN

SRINAGAR: Amid rising COVID-19-positive cases in the region, the Union Territory of Ladakh administration is gearing up to fight the virus by enhancing bed strength, and testing facilities besides making wearing masks mandatory and synchronizing COVID-appropriate behavior is followed.

An official said that initially a COVID-19 symptomatic case was reported at a local winter coaching center following which a total of 16 samples were collected from there.

The official said that of the 16 collected samples 07 were tested positive for COVID-19.

The official also said that 4 more cases were detected separately at SNM Hospital and PHC Chuchot within 2 each.

Officials further said that of 11 positive cases 7 are isolated in the tuition center and 02 at home and 02 are admitted to SNM Hospital Leh.

Meanwhile, following the 11 positive cases revised directions were issued by the Leh administration and made wearing face masks compulsory, and hand washing in offices, workplaces, and public places. It has also been emphasized to ensure COVID-19 appropriate behavior is followed.

The Leh administration has also directed people not to unnecessarily visit crowded places and not to hold gatherings as a precautionary measure.

Further, the Ladakh police have also issued a directive as part of the prevailing spread of the COVID-19 virus in Leh saying to take appropriate preventive measures, provide daily situation reports and surveillance and review of the situation due to the virus.

The official said that so far no positive cases



in view of the rising cases. Asymptomatic patients need to contact health authorities and immediately isolate themselves as a precautionary measure."

"In view of the rise in Covid-19 cases across the country and Ladakh, the District Administration Kargil has appealed to people to take all precautionary measures."

It encouraged the general public to wear a properly fitted mask in offices, public spaces, and gatherings. "Follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. If you develop Covid symptoms, immediately contact the nearest health centre."

Further, an official said that no restrictions or any measure has been initiated in the district, apart from guidelines for containment of the virus from further spread—(KNO)

Sonamarg remains abuzz with celebrations on New Year

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: World-famous tourist destination, Sonamarg adorned in the splendor of snow-capped peaks with sub-zero temperatures, bade farewell to 2023 and welcomed 2024 with unprecedented fervor during the first-ever Two-Day New Year Festival, which concluded Monday.

The festivities commenced with a grand inauguration ceremony, featuring local dignitaries, cultural performances, and a diverse array of traditional and contemporary activities.

Against the backdrop of snow-capped meadows, Sonamarg became the canvas for an unforgettable experience, marked by dazzling fireworks illuminating the night sky and rhythmic beats echoing through



the golden meadows.

The main event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir, along with Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad.

Tourists from various corners of the country,

already captivated by Sonamarg's winter charm, enthusiastically participated in fun-filled activities, including bonfires and fireworks.

The entire locale transformed into a festive spectacle with vibrant illuminations, hosting a series of functions to entertain both tourists and local visitors.

The New Year day

celebrations, held in Sonamarg's open meadow, witnessed massive participation from tourists, locals, and officials of the district administration and Tourism department.

The festival showcased performances in music, dance, and dramas, captivating audiences and bidding an affectionate farewell to 2023.

The two-day New Year Festival, organised by the District Administration in collaboration with the Tourism Department, aimed to not only celebrate the scenic beauty of Sonamarg but also position it as a premier winter destination. Both locals and tourists applauded the district administration for their effective promotion and publicity efforts, contributing to Sonamarg's rising stature as a winter retreat.

Several health facilities lack gynaecologists in Jammu

'Women have to cover long distances for treatment'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Several hospitals in Jammu division are functioning without gynaecologists due to which patients had to travel long distances for treatment.

As per the details available, about five Community Health Centres and Sub district hospitals are without gynaecologists in Jammu.

The information was obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) filed by MM Shuja. The hospitals functioning without gynaecologists include CHC Gandoh, Trauma Hospital Mahanpur, SDH Paddar, CHC Mandi and CHC Gool.

Health officials said that the shortage of gynaecologists is posing significant challenges and the scarcity is raising concerns about women's access to essential reproductive health services and timely medical interventions.

They said that shortage of gynaecologists is leading to increased patient wait times and potential delays in diagnosis and treatments.

"The impact of the gynaecologist shortage is particularly pronounced in underserved communities, where access to healthcare

services is already limited. Women in these areas face additional barriers in obtaining timely and comprehensive reproductive healthcare, exacerbating existing health disparities", they said.

An official said that people of these areas belong to financially weaker sections and in absence of gynaecologists in these hospitals, women, especially expecting mothers, have to travel long distances for treatment.

Notably as per the official figures, 645 medical officer positions and 157 consultant positions are lying vacant in various hospitals, Primary Health Centers (PHCs), and Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) across Jammu Division.

The health department is also grappling with a scarcity of paramedical staff 1068 vacancies for Para Medical Staff out of which 904 are promotional posts. The remaining 164 posts have been referred to the Administrative Department in 2020 and 2021, and their status remains uncertain.

As per details, About 4,000 gazetted and non-gazetted posts are lying vacant in the Health department in Jammu division, affecting healthcare facilities—(KNO)

VBSY, defying cold, engages citizens in huge numbers in Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The transformative journey of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) persists in District Pulwama, leaving an indelible mark on both rural and urban landscapes.

Having commenced on November 25, 2023, the Yatra has traversed Panchayats, Municipalities, and villages, saturating Government schemes and extending its impact to the unreached.

This ongoing odyssey is a testament to its commitment to reaching every corner of the district, touching the lives of countless beneficiaries. The Yatra has lived up to its motto, bringing tangible changes to communities by ensuring the effective implementation of various Government schemes.

Today's events in District Pulwama included a noteworthy drone demonstration, showcasing the Yatra's innovative approach to community

engagement. The participation of residents underscored the widespread impact of this initiative. People took the Sankalp pledge reiterating their commitment towards the motto and vision underlying the Yatra.

Beneficiaries shared heartfelt accounts under "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" of the positive transformations brought about by the Government schemes highlighting the tangible benefits they have experienced. From the hinterlands to urban centers, the Yatra has become a driving force for change, resonating with the diverse population of the District.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has not only left an enduring impact on the District but has also become a symbol of sustained progress and community empowerment. As it continues its journey, the Yatra remains dedicated to its mission of fostering positive change in the lives of the people it touches.

Enforcement team seizes bags of duplicate spurious fertilizers in Sopore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A team of enforcement of the department headed by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Monday made surprise inspection of insecticide, pesticides and fertilizer dealers/ distributors at various places in district Baramulla.

During the inspection,

bags of duplicate spurious fertilizers were seized from Saidpora, Sopore.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture reiterated the commitment to ensure the availability of genuine inputs (fertilizers, pesticides seeds) to the farmers of the region. He said that violation of set norms would be dealt with iron hands.

He asked the concerned

(fertilizers, pesticides dealers) to desist from indulging into the business of spurious unregistered inputs and ensure that only genuine ones are made available to the farmers.

Meanwhile, the district monitoring teams headed by concerned enforcement officers and internal vigilance team at directorate level have already been constituted by the director-

ate of Agriculture Kashmir to check and monitor the distribution, supply and stock of different inputs, including fertilizers, pesticides etc.

Earlier a meeting of the insecticide, pesticide and fertilizer dealers of the district was held in which the Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of genuine inputs and also took feedback from the participants.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT DIVISION QAZIGUND

Email: qazigundphedivision@gmail.com (Phone No./Fax No. 01931-295040)

CORRIGENDUM

Due to technical error in the BOQ's uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in vide this office eNIT 30 of 2023-24, please read description of BOQ items / name of work as per below depicted details mentioned in the table :

SL No	Existing contents of the BOQ	New contents of the BOQ
1	Construction of 0.30 lac Gallons RCC Dome Service Reservoir for WSS Ziyarat-ShareefGaziSahabKreeri (Under JJM) Item No.1.02 : Ordinary Rock	Construction of 0.30 lac Gallons RCC Dome Service Reservoir and Laying / fitting of pipes for WSS ZiyaratShareefGaziSahabKreeri (Under JJM) Item No.1.02:Earth work in excavation by Mechanical means in trenches for foundations, drains, pipes, cables etc. (not exceeding 1.5 m in width) and for shafts, wells, cesspits and the like not exceeding 10 sqm on plan, including dressing of sides and ramming of bottoms lift upto 1.5 m, including getting out excavated earth and disposal of surplus excavated earth as directed
2	Laying and Fitting Of Pipes For Interconnecting Of 0.20 MGD RSFP With Existing SRs For WSS LisserKokernag (Under JJM) Item No.02:Laying and fitting of G.I pipes (all classes) complete excluding cost of pipes, fittings and Earth work.	Laying and Fitting Of Pipes For Interconnecting Of 0.20 MGD RSFP With Existing SRs For WSS LisserKokernag (Under JJM). Item No.02Laying and fitting of G.I pipes (all classes) complete Including cost of pipe specials and excluding cost of pipes and Earth work.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the said NIT Shall remain unchanged.

NO/PHEQ/CC/4974-94
DATED :01.01.2024

DIPK-14535-23
DT: 01/01/2024

Executive Engineer,
J.S PHE Division Qazigund

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Nature Schools

The government of New Zealand has recently opted for a 'school-without-walls' concept for the very young age allowing them to spend time in the mud, and forests and be in the lap of nature for a considerable period. This is practical learning and would help the children there to acquire life skills at an extremely young age. The importance of team building and collective responsibility is best learnt in the lap of nature only. These children would indeed be better human beings once they grow up and definitely would be humble and helpful once they grow mature.

Competition as they say is the way of the jungle while collaboration is the way of the society. We can become better individuals only if we seek better for our comrades, colleagues, friends, and relatives. The Japanese schools prepare children at a very young age to cook for themselves and to clean the surroundings and the main campus of the schools. Besides, all knowledge gathering is practical there. It is important that children acquire all knowledge in a practical way and the value system is given more prominence than marks and grades.

The New Education policy of the central government is also tethered on the same principles of practical education. By doing away with a lot of examinations till 12th standard the government wants to ensure that clearing concepts is more important than fetching good grades or marks. There is renewed focus on disseminating newer techniques of learning to the teaching community as it is important to give training to teachers. Training teachers with the new methods and familiarising them with New Educational Policy would take a lot of resources, time and energy. The government must ensure that this important step is taken as soon as possible with almost all hands-on decks so that the newer practical ways of teaching could be put to practice as soon as possible. Kashmir valley has been a fountainhead of knowledge for the last so many decades. We have produced thousands of doctors, engineers, writers and philosophers over the last so many decades. The New Educational Policy would go a long way in taking the education scene of the valley to newer heights. A proper implementation within a well-marked timeline can trigger a new way of education in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Online Fraud Analysis And Its Remedies

AQIB UL AHAD WANI
BISMA YOUSUF

The utilization of bogus identities in online fraud presents a complicated legal environment where criminal, civil, and regulatory issues coexist. The legal aspects of the phenomenon, involving theft of identities, fraud, scams, internet crimes, and privacy laws, are examined in the current article. The investigation delves into the legal ramifications of fabricating and using false identities on the internet, examining pertinent laws such as the Information Technology Act of 2000 and the Indian Penal Code. The report draws attention to the difficulties with jurisdiction and international cooperation in a digital environment that is becoming increasingly globalized. The report also looks at how defamation laws, banking restrictions, and civil liabilities interact to combat online fraud. The function of regulatory frameworks, such as the cybersecurity guidelines published by the Reserve Bank of India.

In combating fraudulent activity, regulatory compliance procedures, such as Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) processes, are emphasized. The article highlights the need for law enforcement agencies, governments, companies, and people to work collectively to effectively manage the various difficulties that arise from online fraud involving bogus identities. Methods for online fraud using false identities

Phishing and spoofing: Criminals create fraudulent emails, webpages, or messages claiming to originate from reputable business organizations, financial institutions, or government entities. Under the pretense of verification or an urgent need for immediate action, these messages frequently ask for sensitive information, including passwords, credit card numbers, or personal identities.

Identity Theft: Criminals use many kinds of techniques, including physical theft, social engineering, and database hacking, to obtain personal information from people. Then, false identities are created for fraudulent actions using this stolen information.

Fake online profiles: To build connection and confidence with their victims, perpetrators create fictitious profiles on social media, dating site apps, or professional websites. They might make use of these connections to gain money, financial information, or even personal information from their targets.

Fraudulent online stores: To deceive



people into purchasing fake products or services, scammers create fraudulent marketplaces on the web, auction sites, or e-commerce platforms. They might take money, but they never deliver the products they promised.

Scams at Work: The perpetrators lure victims in with false job opportunities or work-from-home programs, demanding payment in advance for background checks or training materials. The fraudsters disappear when the money is received.

Financial and Investment Fraud: Fraudsters provide too-good-to-be-true investment possibilities while posing as financial advisors or investment consultants. After being persuaded to invest money, victims have it stolen. An example of this kind of fraud is recently exposed Ponzi scheme that defrauded thousands of people in J&K on the name of beauty items, and easy money. Thousands of people, mostly homemakers and students, were enticed to participate in surveys by the Chennai-based Company "Curative Survey" because they "plan to launch beauty products" in exchange for

large payouts. By using a free account, the company promised simple survey takers Rs 200 every two weeks. And this is where the seemingly harmless activity turns into something dishonest.

The business offered paid accounts,

where investors paid Rs 5,000 each in exchange for a guarantee of receiving Rs 1,500 every two weeks for surveys. It was promised that a person with multiple paid accounts would see a corresponding rise in income. In addition, Rs 250 was offered to the investors for each referral. In addition, the business paid them more as promised for more referrals, which attracted new investors. Even some influencers on social media created promotional videos for this company.

The company abruptly stopped making payments when the number of investors reached thousands. Alarmed investors found all offices of the company shut and its promoters and directors missing. A local YouTuber, with the social media handle 'NAFxx Tech' had warned people against "investing" in the 'Curative Survey' and explained how it could be a scam. The scam caused a stir in the Valley, and the J&K Police's Cyber Wing lodged a case under the IT Act and IPC. "The fraudulent company tricked the victims into depositing their hard-earned money by making exaggerated claims of huge profits."

Scams of Romance Online: On dating sites, scammers create accounts to initiate romantic relationships with gullible people. Once they have established an intimacy, they fabricate tales of financial hardship and demand money from

their victims.

Fake contests and offers: Fraudsters impersonate winners of lotteries, contests, or special offers and demand payment or personal information from their targets to receive their claimed reward.

CONCLUSION: In a nutshell, using bogus identities for online fraud is a complex and widespread issue that has implications for law, technology, and society. Cybercriminals take advantage of online platforms to deceive people, companies, and groups, leading to financial losses, damage to their reputations, and emotional distress. To tackle this problem, a multipronged strategy involving legislation, technology development, and user education is required. Advancements in technology, like more secure methods for authentication, artificial intelligence-driven fraud detection, and safe digital identity verification, can serve as precautionary measures. To reduce the risk of fraud, companies and financial institutions must additionally have robust safety precautions in place, follow Know Your Customer (KYC) instructions, and regularly update their cybersecurity plans.

The authors are practicing lawyers and are alumni of the University of Kashmir

Learning How To Say No To Exam Stress

SAHIL MANZOOR

Every field has set different criteria to assess progress or development regularly. Without doing any assessment, it is very difficult for the concerned authorities to go ahead because we set goals before heading towards any target, and planning and targeting for good results always gives us positive and effective results. So whenever we do have any plans, we are supposed to keep in mind several things and always try to reach out to those who are experts and have gained some experience. Every day, every moment we gain experience, it could be positive, or sometimes it could be negative. Great people are those who learn from others and share with others what they have gained and experienced from their surroundings.

As most of us often used to say, after almighty Allah, government rules prevail here on this earth. No doubt, I do have full faith that every bit is being controlled by the superpower that's almighty Allah, and at the same time, I follow the rules and regulations issued or set by the government authority because rules and laws are being set for the betterment of the general people and the security of the individuals of the country. We must follow the rules and regulations for the betterment of our nation and let others know the importance of them.

Today in this article, I am

going to explore the importance of exams and how exams are having a positive psychological impact on our lives. 'These days' exams are being revamped with several new techniques, like assessment of the students by observing their overall performance during an active class. Assessing the students by keeping in mind their domestic and financial conditions suppose brilliant students have some financial or domestic issues and always suffer in several ways, as such cases do not get full support from their parents in the educational field. The government has taken several initiatives for the betterment of students, but these are not sufficient

to fulfill their needs. We have taken several initiatives to uplift the downtrodden class and should provide them with all the basic facilities so that our nation develops at a very rapid speed.

For me, we are all brilliant and have immense potential to revolutionize the whole world, as the Almighty has bestowed on us the brain. The brain has immense potential that can be achieved through bizarre inventions like smartphones, laptops, memory cards, and DNA sampling; in fact, the medical sector has great and quite strange inventions. As the living cell is the fundamental, structural, and functional unit of life, most of us are well aware of the living cell. But one

thing is quite appreciative: we know several things about this invisible thing. Scientists have achieved great success with things that are still out of our imagination, like the study of cell biology and atoms. As every non-living thing is made up of atoms, one thing is great: we have good knowledge about this invisible particle. An atom has shells like K, L, M, N, etc., and neutrons, and protons have a nucleus inside it.

There are inborn intelligent and hard workers with immense potential to change the world by introducing their great thoughts and their great and strange useful inventions. The world needs great minds; it hardly matters which country they belong to, which religion

they follow, or which caste, color, or sex they have. Simply put, if you are concerned about the whole of humanity, you prevail and gain what you have never thought of. We have negative notions that always support our nation and family and take care of our belongings. Great people always think about the whole of humanity and try to solve problems for them. Always be positive; we are all equal, and one day we have to say goodbye to this small planet, so always try to live for others, keeping aside their religions, nation, caste, sex, etc. In Sha Allah, we will be successful, I hope.

The author can be mailed at sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com



Nari Shakti Impact: A Shift Towards Gender Equality



DR. NOWHERA SHAIK

In a historic stride toward gender equality and women's empowerment, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 takes center stage, poised to reshape the future of India. This transformative legislation, passed unanimously in the Parliament under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, signifies a monumental shift towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

The journey towards gender representation in Indian politics has seen significant milestones, including the 73rd and 74th amendments in 1993, which reserved seats for women in local bodies. However, despite progress, there remained a notable underrepresentation of women in national legislative bodies. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam aims to correct this historical imbalance by reserving 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures for women, presenting a turning point in the nation's democratic journey.

The legislation doesn't merely focus on representation; it symbolizes a paradigm shift in governance, heralding a new era of women-led and gender-sensitive governance. This groundbreaking law is a social revolution that promises to redefine the political landscape, ensuring greater acknowledgment and empowerment of women across various spheres.

The impact of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam extends beyond political representation. By increasing the presence



of women in decision-making bodies, it unleashes a vast untapped potential. Women, proven leaders across various fields, bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the challenges faced by the nation. Their inclusion not only ensures fair gender representation but also inspires young girls to aspire for leadership roles.

The government's commitment to fostering a progressive and gender-responsive democracy is evident through comprehensive policies and targeted initiatives. Programs like Beti

Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Poshan Abhiyan, and others focus on empowering women through education and economic opportunities. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam aligns seamlessly with this commitment, marking a monumental step towards building an inclusive and progressive India.

As the Minister for Women and Child Development, I take immense pride in witnessing the enactment of this legislation. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam reflects our commitment to women's

empowerment, paving the way for a more inclusive and progressive India. It propels us towards a future where every woman is celebrated, respected, and given the opportunity to realize her true potential.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are moving towards a future where Nari Shakti is not just a phrase but a living reality. The legislation provides women with a platform to not only become political representatives but also champions of change and architects of a more just and equitable society.

In addition to the widespread acclaim for the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, Dr. Nowhera Shaik, the President of the All India Mahila Empowerment Party, has welcomed and hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary move. Her endorsement of this groundbreaking legislation underscores the bipartisan support for the shift toward gender equality in Indian politics. Dr. Shaik commends the decision, emphasizing its potential to empower women and foster a more inclusive and equitable political landscape. Her acknowledgment adds a layer of solidarity and underscores the significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in transcending political affiliations for the greater cause of women's empowerment in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly acknowledges that the Nari Shakti Vandan Act will usher in a new era of inclusive governance, removing major hindrances in the participation of women in policy and law-making. This legislation aligns with our collective vision of building a nation where Nari Shakti is not merely a concept but an embodiment of strength and empowerment.

As we stand at the threshold of this new dawn, I urge all women to rise to the challenge and embrace this opportunity. Let us step forward, not just as political representatives but as champions of change, as architects of a more just and equitable society.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is not just a law; it is a commitment to building a nation where women lead with strength, compassion, and resilience. Together, let us create a future where every woman's potential is unleashed, and Nari Shakti is celebrated not only in words but in every facet of our society.

Author is National President, All India Mahila Empowerment, Hyderabad. She can be mailed at drnouheraoffice@gmail.com

The Earliest Culture On Earth: Origin, And Development



DR RAJKUMAR SINGH

Culture is the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize an institution, organization, or group. More broadly, it encompasses the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities, and habits of the individuals in these groups. The key aspects of culture include a. Socially Transmitted: Culture is passed down from generation to generation through learning and experience. b. Symbols and Language: It heavily relies on symbols, language, and communication to transmit these ideas and practices. Adaptive: Culture can adapt and evolve in response to changes in the environment or social conditions.

Shared: It is shared by a group of people, creating a sense of identity and community. d. Diverse: Different groups have distinct cultures, leading to a rich diversity of cultural expressions worldwide. Civilization: Civilization, on the other hand, usually is a complex human society that has developed extensive societal organization, including cities, a central government, complex social hierarchies, and often, writing systems. Key aspects of civilization include: a. Advanced Cities: The presence of urban centers with significant populations. Centralized Administration: A form of government or administrative mechanism for organizing society. b. Class Structure: A defined social hierarchy and division of labor.

Technological Advancements: Significant advancements in technology, arts, and sciences. Record Keeping and Communication: The development and use of writing systems or other forms of record-keeping. Distinction: While culture is about the shared practices, beliefs, and values of a group, civilization is more about the structural and organizational aspects of large, complex societies. A civilization can encompass multiple cultures, and a single culture can spread across



multiple civilizations. For instance, the ancient Roman civilization included a variety of cultures from different parts of Europe and the Mediterranean. Thus, while culture refers to the shared ways of life and frameworks of understanding that groups of people have, civilization is a larger-scale concept that describes the complex structures and institutions of advanced societies.

The origin of culture and civilization on Earth is a complex and fascinating topic that spans thousands of years and involves the study of anthropology, archaeology, history, and other disciplines. Its brief overview include: a. Early Human Ancestors: The roots of human culture begin with our early ancestors. Evidence from archaeological sites suggests that hominins like Homo habilis and Homo erectus displayed early forms of culture, such as the use of tools and control of fire. b. Emergence of Homo Sapiens: Around 300,000 years ago, Homo sapiens evolved in Africa. These early humans began to exhibit signs of more complex culture, including sophisticated tool-making, art (like cave paintings), and burial practices.

Development of Language: The development of spoken language, although hard to pinpoint archaeologically, was a

significant milestone in cultural evolution. Language allowed for more complex social structures and the transmission of knowledge across generations. c. Agricultural Revolution: Around 10,000 years ago, the Neolithic Revolution, or the transition from nomadic hunting and gathering to settled agriculture, marked a significant shift. This allowed for the development of permanent settlements and the accumulation of surplus food, which led to population growth and the rise of complex societies. e. Early Civilizations: The first civilizations emerged in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China around 5,000 years ago. These civilizations developed writing systems, complex social hierarchies, and monumental architecture. f. Cultural Diversification: As civilizations expanded and interacted through trade and conquest, a rich tapestry of cultures evolved. Each region of the world developed its unique blend of cultural practices, beliefs, and innovations.

Global Interactions: In the last few centuries, the pace of cultural exchange has accelerated due to colonization, globalization, and technological advances. This has led to a more interconnected world where cultures continuously influence and transform each other. Culture and civilization are dynamic and constantly

evolving. They are influenced by a myriad of factors, including geography, climate, technology, and interactions with other cultures. The study of the origin of culture and civilization is an ongoing endeavor that continues to reveal new insights into our shared human history.

The earliest development of culture and civilization traces back to prehistoric times, and understanding this development requires a look into both anthropological and archaeological evidence. Here's a brief overview: Earliest Development of Culture a. Hominin Ancestors (2.5 million - 300,000 years ago): Early hominins like Homo habilis and Homo erectus showed the first signs of cultural behaviour. This includes the use of basic stone tools and, later, the control of fire. These developments were crucial for survival, food processing, and social interaction. b. Emergence of Homo Sapiens (around 300,000 years ago): Our species, Homo sapiens, started exhibiting more complex cultural traits. This period saw advancements in tool-making techniques, and the beginnings of symbolic behaviour, such as art (e.g., cave paintings in places like Lascaux, France) and possibly early forms of religious belief. Language Development: The emergence of complex language, while difficult to date precisely, was a pivotal development in human culture.

Language allowed for the transmission of complex ideas, stories, and knowledge across generations. Earliest Development of Civilization a. Neolithic Revolution (around 10,000 BCE): The transition from nomadic hunter-gatherer societies to settled agricultural communities marks the beginning of civilization. This period, known as the Neolithic Revolution, saw the domestication of plants and animals, which led to: Permanent Settlements: The establishment of villages and later cities. Population Growth: Stable food supplies led to population increases. Social Stratification: Surplus production allowed some individuals to engage in non-agricultural activities, leading to diverse social roles and hierarchies. Early Civilizations (around 5,000 BCE): The first civilizations arose in fertile river valleys where agriculture was most productive. Notable examples include: a. Mesopotamia (Tigris-Euphrates Rivers): Often cited as the "Cradle of Civilization", it saw the emergence of cities like Uruk and Ur, the invention of writing (cuneiform), and significant technological and administrative developments. b. Ancient Egypt (Nile River): Characterized by pharaonic rule, monumental architecture (like pyramids), and advances in writing (hieroglyphics), art, and science.

Indus Valley Civilization (Indus River): Known for its advanced urban planning, including sophisticated drainage systems and the use of standardized weights and measures. d. Ancient China (Yellow River): Early Chinese civilization developed distinctive features such as oracle bone script, bronze casting, and the philosophy of Confucianism and Taoism. Interrelation of Culture and Civilization In these early stages, the development of culture and civilization were deeply intertwined. Cultural advancements like language, art, and religious practices were foundational in forming the social cohesion necessary for the establishment of complex societies. In turn, the rise of civilizations provided a framework for further cultural developments, including more sophisticated forms of art, writing, and technology. Understanding these developments is crucial for grasping the vast timeline of human history and the gradual evolution of societies from small, nomadic bands to large, complex civilizations.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh is a youth motivator and Professor of Political Science, present Dean, Student's Welfare (DSW), of the B.N. Mandal University.

Wanted Drug Smuggler Booked In B'la: Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu & Kashmir Police on Monday said to have booked most wanted & notorious drug smugglers under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla.

The most wanted & notorious drug smuggler namely Dawood Ahmad Sofi son of Ghulam Hassan Sofi resident of Solinda Khaipora Tangmarg has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail



Kot-Balwal Jammu, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said drug smuggler and was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of

Tangmarg & other areas of district. Despite his involvement in many FIRs he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth, police said.

Meanwhile, the general

public appreciated the role of Police for their action against drug peddlers. "Our consistent actions against the drug peddlers should reassure the community members that police is making all efforts to keep our society free from drug abuse," police said—(KNO)

Police Busts Marriage Scam, Arrests Fraudster

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said to have busted a marriage scam by arresting a fraudster in Baramulla.

"Police Post Delina received a written complaint from a resident of Hudpora Khaitangan stating therein that his brother's marriage ceremony was scheduled to be held on 31st of December, 2023 and they were supposed to get the bride from Thana Mandi Rajouri. However, the families don't know each other and are in touch through the middle man namely Sharif Ahmad Gaasi son of Ali Mohd Gaasi resident of Kakapora Pulwama who is not responding to their phone calls," a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

Accordingly, police said a case under relevant sections



of law was registered in Police Station Baramulla and investigation was initiated.

"Acting promptly, a Police party of Police Post Delina after hectic efforts and with the technical help, the said person was traced out from Srinagar. During preliminary investigation, it came to fore that the

said person has fraudulently cheated the said family on the pretext of marriage and has illegally grabbed an amount of Rs 1.18 lacs," police said.

He has been arrested and was shifted to Police Station Baramulla where he remains in custody, police said, adding that further investigation of the case is going on—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Amit Shah To

had notified a New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 28, 400 crore to boost industrial development. Home Minister may review the development projects of the Union Territory.

During 2022-23, an investment of Rs 2153.45 crore was realized in the industrial sector. In 2023-24, an investment of Rs. 2326.65 crore has been realized up to November 2023.

The Home Minister had chaired a similar high-level review meeting on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on January 13 last year and said that all security agencies are fighting a decisive battle against terrorism following the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He had also said that a 360-degree security mechanism would be further strengthened to eliminate the support and information system of terrorists.

The Minister had also held a review meeting of the security situation of the Union Territory of in New Delhi on April 13 last year in which reviewed the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security.

tributed to the growing stature of Sonamarg as a winter retreat—(KNO)

Night Chill

However, compared to previous nights, the minimum temperature has recorded a further dip on Monday.

According to data, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 5.2 degree Celsius while Pahalgam was the coldest where mercury settled at minus 5.7 degree Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir has recorded a further dip in mercury as the minimum temperature in the district has settled at minus 4.5 degree Celsius.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort has however, recorded a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius.

In Qazigund and Kokernag areas of South Kashmir, the mercury has settled at minus 3.6 degree Celsius and minus 1.7 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted a dry spell till January 7.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that mainly dry weather is expected till January 3rd while in between January 4-5, generally cloudy with dry weather over plains is expected during the period, but there is a possibility of very light snow over isolated extreme higher reaches.

Furthermore, he said the weather would again remain mainly dry from January 6-7. "Overall, no significant weather activity is expected till 7th January," he said—(KNO)

Gulmarg Sees

from traditional Kashmiri folk to contemporary compositions, creating a harmonious blend that resonated with the diverse audience — vocals left the crowd spellbound, marking the night as a memorable start to the year.

Local and visiting spectators expressed their joy and appreciation for the unforgettable New Year's celebration. The event highlighted the cultural richness of the region.

Tourists from various corners of the globe said the serenity of the snow-clad meadows, with the iconic Gulmarg Gondola adding a touch of adventure to the festivities. Beyond the scenic beauty, it was the warm embrace of Kashmiri hospitality that left an indelible mark on the visitors.

Amidst the celebratory atmosphere, tourists express their gratitude and encourage others to explore the wonders of Gulmarg.

"Kashmir is truly heaven on earth. The warmth of the people here and the natural beauty are beyond words. I urge everyone to experience this magical place," said Sidharth, a tourist from Uttar Pradesh who was on his maiden visit to Kashmir.

"It's not just a destination. It is a piece of heaven that everyone should have the chance to witness" he said.

Similarly, Yogendra, a makemytrip employee, who has been in Kashmir for several years, said that he had the privilege of witnessing the unparalleled beauty and hospitality that define this region. "Kashmir isn't just a destination, it's an immersive experience of warmth, breathtaking landscapes, and cultural richness", he said.

"Kashmir is a region of peace. Don't be afraid of false narratives. The warmth of its people and the tranquility of its landscapes speak louder than any misconception. Come, experience the real Kashmir," he said, while encouraging everyone to explore the wonders of Kashmir particularly Gulmarg.

Meanwhile, Secretary Tourism Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Director Tourism Raja Yaqoob, AD Tourism Javed Ur Rehman, CEO GDA Waseem Raja besides others were present to grace the occasion—(KNO)

'88% Schools Lack

education. Vocational education is education that prepares people for a skilled craft as an artisan, trade as a tradesperson, or work as a technician. It can also be seen as that type of education given to an individual to prepare that individual to be gainfully employed or self-employed with requisite skill.

According to the official figures, among the total of un-aided private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, at least 1816 institutes were covering vocational education.

Pertinently, the National Education Policy

(NEP) 2020 has given emphasis on vocational education and skill development.

Integration of vocational education with general education and mainstreaming of vocational education have also been recommended.

To fulfill various objectives of NEP in this regard, the existing scheme of Samagra Shiksha has been revamped and various new interventions relating to Vocational Education like internships, bag-less days, exposure to vocational education at the Upper Primary level etc. are being supported.

Meanwhile, the Principal Secretary, School Education Department and Director of School Education Kashmir were not available for their comments—(KNO)

India, Pakistan

each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.

"This is the 33rd consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992," the MEA added.

Set In Motion Process

NCB, SIA, Prosecution besides other concerned senior officers from civil and police administration.

In the onset the Chief Secretary enquired about the number of detentions made in the UT during the previous year and the proportion of successful convictions made in the court of law. He asked them to work towards enhancing the capacity of the concerned police personnel so that the cases are prepared professionally with higher conviction rate.

Dulloo maintained that since the relevant laws are in place bolstered by police force in satisfactory numbers, it becomes imminent to deal with the drug menace very forcefully to weed it out from the UT. He stressed on using their resources optimally to gather information and laying of hands over the big suppliers who are pivotal in supporting this illicit trade here.

He also asked putting in place extra deterrent measures and giving exemplary punishments to those found guilty of running drug trade here. He asked for gathering the audio-visual data from the CCTV footage of all drug stores and analysing it to find threads about possible operators using the modern Artificial intelligence tools. He asked the DCs to report about the status of properties sealed under PIT NDPS Act.

The Chief Secretary also directed the health department to utilize the services of the best of their psychiatrists to study the models adopted in providing care to the victims of this menace in different drug deaddiction centers across J&K. He also asked them to lay a robust protocol as per the standard operating procedure (SOP) at national level. He told them to make an effective strategy to assign the responsibility of deaddiction centers to psychiatrists only as these can treat the addicts as per their requirements.

He enquired from Deputy Commissioner about the scenario of drug trade in their areas and the response of administration against it. He asked from them about the achievements made in this regard and the issues, if any, faced by them. He asked them to work for total eradication of this trade in their respective jurisdictions.

The Chief Secretary even asked the Information, School Education and Social Welfare Departments to create the necessary awareness among the masses besides ensuring community participation to fight this narcotic trade effectively.

During this meeting the ACS Home, RK Goyal made out that since the capacity of concerned police personnel has been enhanced and the necessary testing facilities for samples has also been provided to them it should invariably result in enhanced convictions and speedy trails. He asked them to refine their efficacy and intent to turn most of the detentions into their convictions in the court of law.

It was given out in his presentation given by Special DG, Crime, AK Choudhary that this year the number of detentions and convictions has taken a quantum leap by laying more focus on NDPS cases. He also shared that effective deterrents are being put in place including referring of cases to SIA and sealing of properties of the people involved

in this nefarious trade.

DGP Launches J&K

in a statement issued.

While ADGP Armed J&K SJM Gillani, Director SKPAU Garib Dass, IGP Kashmir V.K Birdi, all range DIsG, all district SSSP of Jammu and Kashmir, all Commandants of JKAP/IRP Battalions, joined the launch programme through video conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said that it is a matter of great happiness that we are able to launch the J&K Police grievance portal on the very first day of the New Year.

He said that the need of launching a new grievance portal is to resolve issues of citizens as well as of our own personnel in a more structured and decentralised manner at one place without being mixed up.

At various levels of commanding officers, they will have the authority to check the status of application and can also forward to the concerned and simultaneously receive it back.

In this portal one application, if submitted at different offices, can be filtered so as to save the time of citizens, and of the department. He hoped that this would be a smart portal which will benefit a large number of people in resolving their issues qualitatively and quantitatively.

The DGP also congratulated ADGP Armed J&K whose suggested slogan "Awaam se, Awaam Ke Liye" was selected among a huge number of suggestions received. He also congratulated DySP IT PHQ, Junaid Hakeem and Director IT, NIC Baijul Ubbott for preparing the portal.

Earlier on the onset of the launch programme DySP IT gave a brief about the functioning of the portal website.

While Director NIC presented a demonstration of the portal. From the complainant's perspective the portal will provide SMS and email confirmation to applicant/complainant, round the clock availability of the portal, and the complainant can track the status of the complaint by providing a unique complaint number (generated at the time of filing complaint) with registered mobile number.

Complainants can also file additional documents and can view status of their complaint, once disposal of complaint takes place SMS and email alert will be received by the complainant. From the department's perspective the entire process will be electronic, right up to the point of filing response, complaints received will be instantly assigned to the concerned and the officer will also receive SMS and email alerts. The supervisory officers can monitor the follow up and it will be visible to all senior officers.

Gujjar Women Fight

orders leading to decreased earnings. A decade ago, a Gujjar woman could earn Rs 5,000 to 7,000 per month, but now they earn a maximum of Rs 3,000, and not consistently.

Gujjar women said that there is a need for cultural programs to revive the tradition, urging the administration to take action. Social activists and youth welfare leaders also call for government support and cultural initiatives to preserve the traditional topi.

"In the modern world the essence of tradition often faces challenges. The beauty of our Gujjar women crafting skullcaps is more than just threads and fabric; it's a connection to our roots. I believe if we weave our heritage into the fabric of modern times, these traditional caps can become not just an accessory but a symbol of pride for the younger generation," he said.

Junaid appeals to the government to play a pivotal role in preserving this cultural legacy. He emphasizes the importance of promoting and celebrating the art of crafting traditional skull caps through widespread cultural initiatives.

Junaid believes that government support can reignite interest among the younger generation, fostering a sense of pride in their unique cultural heritage.

"Government must organize cultural programs so that the younger generation develops an interest towards our traditional attire," says Danish Ali Tedwa, President of Gujjar and Bakerwal Youth Welfare in Pulwama. The possibility of fashion designers incorporating the traditional women's skullcaps into haute couture is also suggested to revive this cultural heritage—(KNO)

India begins 2024 by orbiting XPoSAT & will test fuel cell in space

SIANS

SRIHARIKOTA: India on Monday ushered in the New Year in a grand manner by orbiting its X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) ISRO and the space agency will also test its fuel cell, a precursor for powering the Indian space station whenever it is built.

At about 9.10 a.m. on the first day of the calendar year 2024, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C58 (PSLV-C58) standing 44.4-metre tall, with a lift off mass of 260 ton blasted off from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, here.

The rocket carried XPoSat and 10 other experimental payloads on its fourth stage.

Slowly rising up towards the skies with a thick orange flame at its tail, the rocket gained speed with a sound resembling rolling thunder and went up leaving a thick plume while the people assembled at the viewing gallery clapped their hands with pride.

Interestingly, this is the first space mission for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on January 1.

At about 21 minutes into its flight, the rocket ejected XPoSat

at an altitude of about 650 km.

Speaking after the launch ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said: "The orbit accomplished for XPoSat is excellent as the deviation is just three kilometres. The solar panels of the satellite have been deployed."

After orbiting the XPoSat, the rocket's fourth stage -- PS4 stage -- will be lowered to 350km, about 9.6 degree orbit, by restarting it twice. The Indian space agency will now use the fourth stage as an orbital platform with 10 experimental payloads loaded on it.

"We could have done the experiments at the 650km altitude. We decided to bring down the stage so that we don't create more space debris," Somanath said.

Continuing further he said, the remaining fuel on the fourth stage will be dumped in an unique manner.

The left-out propellant in the PS4 will be disposed of through the main engines as a precursor to enabling the safety of the PS4 stage in atmosphere reentry experiments planned in future, ISRO said.

The oxidiser will be let out first followed by fuel in a pre-determined sequence of operations. The existing scheme of



spent stage passivation by venting the tank pressure will also be active.

Post passivation of PS4, the control of the stage is transferred to the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) avionics, the ISRO said.

The POEM is configured as a 3-axis stabilised orbital platform for conducting experiments to space qualify systems with novel ideas.

The orbital platform's electrical power requirements are catered by a Flexible Solar Panel in conjunction with 50Ah Li-Ion battery in battery tied configuration.

The orbital platform consists of avionic systems to take care of navigation, guidance, control and telecommands and Orbital Platform Attitude Control System to cater to control of the platform to test the payloads, the ISRO added.

The 10 payloads are from TakeMe2Space, LBS Institute Technology for Women, K.J. Somaiya Institute of Technology, Inspect Space Labs Private Ltd, Dhruva Space Private Ltd, Bellatrix Aerospace Private Ltd (two payloads) and three payloads from the ISRO.

According to Somanath,

ISRO will be testing its fuel cell which will be the precursor for powering the Indian space station whenever it is built.

The Indian space agency will also test its silicon based high energy cells.

The XPoSat is the first dedicated scientific satellite from the ISRO to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources. The satellite configuration is modified from the IMS-2 bus platform. The configuration of the mainframe systems is derived based on the heritage of IRS satellites. It carries two payloads, namely POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing).

The POLIX is realised by the Raman Research Institute and XSPECT is by the Space Astronomy Group of the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC).

According to the ISRO, the three objectives of XPoSat are:

- (a) To measure polarisation of X-rays in the energy band 8-30keV emanating from about 50 potential cosmic sources through Thomson Scattering by POLIX payload.
- (b) To carry out long-term

spectral and temporal studies of cosmic X-ray sources in the energy band 0.8-15keV by XSPECT payload, and

(c) To carry out polarisation and spectroscopic measurements of X-ray emissions from cosmic sources by POLIX and XSPECT payloads, respectively, in the common energy band.

In its normal configuration, the PSLV is a four-stage/engine expendable rocket powered by solid and liquid fuels, alternatively, with six booster motors strapped onto the first stage to give higher thrust during the initial flight moments.

The ISRO has five types of PSLV rockets -- Standard, Core Alone, XL, DL, and QL.

The major difference between them is the use of strap-on boosters which, in turn, largely depends on the weight of the satellites to be orbited.

The PSLV uses 6,4,2 solid rocket strap-on motors to augment the thrust provided by the first stage in PSLV-XL, QL & DL variants, respectively. However, strap-ons are not used in the core-alone version (PSLV-CA).

The PSLV rocket that flew on New Year Day was the DL variant with two solid booster motors.

Delhi welcomes 2024 with shallow fog, 'very poor' air



SIANS

NEW DELHI: As the clock struck midnight, ushering in the much-anticipated year 2024, residents of Delhi were greeted with a surprisingly mild start to the first day of the year. The minimum temperature in the city stood at 10.1 degrees Celsius, a departure of three notches above the seasonal average, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The national capital was blanketed by shallow fog affecting visibility.

Commuters and early risers experienced varying degrees of reduced visibility, with the lowest recorded at Safdarjung at 700 metres around 7 a.m. Meanwhile, Palam reported a slightly better visibility of 1,100 metres during the same period.

According to Indian Railways, 21 trains, including Mumbai- Ferozpur, Bangalore- Nizamuddin Rajdhani, Hyderabad-New Delhi were late by hours, due to poor visibility.

However, the air quality

of the national capital continued to remain in a 'very poor' category.

The air quality at Anand Vihar entered the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 at 331 and PM 10 at 236, in the 'poor' category, while the NO2 reached 54 and CO was at 74 or 'satisfactory', as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The Bawana station recorded PM 2.5 at 325, in the 'very poor' category while the PM 10 reached 195, in the 'moderate' category, while the CO reached 50, or 'good' levels.

The AQI monitoring station at Dwarka Sector 8 recorded PM 2.5 at 373, in the 'very poor category' while PM 10 was at 262 or 'poor' while the CO was at 46, in 'good' levels.

The AQI at the ITO station was in the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 at 316 and PM 10 at 172, in the 'moderate' category, while the CO was at 41, in the 'good' level.

The PM 2.5 at Okhla Phase-II was recorded at 332, in the 'very poor' category and PM 10 at 202, the 'poor' category.

Watchman kills 6-yr-old in UP, dog sniffs him out

SIANS

AGRA: A watchman brutally murdered a six-year-old girl following an unsuccessful rape attempt in Uttar Pradesh's Agra.

The child was drowned in a water tank, and her head was bludgeoned with a stone, police said on Monday. Her lifeless body was discarded in a pile of garbage.

According to the police, the accused, 45-year-old Rajveer Singh, initially feigned assistance in the search for the girl alongside her family.

Suspicion arose when Jabbar, a Labrador police dog, incessantly barked upon encountering Rajveer.

With the aid of the

sniffer dog, the suspect was apprehended within a few hours.

Both the accused and the victim hailed from the same village.

During interrogation, Rajveer confessed to the crime. The accused, employed as a private watchman safeguarding crop fields from stray cattle, now faces charges under IPC section 302 (murder), following a complaint filed by the minor's father.

DCP Suraj Kumar Rai stated, "The accused abducted the child while she was playing outside her house. During a sexual assault attempt, Rajveer killed the child because she resisted him and cried out for help."

UP woman skydives with flag of Ram temple



SIANS

PRAYAGRAJ: Anamika Sharma, a 22-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, set a record of sorts when she jumped from a height of 13,000 feet with the flag of Ram Temple.

This feat, accomplished in Bangkok, adds another milestone to Sharma's achievements in the field of skydiving, particularly in the wake of the grand consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, scheduled for January 22.

With limited invitees, Ram Mandir is scheduled to be inaugurated in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi among other leaders.

Anamika Sharma, in her display of courage and devotion, unfurled the flag at a remarkable altitude, paying homage to Prayagraj and the legendary

sage Bharadwaj, credited as the architect of Vimana Shastra, a treatise on ancient aeronautics.

The act also resonated with the citizens of Thailand, where Hanuman Ji is revered as a protector, making Sharma a source of inspiration.

Expressing pride in her daughter's achievement, Sharma's mother Priyanka Sharma, stated, "I was proud of my daughter when I found out that Anamika had done what even a boy cannot do at this age. Now, with the blessings of Lord Rama, this has happened, and she jumped from a height of 13,000 feet."

Anamika Sharma's father, Ajay Kumar Sharma, a retired Army personnel who himself was engaged in skydiving, has greatly influenced her. She said that she has been practising this adventurous sport since childhood.

Vice Admiral Sivakumar assumes charge as Controller Warship Production, Acquisition



SIANS

NEW DELHI: Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar, AVSM, VSM on Monday assumed charge as Controller Warship Production and Acquisition.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the Flag Officer has served onboard frontline ships like 'Ranjit', 'Kirpan' and 'Akshay' in various capacities and also commanded INS Valsura.

According to the MoD, Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (70th Course).

He was commissioned as an Electrical Officer into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987. He holds Master Degrees in Engineering from IIT Chennai

and Management from Osmania University.

Sivakumar has held various important appointments in the Staff and Materiel Branch at Naval and Command Headquarters, Dockyard and Training Establishments, the MoD official added.

The Vice Admiral is a recipient of Ati Vishist Seva Medal and Vishist Seva Medal for his distinguished Service.

Prior to his appointment as the Controller Warship and Acquisition, he has served as Programme Director, HQ ATPV at New Delhi, Assistant Chief of Materiel (IT and S) at Naval Headquarters, ASD (Mumbai) and Chief Staff Officer (Tech) HQ WNC, MoD official added.

Over 2,700 drunk driving cases filed in Hyderabad during NY celebrations

SIANS

HYDERABAD: Over 2,700 cases of drunk driving were registered in Hyderabad during New Year celebrations.

The cases were lodged during the special drive taken up by the police under the limits of Hyderabad and Cyberabad police commissionerates.

While over 1,500 cases were filed under the limits of Hyderabad commissionerate, more than 1,200 cases were detected in Cyberabad limits.

As part of the special drive, police had set up check points and were conducting the breath analyser tests since 8 p.m.

According to Cyberabad Police, a total of 1,241 persons including two women were booked for drunk driving. As many as 938 two-wheelers and 275 four-wheelers were involved.

The statistics show that 382 of those caught are aged between 18 and 25 years old, while 536 are in 26-36 age group and 239 in 35-45 age group.

According to police, 196 of those caught had Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) count of above 50.



Permissible alcohol limit is up to and below 30 micrograms/100 ml of blood. Anything above that, as recorded by a Breath Analyser is a violation.

Police said 485 persons had BAC count between 51-99, 281 in the range of 100-149, 128 in the range of 150-199. A total of 100 people were found to have BAC count of 200-299 while 51 had 300-500 BAC count.

Out of 15 police stations in Cyberabad, Miyapur recorded highest number of cases at 263. Kukatpally police station registered 123 cases.

Drunk driving is an offence under section 185 of the M.V. Act.

The punishment is a penalty of Rs 10,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment. Driving Licence will be suspended for 3 months and above or permanently.

Several firsts in ISRO's Jan 1, 2024 space mission

SIANS'

SRIHARIKOTA: The Monday rocketing of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has several firsts like taking into space a satellite built by women, testing of fuel cell and others, apart from being the first time a space mission is carried out on the first day of the calendar year.

ISRO with its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C58 (PSLV-C58) successfully orbited its X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) at 650 km altitude.

The rocket's fourth stage has been converted into an orbital platform with 10 experimental payloads from educational institutions, private companies and ISRO.

One of the payloads is the Women Engineered

Satellite (WESAT) built by LBS Institute of Technology for Women for comparison of solar irradiance and UV index.

On its part, ISRO will test its fuel cell, silicon based high energy cells and carry out Interplanetary dust count measurement.

According to S.Somanath, Chairman, ISRO, the space agency will test its fuel cell which will be the precursor for powering the Indian space station whenever it is built.

The other payloads are from TakeMe2Space, K. J. Somaiya Institute of Technology, Inspect Space Labs Private Ltd, Dhruva Space Private Ltd and Bellatrix Aerospace Private Ltd (two payloads).

For the first time in its history, ISRO carried out a space mission on the first day of a calendar year.

Exenrajbaghsgr@gmail.com | GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR | Call: 0194-2310283

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION

RAJBAGH SRINAGAR, LAL MANDI, NEAR L. D. HOSPITAL SRINAGAR-190008.

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No.56/R&B/RAJ of 2023-24 issued under Endorsement No:4796-4807 DATED: 30.12.2023

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rupees in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	T. S No&D ate	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of Boundary Wall along with Gate at Cluster University Gogji Bagh Srinagar	62.68 (incl. Cost of Material + GST)	1600/-	125360/-	60Days	SE/PWD (R&B)Sgr/So uth/40 of2023-2024 Dated: 05.12.2023.	Higher education 4202	"AAY Class Civil"

Position of AAA: Accorded order No.211 CUS (P&S) of 2023 Dated: 04.08.2023.
Position of Funds: Available/Committed/Budgeted.
Project Authority: Registrar Cluster University.

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30.12.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.12.2023. from 11:00AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	30.12.2023. from 11:05AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	04.01.2024 Upto 04.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	05.01.2024 Upto 11.00PM.in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (tender inviting authority)(The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division RajbaghSrinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office No.07/CDII/2011-12/389-414dated07.04.2011.

No. 4796-4807
Dated 30.12.2023
DIPK-14510-23
DT: 01/01/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Rajbagh Division
Srinagar

Decline in Kashmiri language usage threatens our cultural identity

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: In a worrying trend, the Kashmiri language is experiencing a significant decline, especially among the younger generation, with civil society raising concerns about the erosion of cultural identity.

For them, the importance of language as a vital cultural bond and a means of effective communication cannot be overstated. They said the apparent drop in Kashmiri language proficiency needs urgent inter-

vention.

Social activist Bilal Bhat from Ganderbal expressed concern over the diminishing use of Kashmiri among children. He said that during visits to various schools, it was observed that many kids were unable to speak or understand Kashmiri.

Acknowledging the importance of English proficiency in a global context, he stresses the need not to neglect the teaching of the Kashmiri language.

"It is the responsibility

of parents and elders to ensure that future generations inherit this linguistic gem, which plays a crucial role in preserving the vibrant culture deeply embedded in the language," Bhat said.

Bilal advocated for incorporating Kashmiri language learning into school curricula and extra-curricular activities. "The goal of such initiatives is to instill a sense of pride in Kashmir's linguistic history and counter the language degradation

observed in recent years," he said.

Tauqeer Ashraf, a science graduate from Pulwama, has taken to various social media platforms to promote the Kashmiri language. He said urgent measures are needed to transmit the language to future generations.

"Preserving the language is not only about linguistic heritage but also about safeguarding the cultural richness encapsulated in Kashmir's tales, rituals, and distinct identity," he said—(KNO)

Pvt School with land issues

JKBOSE to tag 60 Pvt school students with nearby Govt institutes

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has given a nod to enroll secondary and senior secondary level students of sixty private schools to nearby government institutions in view of 'land and affiliation expiry issues'.

JKBOSE Deputy Secretary General for Kashmir division that the directives have been issued for of tagging of on-roll students of sixty private academic institutions of Kashmir Division running their affairs on proprietary land, having their period of affiliation expired and also failed to furnish their extension case files.

"In order to safeguard the academic career, sanction is accorded to tag-

ging of on-roll students of sixty private schools of the nearby government high or higher secondary schools or cluster head schools, as the case may be in respect of schools of Kashmir division with immediate effect," it reads.

The officer said that the sanction was accorded consequent upon the expiration of affiliation of such private academic institutions of Kashmir division in October 2021-2022, coupled with the failure of the concerned managements to submit requisite case files for further extension with necessary certificates and safety documents.

"The concerned principals or cluster heads after securing necessary discharge certificates of the concerned students shall authenticate and submit

the Permission-Cum-Admission (PCA) forms of classes 10th to 12th and renewal registration returns, as the case may be, with normal prescribed fee, as per the notifications issued by the JKBOSE Director Academic," it reads.

The board authority has also said that the concerned private schools shall remit a tagging fee equivalent to periodical inspection fee for the current academic session viz. 2023-2024, as prescribed by the JKBOSE.

"The defaulter schools are admonished not to enrol any students in classes from 9th to 12th, from the next academic session viz. 2024-2025, without securing formal affiliation and recognition from the board and Government School Education

Department respectively," it reads.

The board authorities said that the orders shall be subject to the outcome of writ petitions, if any, pending before the competent courts of law.

Meanwhile, top officials of JKBOSE said, "Under Statutory Order (SO) 177, in the case of those private schools who are running their institutions from the state land and are defaulters, their number is around 200."

The official said that those private schools will have to get their title cleared from the revenue department. "We only need a NOC from them."

Pertinently, in April-2022, the government had notified conditions under SO-177 for private schools for their registration, recognition, and affiliation—(KNO)

Apni Party expels Javid Baig for anti-party activities

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Apni Party on Monday expelled former MLA Baramulla, Javid Hussain Baig over alleged involvement in anti-party activities.

In a statement issued, Apni Party General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir announced expulsion of Baig from the party, citing his involvement in anti-party activities.

"Since it goes against the basic constitution of the party, his basic membership is hereby terminated, and he is expelled from the party for a period of 5 years", Mir said.

Baig had joined Apni Party in 2020 after he was expelled by Peoples Democratic Party for meeting foreign envoys who had visited Jammu & Kashmir after August 5, 2019.

PDP had expelled Javid Baig and other leaders, saying they had "gone against the will of the people" by meeting foreign envoys. "In view of the developments post-August 5 and the unilateral move of the government of India that has violated the will and hurt the sentiments of the people, it has come to our attention that certain party leaders have been part of the parleys that go against the interests of the state, official position and core beliefs of the party," the party had then said—(KNO)

FROM JOB SEEKERS TO JOB PROVIDERS

Handicraft training centres in Budgam transform women

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom in central Kashmir's Budgam district is spearheading a transformation from women being job seekers to becoming job providers. Officials from the department revealed that numerous training centres have been established which cater to both married and unmarried women and provide them with comprehensive training for three months.

After completing the training, these women are eligible for a registration card, which facilitates access to loans from banks to establish their handicraft units, they said.

One shining example of this initiative is the Haknipora Budgam Zaari Centre, where 25 trainees are currently undergoing specialised Zaari training.

Sakina Ali, a trainee in her third semester, shared her aspirations, saying, "Despite pursuing my studies at college, I am getting Zaari training, and my goal is to open my unit once I complete the training."

Several other trainees echoed similar sentiments. They said the administration played a crucial role in providing them a platform to work from home and earn a living.

Expressing gratitude to the LG administration for these opportunities, the trainees said this initiative not only transforms their lives but also contributes to the broader narrative of women's empowerment.

"There is a shift from job seekers to job providers. These women have evolved into entrepreneurs and become valuable contributors to the local economy," an official said—(KNO)

JE WRITTEN EXAMS

CBI files chargesheet against 15 accused

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday said to have filed a chargesheet against 15 accused in an ongoing investigation of a case pertaining to irregularities in written examination of JE (Civil), Jal Shakti Department, J&K.

The chargesheet as per a statement issued has been filed against the then Assistant Sub Inspector of J&K Police; then Head Constable/Constable of CRPF; then Sepoy of Army; Teacher and private persons.

CBI had registered a case on 09-01-2023 on the request from Govt of J&K regarding irregularities in written examination of Junior Engineer (Civil), Jal Shakti Department, Govt of J&K conducted by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), the statement said.

"It was found during investigation that private person entered into conspiracy with other accused. In pursuance to the conspiracy, an employee of printing press, allegedly stole

the question paper of JE (Civil) examination and handed over the same to the said private person. The private person contacted other accused to arrange/solicit candidates for sale of leaked question paper. It was further alleged that the candidates were taken to Panchkula in tempo travelers & taxi and provided leaked question papers in lieu of money," the statement added.

The investigation was spread across several states involving analysis

of voluminous technical data, Bank Accounts, Toll data and examination of more than 100 witnesses, it reads, adding that after investigation, a chargesheet was filed against the accused.

The public is reminded that the above findings are based on the investigation done by CBI and evidence collected by it. Under the Indian Law, accused are presumed to be innocent till their guilt is finally established after a fair trial, the statement added—(KNO)

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —
DIL KE EHSAAAS



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