

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Amit Shah
@AmitShah

Chaired the All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police 2023 held in Jaipur. The new Bharat under the leadership of PM @narendramodi Ji is today is nurturing an advanced, scientific and modern criminal justice system. Emphasized the need to train and equip our police forces in this new judicial apparatus to meet the goal of providing swift and transparent justice.

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ACB Arrests BDC Member For Accepting Bribe

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have caught a DDC member red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 in Ganderbal.

As per a statement issued, a spokesman said that a complainant approached ACB with a written complaint against public servants namely Majid Aziz, District Mineral Officer Ganderbal and Gowhar Ahmad Reshi, BDC Member. **●P-06**

LeT Terrorist Killed In Shopian Gunfight: Police



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said that a local Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist was killed in Chotigam village of South Kashmir's Shopian district, who according to police was involved in inducting 12 youth into terrorist ranks.

A senior police official said that a joint team of Police, Army and CRPF launched a Cordon and Search Operation on specific information about the presence of terrorists in the area.

He said that the search operation turned into an encounter after terrorists opened fire at the forces, who retaliated.

"In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist was killed, who has been identified as Bilal Ahmed Bhat, son of Ghulam Rasool Bhat of Chek Cholan, affiliated with the proscribed terror outfit LeT," the official said.

According to police, he was involved in several crimes including killing of Pandits and non-local labourers.

In a statement, a police spokesman said that acting on specific information regarding presence of terrorist in village Chotigam area of **●P-06**

DGP-IGP Meet HM Amit Shah Calls For Uniformity In Counter-Terror Systems

AGENCIES

JAIPUR: India's top police and intelligence brass on Friday began three-day deliberations on a host of internal and external security issues with a focus on cyber security, artificial intelligence, deep fakes, security at India's border, unauthorised persons staying in the country and the roadmap for soon-to-be implemented three criminal laws in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, people familiar with the development said.

Inaugurating the 58th director generals of police (DGP)/inspector generals of police (IGP) conference at Rajasthan International Centre (RIC) in Jaipur, HM Shah stressed the need for linking databases and adopting an AI-driven analytical approach for tackling emerging security challenges, besides bringing uniformity in the structures, size and skills of counter-terror mechanisms across the country.

HM Shah also asked the chiefs to train the police officers from SHO rank to DGP level and



upgrade the technology from thana (police station) to police headquarters level for successful implementation of three criminal laws.

Shah said the new laws were focused on the delivery of justice instead of punishment and their implementation would transform the country's criminal justice system into the most modern and scientific one.

The home minister stressed the need for linking databases and adopting an AI-driven analytical approach to tackling emerging security challenges.

He also emphasised on uniformity of **●P-06**

DGP R R Swain Leading JK Delegation

Three-day conference of Director Generals of Police (DGPs) and Inspector General's of Police (IGPs) on critical security issues is underway in Rajasthan's Jaipur. The conference is being attended by DGPs and IGPs of States and UT's across the country.

The main aim of the conference is to focus on critical issues including terror threats in Jammu and Kashmir, cyber frauds, and activities of pro-Khalistani groups.

The conference which started at 2 pm Friday saw participation of approximately 250 officers in the ranks of DGPs and IGPs, both physically and virtually.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was present throughout the conference, encompassing various sessions. The agenda, as highlighted **●P-06**

JKSSB Selected Candidates Call On LG

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Candidates selected for various posts in Government departments through J&K Service Selection Board Friday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

The members of the delegation expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for fast-track selection process.

Ms. Masarat Kar, former President Municipal Council Sopore called on the **●P-06**

SC Recommends Appointment Of 2 Permanent Judges In HC



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, has recommended appointment of 2 additional judges of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court as permanent judges.

The High Court had forwarded its recommendation naming Justices Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Rahul Bharti for appointment as permanent Judge on November 18, 2023 and August 21, 2023, respectively.

The SC Collegium said that it has consulted other judges of the apex court who are conversant with the functioning of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with a **●P-06**

Urs Mubarak Of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddiq (RA) Observed With Religious Fervour

SRINAGAR: Devotees from various parts of the Kashmir thronged to the Dargah Hazrat-bal shrine in large numbers to participate in the special prayers on the occasion of the Urs of Ameer-ul-Moomineen Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (RA) on Friday.

Amidst a serene ambiance, men, women, elderly and children thronged the shrine, expressing their reverence by offering prayers, reciting verses from the Holy Quran, and seeking blessings for Almighty.

As soon as the holy relic was displayed, emotional scenes were witnessed as the devotees were seen in tears and seeking mercy from Almighty Allah.

The historic Dargah Hazrat-bal, a sacred shrine nestled on the banks of Dal Lake, resonated with prayers and chants as devotees paid homage to Abu Bakr Siddiq (RA), the first Caliph of Islam after Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The devotees express their joy and happiness. "The **●P-06**

CS Listens To DDC Chairpersons

Assures Them Of Extending Every Possible Help

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday while listening to the issues put forth jointly by the District Development Council (DDC) Chairpersons of Jammu division assured them of extending every possible help by the LG Administration to strengthen this democratic institution in the UT.

During this meeting the Principal Secretary Finance and Commissioner Secretary, RDD and Housing & Urban Development Departments were also present.

During this meeting these Chairpersons jointly submitted a memorandum **●P-06**

Srinagar Smart City Electric Bus Service Garneres 5 Lakh Passengers In 60 Days



RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Smart City Electric Bus Service, inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has garnered a positive response from locals, witnessing a remarkable milestone of 5 lakh passengers within the first 60 days of its launch.

Residents expressed relief and appreciated the service's operational hours, which extend into late-night periods, and various amenities provided.

Mohammad Nadeem, a Lal Bazar resident, said these buses have technological features that ease winter travel. Its battery-powered operation also contributes to environmental conservation, he said.

A female traveller highlighted a "positive aspect" of the smart bus, pointing to the segregated seating arrangement for males and females. She said this enhances passengers' "overall sense of security".

According to details available, the Srinagar Smart City Electric Bus Service has notched up over five lakh passengers in its initial 60-day phase.

Launched on November 01, 2023, by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Srinagar Smart City Electric Bus service has seen substantial growth, with the daily ridership increasing nearly fivefold since November.

A key feature appreciated by both passengers and drivers is the comfort provided, including separate seats for the **●P-06**

Prolonged Dry Spell Stable Weather Conditions Prompt Regulation Of Airfare

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: The prolonged dry and favourable weather has proved a boon for tourism as the airfare from various destinations to Srinagar has been regulated this season.

Kashmir for the past many years has been witnessing an undue hike in airfare during the December to February period as adverse weather conditions often led to the cancellation of flights.

During December last year and January so far, the airfare has been quite nominal to Kashmir, which has subsequently helped the valley to retain the flow of tourists.

A cursory look at the airfare chart reveals that a one-way flight ticket from New Delhi to Srinagar costs Rs 5000 per passenger for the current week.

A return ticket too costs Rs 5000-6000 per passenger, which the tourist players said is justified.

Similarly, airfare from other destinations has been also regulated this winter so far.

For instance, a one-way ticket from Mumbai to Srinagar costs Rs8000 onwards. The return ticket to Mumbai from Srinagar also sells at the same rate.

Tourism players **●P-06**

MOVIES & TIMINGS

Sat 06 Jan

TICKETS AT FLAT ₹ 99 & ₹ 199

OFFER VALID TILL 11 JAN

12:10PM, 03:30PM, 06:40PM (HINDI ATMOS)
11:05AM, 05:00PM U/A

02:25PM, 06:00PM (HINDI)
A

12:50PM (HINDI)
A

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets

DC G'bal reviews successful implementation of PMVS

Over 3700 Artisans enrolled on PM Vishwakarma portal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In a meeting held at the VC Room of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir Friday reviewed the effective implementation of the PM Vishwakarma scheme aimed at uplifting traditional artisans and craftspeople in the district.

The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Ganderbal, provided an updated list of over 3700 artisans who have enrolled on the PM Vishwakarma portal, showcasing a significant response to the scheme.

The DC undertook a thorough evaluation of the progress in artisan registration, verification processes in rural and urban areas, stakeholder capacity building, and the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for artisans.

Discussing the strategy for the second-tier



verification of applications, the DC emphasized a swift process, directing line department officers to complete the verification within three days. He urged the importance of creating awareness, involving Panchayati Raj Institutions to maximize the scheme's impact on the socio-economic development of artisans.

The DC said that the PM Vishwakarma scheme is poised to directly benefit thousands of artisans and craftsmen in the district, providing them with essential tools, training, and financial support for their socio-economic development. The meeting was

attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad, General Manager DIC, Lead District Manager, AD H&H, EO Municipal Council Ganderbal and representatives of MSME besides representative of MSDE, domain experts, and other concerned officers.

VBSY triumphs in Tral, igniting Community Zeal amid winter chill

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) after successfully traversing all Panchayats and Municipalities in the district, has now embarked its journey to the village level.

The latest chapter unfolded today at Government Higher Secondary School Dadasara, where the program received overwhelming participation despite challenging cold weather conditions.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom graced the event along with ADDC Pulwama, ADC Tral and District and Sectoral officers.

Dr Basharat showcased commendable sportsmanship by actively participating in badminton alongside students. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm as students engaged in a spirited Tug of War competition.

The event featured informative stalls from various Government departments, illustrating the positive



impact of their schemes on the lives of the people. DC conducted a thorough inspection, gaining insights into the schemes contributing to the area's development. A significant highlight of the program was the playback of a recorded message from Hon'ble Prime Minister, which resonated deeply with the attentive audience. The event continued with the administration of the Sankalp pledge by the DC, embraced by the commu-

ty, aligning with the ideals of VBSY. Cultural richness took center stage with a captivating cultural song, showcasing the vibrant traditions of the region. 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' provided a platform for beneficiaries to share personal stories of positive transformation brought about by Government interventions. Addressing the gathering, DC commended the community's tenacity, noting that the warmth of their participation in the

face of cold adversity mirrors the profound connection between Government initiatives and their aspirations. Together, he stated, they embody the essence of VBSY.

The DC, in his remarks, further expressed confidence in the continued success of VBSY, attributing its achievements to the synergy between the Government's endeavors and the resilient community of Pulwama. He provided insights into the Yatra's significant milestones, having traversed all Panchayats, Municipalities, and now reaching the villages.

He emphasized that the core objective remains the saturation of Government schemes and reaching to the last person in the line.

The event concluded with the felicitation of beneficiaries under schemes like Ujjwala and Jal Jeevan Mission. Additionally, the cricket and cultural teams were acknowledged for their achievements, further reinforcing the transformative spirit of VBSY.

STD conducts inspection drives across Srinagar, G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: State Taxes Department (STD) Friday continued the inspection drives across district Srinagar and Ganderbal districts to ensure compliance by business establishments to the provisions of J&K Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, prevent tax evasion and to create awareness among the consumers about their rights under the tax.

Led by Tabassum Shafat Kamili, Deputy Commissioner, Appeals I, Kashmir, the teams conducted inspections in various areas of District Srinagar and Ganderbal. These areas included Zaina Kadal, S.R Gunj, K.K. Mohallah, Bohri Kadal, and other nearby areas falling within the jurisdiction of Circle-C Kashmir. They also inspected areas in Nowgam and adjacent areas falling under Circle I, Kashmir, as well as Nagbal, Malshahi

Bagh, Beehama, Duderhama, and Tawheed Abad areas of District Ganderbal.

During the inspections, several major violations were observed. Some businesses were found to be unregistered taxable entities, while others were found to possess multiple GST numbers in order to evade taxes.

There were also instances of violation of section 122 of the GST Act, 2017, where businesses failed to reflect the GST component on customer invoices. Other violations included the suppression of outward supplies, failure to issue GST invoices to customers, breach of conditions of Section 130 of the GST Act, 2017, and failure to generate e-Way bills. These violations will result in penalties.

The concerned jurisdictional officers were given directions on the spot to take necessary steps as laid

down under the provisions of the GST Act, 2017, and initiate proceedings against the tax evaders. This is to ensure that the state exchequer is protected.

During the inspection, emphasis was placed on GST Compliance and the dealers were acquainted with the provision of the GST Act. Dealers were assured assistance from the department in ensuring hassle free compliance. Awareness regarding violation of the provisions of the act and the rules made thereunder was also carried out. Special focus was on bringing hitherto unregistered traders within the ambit of the act.

The teams involved in inspection comprised jurisdictional STOs including Tahir Mohi-ud-din, Aijaz Chowdhary, Mohammad Sarfaraz Khan, Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat as well as other officials.

SMC conducts range of activities under VBSY in Zainakote



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Friday organized an event under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) at Zainakote in Srinagar, marking a significant milestone in bringing impactful events and essential services to the local communities.

The event featured a range of activities, including 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani,' where beneficiaries of government welfare schemes shared their life-changing experiences. Additionally, free health check-ups, Aadhar card registrations, Ayushman card generation and sign-ups for various government schemes were made available, ensuring easy access to vital services for those in need.

Moreover, the Government of India's IEC van was on-site to showcase informative short films, highlighting a diverse array of welfare schemes, including the PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, PM Svanidhi, and more, aimed at empowering communities and ensuring widespread access to essential government programs.

The successful organization of the VBSY reflects the commitment of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and the Government of India to positively impact local communities and facilitate access to welfare initiatives.

DC Kupwara chairs reviews saturation of KCC, AIFC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Friday chaired a meeting to review the saturation of prestigious Kisan credit cards (KCC) and Agriculture Infrastructure Fund centers (AIFC) in the district.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Kupwara apprised the chair that 16000 applications of PM-Kisan beneficiaries who have not availed KCC are being saturated for which special KCC/ PM-Kisan camps are being conducted in all 385

Panchayats of the district for 100% saturation of both the flagship schemes.

DDC gave a deadline of January 15 to saturate PM-Kisan beneficiaries with KCC and asked officers to stick to the timeline as KCC and PM-Kisan saturation are important initiatives.

Emphasizing the importance of these initiatives, the DDC impressed upon the Officers to work with added dedication and close coordination, and speed up the process of registration of beneficiaries.

The DDC directed the Chief Agriculture Officer

to share the calendar of Special KCC/PM-Kisan camps with line departments and also submit a report with regard to on-spot registration of KCC beneficiaries to DDC's office on a daily basis.

The meeting aimed to strategize and expedite the implementation of these schemes for the benefit of the farming community in Kupwara district. Meeting was attended by ACR Kupwara, Chief Agriculture Officer, LDM, J&K Bank, Officers of line departments and district level representatives of bankers.

Rs 21500 fine imposed on erring FBOs in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Court of Adjudicating Officer, Additional District Magistrate Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad Friday imposed a fine of Rs 21,500 on Food Business Operators (FBOs) including manufacturers, wholesale dealers and retailers for violating the Sec.51 and 52 of FSS Act-2006.

The fine was imposed on

the erring traders for misbranded and sub-standard food during the proceeding of cases of various blocks of district Ganderbal related to the Food Safety and Standards Act-2006, listed before the Adjudicating Officer.

The Adjudicating Officer also warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food Safety and standards Act and rules

thereunder by the food business operators of the district will be dealt with more strictly in coming time.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Concerned Enforcement Agency was directed by the Adjudicating Officer under FSS Act-2006, to take stern action against the violators so that consumers can be provided wholesome and safe food.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA
Fax No: 01952-234426 | e-mail, id, xenmhdbla@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-V

Subject: - Extension of Critical Dates of e-NIT No. 11 of 2023-24.
Reference: - Tender IDs: - 2023_PWDJK_235080_1
Due to inadequate response in reference to above cited e-NITs, the Critical Dates are extended as under:

S. No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	28-11-2023 (06:15 PM) to 23-01-2024 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	28-11-2023(06:15 PM) to 23-01-2024 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	24-01-2024 (01:00 PM)

No: - M&HDB/TS/2427-29
Dated: - 04-01-2023
DIPK-14776-23
DT: 05/01/2024
Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SUMBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No.115 of 2023-24/ R&B Sumbal Division (Single Cover System)

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Mali Hut at Shahgund Nursery (Gund- Jahangir)	19.70	800/-	39400/-	60 Days	CAMPA 2023-24	BEE/ CEE

Position of AAA: - Accorded
Position of Funds: - Available

1. 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	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	05.01.2024 from 2.30P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	05.01.2024 from 2.30P.M.
4	Bid Submission End Date	15.01.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in the shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal.(The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date.

Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @3% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 days after opening of Bids, which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. This will replace the EMD @ 2% of the Advertised cost uploaded by the Bidder.

4. Treasury Challan should indicate tender document cost deposit in-between commencement date and end date of NIT. For the authentication of Treasury Challan it is mandatory to record on it either/any one among the following. Name of the work with S.No of NIT/Adv. Cost/NIT No and also address to tender inviting authority.

5. For drawing of agreement of the contract and memorandum of an agreement relating to sake of bill of exchange one rupee for Rs.10,000/- or part thereof shall have to be realized/deposited by the Contractor at his own to revenue Head of Accts.0030/Stamps of Deputy Commissioner Stamps J&K UT.

No. R&B/Sbl/23/5488-94.
Dated:-05-01-2024.
DIPK-14753-23
DT: 05/01/2024

Sd./ Camp Clerk Head Draftsman T.O Sd./ Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR
e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Change of location of the Travel unit running under the name & style "M/s Ozzo Kashmir Holidays".

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Whereas, Mr. Amir Lateef S/o Mohammad Lateef Digoo R/o Nigeen Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar proprietor of M/s Ozzo Kashmir Holidays has applied this office for change of Location from Solar Line Modern Hospital Rajbagh to Besheer Nagar M.A. link Road Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the unit is registered with this office vide Registration No:- No. Reg/T/1766/52/DTK/L-13//P26 (JKTA00000674) dated 05.06.2017 and is renewed upto 31.12.2024

Whereas, the applicant along with his application has submitted the requisite documents as mention below:-

- Registration Certificate.
- Rent Deed.
- Affidavit.
- NOC from concerned Bank

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for change of location of the unit, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. Objections received beyond period of 7 days will not be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

No:Reg/T/1766/774/DTK
Dated: 05.01.2024

Sd/-
Assistant Director Tourism,
Registration (Kashmir).

DIPK-14717-23
DT: 05/01/2024

Kashmir's 'Water Warrior' on mission to spread eco-friendly practices

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: A 34-year-old young researcher from south Kashmir is committed to championing water conservation initiatives and fostering a collective consciousness.

Sheikh Ruhail Maqbool from main town Tral in Pulwama district has taken different initiatives that encourage locals to embrace eco-friendly practices for which he has recently received the Jal Pahari Samman Award at Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi.

Ruhail said he received his first award from the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2021 as 'National Water Hero' for "praiseworthy efforts" in water conservation management and water quality.

Ruhail said that for the last several years, he has been organising awareness programmes in different areas to sensitise people

about the importance of water and the need to maintain its quality.

"I have also been working to clean the water bodies besides motivating people of the tribal community about the need for water conservation," he said, adding that he has been working on rainwater harvesting and grey water management besides researching about river Jhelum and Dal Lake along groundwater management.

Sheikh claimed that besides having international publications, he has received over 60 national and international certificates for efforts on water conservation including a certificate from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Ruhail who has a Masters in Environmental and Occupational Health, a PG in Analytical Chemistry, an MBA in Human Resource Management and a 3-year diploma in

computer sciences said he received the Jal Pahari Samman (National Water Warrior Award) on December 13 2023.

This prestigious event was organized by Sarkaritel with the support of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, in collaboration with UNOPS, National Jal Jeevan Mission, National Water Mission, CEAW, German GiZ, and NIUA as Knowledge Partners.

He said that over 32 water conservators mainly IAS, IRS and IFS from across the country were felicitated with the esteemed Jal Prahari honour to acknowledge the tremendous efforts that they have put in over the years.

Expressing gratitude to Sarkaritel and the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for recognising his work, Ruhail said the honour will encourage him to work with more zeal for water

quality, research, management and conservation.

Sheikh has been awarded consecutively for the past many years in recognition of his initiatives and extraordinary efforts taken by him in varied spheres. He has also received many district-level and UT-level awards from the Jal Jeevan Mission J&K and general administration for his "extraordinary performance" and "praiseworthy efforts" to spread awareness on water conservation quality, water quality, management and awareness among various tribal and rural communities including schools, health centres, etc.

Ruhail said climate change and deteriorating water quality are the main issues across the globe and there is more and more need to create awareness and make efforts to save the environment otherwise its repercussions will be very bad—(KNO)

BJYM Meeting Boosts Momentum Ahead of UT-President's Visit

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) JK Friday convened meeting in Srinagar, to discuss and prepare for the upcoming visit of the UT-President of BJYM JK. The meeting witnessed the active participation of all district presidents, secretaries and office bearers of BJYM JK, demonstrating the unity and dedication of the party members. The gathering served as a platform to strategize and coordinate efforts in anticipation of the UT-President's visit.

person Sh. Altaf Thakur, Media Head Kashmir BJP Sh. Adv Sajid Yousuf recently appointed district presidents, recognizing their commitment to the



Shah, Office Secretary Sh. Shalinder Singh were also present with BJYM UT Vice-President Asim Mir along with UT Secretary Umer Jan and took the opportunity to felicitate the party. This gesture underscored the importance of grassroots leadership in furthering the objectives of BJYM JK. The discussions during the meeting focused on various

aspects of party development, organizational strength, and outreach. The collective efforts of all attendees are expected to result in a more robust and cohesive party structure, thereby enhancing the BJYM JK's impact in the region.

BJYM JK remains committed to its core principles and continues to work towards the betterment of the Union Territory. The enthusiasm and engagement witnessed at today's meeting are indicative of the party's dedication to its mission and the anticipation of the UT President's visit adds to the excitement within the ranks.

Bhatnagar reviews performance, functioning of JKHPMC



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Friday called upon the management of JKHPMC to optimise its operations and explore new ways and technologies for maximizing its reach and make themselves competent with present industries of food sector.

The Advisor made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review the performance and functioning of JKHPMC.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production department, Shailendra Kumar, Managing Director, JKHPMC, Imamuddin and other senior officers of the corporation and allied departments.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the Advisor made out that the corporation has lot of potential to contribute towards the horticulture sector of Jammu and Kashmir and therefore modern mechanisations and technological interventions should be

employed in the corporation to maximize its impact on the sector.

He advised the management of the corporation to optimise its operations and use of assets as well as explore modern ways to maximize its profits. He called upon the officers to upgrade units of corporation so that they can compete with present industries of food sector.

While reviewing the progress of ongoing projects like Food Processing and Packaging Unit Baramulla, Food Processing and Packaging Unit at Fruit Transshipment centre Narwal, Integrated Hitech Sorting, Grading and Packaging centre Bijbehara and other units of the corporation, the Advisor directed the MD JKHPMC to expedite the pace of work on all ongoing projects so that they can be operational within established timelines.

During the meeting, MD JKHPMC gave a detailed presentation on the performance and functioning of the corporation as well as progress of works on ongoing projects.

Div Com reviews implementation of FAS for West Pak Refugees



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting here Friday to review the implementation of the Financial Assistance Scheme for Displaced Persons and West Pakistani Refugees.

Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Provincial Rehabilitation Officer Jammu were present. The Div Com took stock of the district wise data of the beneficiaries from the respective Deputy Commissioners in terms of cases sanctioned and pendency.

Exhorting the Deputy Commissioners to satu-

rate the Scheme covering all eligible beneficiaries, the Div Com directed them to personally monitor the implementation process. "Spread mass awareness among the targeted beneficiaries to ensure that the benefits reach to the last person in the queue" he added.

The Div Com asked the DCs to conduct a meeting with all the stakeholders including the representatives of the DPs and West Pakistani Refugees to remove bottlenecks, if any.

The Div Com further directed the DCs to designate senior officers in their office and conduct camps in the areas where the targeted population resides.

VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA

PMAY makes Gulab Chand's dream a reality

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Gulab Chand, a resident of Panchayat Goond in Block Nagri, Kathua had been struggling for a long time to provide a proper roof over his family's head. Being a daily wage worker, it was impossible for him to finance the cost of a new House. Thanks to the PradhanMantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), his dream to own a decent house saw the light of the Day.

Gulab Chand's success story is a testament to the transformative power of government schemes like PMAY. The scheme had set a target of providing affordable housing to all by 2022. And in Gulab Chand's case, that objective has been fulfilled. The 42-year-old labourer thanked the government and expressed his gratitude during the Meri Kahani Meri Zubani segment of the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Gulab Chand's life has been transformed since he received the keys to his new PMAY home. He has a proper roof over his head, and his family now lives with dignity and safety. Today, he is not only a proud homeowner but also an inspiration for many others in his community who are looking to avail of government schemes to upgrade their living conditions.

PMAY has been a game-changer for millions of families across India. It

is empowering people like Gulab Chand to take charge of their lives and uplift their standard of living. The scheme has helped to alleviate poverty, provide affordable housing, and generate employment. It is a shining example of how government initiatives can make a real difference in the lives of the people.

Gulab Chand's story sends a message of hope that with hard work and determination, we can achieve our dreams. It also highlights the importance of government schemes in changing the lives of ordinary citizens.

Gulab Chand's story is just one of the many examples of the life-changing impact that government initiatives like PMAY can create. The ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is uncovering such inspiring tales from across the country. The initiative aims to showcase the transformative effect of government schemes and the positive changes they bring to people's lives. The success of PMAY and other schemes is a testament to the government's commitment to creating a better and more equitable India. As more and more success stories emerge, it showcases that the nation is moving towards progress and development at an accelerated pace and such initiatives are paving way for a brighter and prosperous India.

VDC member dies by suicide, body found near his home

AGENCIES

DODA: A village defense committee member was found dead with bullet injury on his body in Doda district even as police said it was a case of suicide, police said on Friday.

A top police official said that the VDC member identified as Balwant Singh son of Prem

Nath resident of Kharangal Gandoh was found dead near his home today morning. He said that as per preliminary investigation, the VDC member has died by suicide and a weapon was also found near his body. The official said the body has been sent for post-mortem, while a case has been registered and further investigation is on—(KNO)

NOTICE

I Faisal Fayaz S/O Fayaz Ahmad Ganie, resident of Arampora Sumbal, Sonwari district Bandipora, would like to bring kind your notice that my D.O.B has been mistakenly mentioned on Aadhaar card & School records as 27-08-2008 instead of 03-03-2003.

Now, I want to correct it from 27-08-2008 to 03-03-2003. Anybody if having any kind of objection in this regard may file the same at Aadhaar center Sumbal within 7 days of period from the date of publication of this notice, after passage of time no objections shall be entertained.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN NRVAW

Address: NEAR DARUL-ULOOM SHEERI



Subject- Re-Advertisement for Recruitment of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Narvaw.

Reference: 1. Government order No. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022, Dated: 30.11.2022. 2. Government Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023, Dated: 28.04.2023.

Applications on prescribed format annexed as (Annexure-A) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Narvaw on "Honarium basis" as admissible under rules. The application along with required documents should reach to the office of Child Development Project Officer Narvaw near Dar-ul-Uloom Sheeri within 10 days from the date of publication of the said notice upto 4 P.M. against proper receipt. The application forms shall be available free of cost at Project Headquarter Narvaw Sheeri.

S. No.	Name of The District	Name of the Poshan Project	Name of the Post	Number of Posts
1	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	AWH	11

1. 11 Posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper)

S.No.	Name of District	Name of the Poshan Project	Name of the Panchayat Halqa	Details of Vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Helpers)	
				Name & No. of the Panch Ward	Name of the AWC Location
1	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Badmulla	07	Paliham
2	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Dangerpora	04	Dangerpora-A
3	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Volutra	01	Chopan Mohalla Volutra
4	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Gohan	06	Gohan-A
5	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Volutra	04	Haripora Volutra
6	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Jadeed	13	Jadeed-A
7	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Nardari	06	Nardari
8	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Khaitangan	03	Khaitangan
9	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Naidihal-A	07	Bunpora Naidihal
10	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Delina-C	09	Kralpora Delina
11	BARAMULLA	Narvaw	Kanispora-B	01	Kanispora-B

Criteria for selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper).

- The candidate must be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AWC is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Wherever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in Class 10th. The committee shall select the meritorious married women of the ward as Anganwadi Helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, meritorious unmarried shall be selected.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available, candidate with qualification not less than class 8th shall be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWH, the said candidate shall qualify for 2% points.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form.

- Panch ward certificate issued by BDO concerned, as per format annexed with the application form.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificate. (10th Pass)
- Self-addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs. 5/-
- Unmarried certificate by concerned Tehsildar wherever required.
- Panchayat/ Municipality VOTER list of the Panchayat/ Municipal Ward applied for.
- Affidavit/undertaking as per format annexed with the application form.

NOTE:- NAME OF THE CANDIDATE MUST BE PRESENT IN THE PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPAL VOTER LIST, AND THE CANDIDATE MUST SUBMIT IT ALONGWITH OTHER REQUISITE DOCUMENTS. IN CASE OF DISPUTE WITH REGARDS TO THE RESIDENCE OF A CANDIDATE, SHE MUST PROVIDE A RESIDENCE PROOF CERTIFYING THE WARD DULY ATTESTED BY CONCERNED ACR/SDM.

ONLY FORMS COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS WITH ALL REQUISITE DOCUMENTS SHALL BE ACCEPTED. FORMS INCOMPLETE IN ANY RESPECT SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer Poshan Narvaw

ANNEXURE "A" : Application Form

Application form for the post of Sanginis (Anganwadi Worker) / Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper)

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO:- DATED:-

1	Name of the Poshan Project	
2	Name of the Anganwadi Centre	
3	Name of the Post applied for	
4	Name of the Candidate	
5	Father's Name	
6	Husband's Name (if married)	
7	Permanent Residence	
8	Name of Panchayat Halqa	
9	Name & Number of Panch Ward	
10	Address for Correspondence	
11	Contact / Mobile Number	
12	Date of Birth	
13	Age as on 01-01-2023	

14. Academic Qualification:

S.No	Examination Passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

15. Does the Candidate belong to the Retiring AWW/AWH (Yes/No) (If yes, Attach necessary proof.)

16. Details of Documents Attached ;

- -
 -
 -
 -
- Any other _____

Signature of the Candidate Date:- _____

ANNEXURE "A" : Format for Panch Ward Certificate

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that the candidate Namely _____ D/O, W/O, _____ R/O, _____ is residing in Panch ward _____ of Panchayat Halqa _____

It is further certified that her name is enlisted in Electoral / Voter list of the panch ward at Serial No. _____

No: _____ Dated: _____

Seal & Signature of BDO concerned.

ANNEXURE "A" : Affidavit

I _____ D/O, W/O, _____ R/O, _____ Aadhar No _____, do hereby undertake as under ;

- That all documents submitted are correct without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the engagement shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and also I shall be liable for any action under law.
- That, if at any later stage, it is found that I am in possession of lower/higher than the prescribed qualification; my engagement shall be liable for cancellation as AWW/AWH. The onus of proving it to be true lies with the undersigned/deponent.
- That I have gone through the H.R. Policy No. 222 - JK (SWD) of 2023, dated. 30-11-2022, and am well versed with all features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent, in case of selection as Anganwadi Worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

Deponent Verification

The avements mentioned herein above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

DIPK-14796-23 DT: 05/01/2024

Deponent

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Spiritual Peace Of Mind

The challenges of modern life are massive. People are involved in a rat race to get that upward mobility in life. The common catchphrase is, "If you are born poor it is not your mistake, but if you die poor that is your mistake". People stretch their working hours, work on weekends, skip prospective time with families to meet prospective clients, and become cold with friends and relatives to become experts in cold calling. Life has changed so much. In the Indian metropolitan cities, we find people neither have time for their young children or their old parents. Young children are sent to boarding school and old parents to old age homes. People also find it difficult to communicate with their immediate family members. There are families within Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai where the husband has to seek an appointment to meet his wife or children. And it is getting worse day by day. People want promotions, incentives, a new flat, ownership of a fancy car, want to send their children to that Ivy League college in the USA, and then plan a good post-retirement life full of travel. In short, everyone is prepared to sacrifice the present to invest in the future – a future that is unseen and equally unpredictable. People are shortening their lifespans by working overtime, killing their bodies with caffeine, and bombarding their brains with immediate not-so-long-lasting dopamine hits while watching Netflix and reels on Instagram. No one has the time or the enterprise to read literature, understand society, or at the least understand themselves. People just want to rush through life without putting on any serious hustle. Spirituality can cure all this. Spirituality focuses on the temporary nature of this world. It tells us that we come alone in this world and have to live alone. Spiritual centers are opening up in every nook and corner of cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi. The need of the time is to focus on our mental as well as physical health. Investing in one's health is the best possible investment. Success is temporary but mental peace is eternal. You cannot barter mental peace for anything – let that anything be 'anything'!

Common Labour Laws And Their Violations



MOHD ISHAQ SHAH

George Orwell in his masterpiece 'Animal Farm' says, "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others." So this satirical and paradoxical statement is perfectly analogous to the helm of affairs in our country- INDIA. Rules/ laws/ ordinances change here as per the situation. So, the statement by S.T. Coleridge that he wrote in a letter to his friend, becomes very imperative- what suits my wife doesn't suit me and what suits me doesn't suit my wife.

Since the dawn of Independence and especially the adoption of a constitution in our country it has been made sure that every section of society must be protected against exploitation and rights must be reserved. But in the current scenario, every rule and law is just kept hidden in papers and the application of laws has been buried along with those documents that govern the different departments and private sector of the country. Almost every section of society is safe and secure to some extent, but if there is anyone who has been suffering still in the laboring class of our country. In comparison to govt. sector the private sector is at the mercy of God. There is no one to care about the said class even though there are several unions /associations, committees, etc, but those organizations also seem to be begging for their interest and nothing else more than that. One or two tragedy is that the leaders of such unions are politically motivated and they try to serve the purpose of sponsoring parties rather than the public.

In the Public Sector, we see the sheer injustice with contract/ad-hoc/seasonal/need-based employees. They suffer tremendously as there is no service provision for them. They are deprived of casual /annual/medical/ earned leaves. The tragedy gets high intensity when such an employee has any personal or social urgency, and the salary for such period is deducted in his case. The appointment remains co-terminus with the expiry of the session. Further, the provision of staff quarter, salary of vacation/ break/ retention is not paid to such employees.

Corporate sector workers like teachers, Non-Teaching Staff, MTS, front office receptionists, clerks, sweepers, Night Chokidars, helpers /assistants, delivery boys, etc have no job security



at all. They are always at the mercy of management. Whenever they wish they fire the employees, deny the salary of vacation periods, medical leave, maternity leave, Child Care Leave, etc. There is no EPF policy in the majority of the private sector establishments and no health insurance and life coverage .

The worst version of violation of labor laws is seen in the private sector in general and in Jammu & Kashmir in particular which gives the owners /management a chance to exploit the unemployed youth and the worst situation gets more adverse when the authorities turn a deaf ear to the plight of those who are complainants. Let's examine the labor laws and assess whether those laws are enforced on ground level or not.

In the Constitution of India from 1950, articles 14-16, 19(1)(c), 23-24, 38, and 41-43A directly concern labour rights .

Article 14 states everyone should be equal before the law, article 15 specifically says the state should not discriminate against citizens, and article 16 extends a right of "equality of opportunity for employment or appointment under the state. Article 19(1)(c) gives everyone a specific right form associations or unions". Article 23 prohibits all trafficking and forced labour, while article 24 prohibits child labour under 14 years old in a factory, mine or any other hazardous employment.

Articles 38-39, and 41-43A, however, like all rights listed in Part IV of the Constitution are not enforceable by courts, rather than creating an aspirational duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws. The original justification for leaving such principles unenforceable by the courts was that

democratically accountable institutions ought to be left with discretion, given the demands they could create on the state for funding from general taxation, although such views have since become controversial. Article 38(1) says that in general, the state should strive

to promote the welfare of the people with a social order in which justice, social, economic, and political, shall inform all the institutions of national life. In article 38(2) goes on to say the state should minimize the inequalities in income and based on all other statuses. Article 41 creates a right to work which the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 attempts to put into practice. Article 42 requires the state to make provision for securing just and human conditions of work and for maternity relief.

Article 43 says workers should have the right to a living wage and conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life. Article 43A, inserted by the Forty-second Amendment of the Constitution of India in 1976, creates a constitutional right to codetermination by requiring the state to legislate to "secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings.

Among the employment contracts that are regulated in India, the regulation involves significant government involvement which is rare in developed countries. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act of 1946 requires that employers have terms including working hours, leave productivity goals, dismissal procedures or worker classifications, approved by a government body. The employment agreement is also governed by the suitable confidentiality, non-disclosure agreement (NDA), and non-compete clause (NCC) in agreements with employees. It has its roots in trade secret legislation under common law and intellectual property law. These may include the type of information that is likely to be disclosed, how it should be used and restrictions on disclosure post-termination.

Some of India's most controversial labor laws concern the procedures for dismissal contained in the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. A workman who has been employed for over a year can only be dismissed if permission is sought

from and granted by the appropriate government office. Additionally, before dismissal, valid reasons must be given, and there is a wait of at least two months for government permission before a lawful termination can take effect.

A permanent worker can be terminated only for proven misconduct or for habitual absence. The Industrial Disputes Act (1947) requires companies employing more than 100 workers to seek government approval before they can fire employees or close down. In practice, permissions for firing employees are seldom granted. Indian laws require a company to get permission to dismiss workers with plant closing, even if it is necessary for economic reasons. The government may grant or deny permission for closing, even if the company is losing money on the operation.

The dismissed worker has a right to appeal, even if the government has granted the dismissal application. Indian labor regulations provide for several appeals and adjudicating authorities – conciliation officers, conciliation boards, courts of inquiry, labor courts, industrial tribunals, and the national industrial tribunal – under the Industrial Disputes Act. These involve complex procedures. Beyond these labor appeals and adjudicating procedures, the case can proceed to the respective High Court or finally the Supreme Court of India. Bharat Forge Co Ltd v Uttam Manohar Nakate [2005] INSC 45, a worker was found sleeping for the fourth time in 1983. Bharat Forge initiated disciplinary proceedings under the Industrial Employment Act (1946). After five months of

proceedings, the worker was found guilty and dismissed. The worker appealed to the labor court, pleading that his dismissal was unfair under Indian Labor laws.

The author can be mailed at ishaq7007@gmail.com

Shaded By Chestnuts

A Symphony Of Seasons And Stories



PEER MOHAMMAD AMIR QURESHI

In the sanctuary of my abode, cocooned beneath a cozy blanket with the gentle embrace of a room heater, I delved into the pages of a book. Suddenly, the symphony of solitude was interrupted by the melodious hum of my phone. Retrieving it from my pocket, I discovered a call from my dear friend Adil Rehman, beckoning me to join him with a swift promise, I ventured towards an orchard where we used to meet. As I approached the designated meeting point, a captivating scene unfolded before me—a cluster of exuberant children besieging a majestic chestnut tree. The chestnuts are the deciduous trees of the genus Castanea. They fervently pelted pebbles at the treasure-laden branches, where the "Punjab Gaer," or chestnuts, hung.

Encased within prickly husks, these chestnuts were delicately gathered by some children, each cradling nature's bounty in their laps. Witnessing this nostalgic tableau, memories of my youth-

ful escapades flooded back. I Reminiscenced about the two chestnut trees that graced my village, a rarity in the precincts of district Ganderbal. The lore persisted that these venerable chestnut trees were planted by Haji Ghulam Rasool of Habbakadal, Srinagar, a legacy enduring for at least seven decades.

As per the wisdom passed down by the elders of my native village, there was a time when a playground graced the landscape, a gathering place for children from the surrounding area. In those early days, the roots of the two chestnut trees were planted. However, the passage of time ushered in change, transforming the terrain into an orchard adorned with apples and various plum trees. Eventually, the orchard changed hands, finding a new proprietor in Nowshera Srinagar. The custodianship of the garden transitioned to the capable hands of the "Gujjars," who not only tended to their cattle but also nurtured the flourishing orchard.

These twin chestnut arbors grace the roadside, standing as silent sentinels. Interestingly, the custodians of the adjacent orchard never voiced objections to the seasonal tradition of gathering the coveted chestnuts, fondly known as "Punjab Gaer." In my contemplation, these chestnut trees were nothing short of a benevolent offering to the



entire village. As autumn unfolded its vibrant hues and the chill of winter lingered, the bountiful fruits adorned the branches, drawing children like magnets. This communal treasure was freely accessible, existing within the public domain, devoid of any prohibitions imposed by the orchard's watchful guardians.

The recollection remains vivid – with Gowhar by my side, we would frequent the orchard, eagerly assessing the ripening of chestnuts. Patiently awaiting the perfect moment, we watched as the

trees transformed. However, one fateful year, our anticipation led to disappointment – the branches bore no fruit for us as they were plucked by other children of our village and we had to wait for one year. Usually, it bore fruits during the departure of the "Bakerwals" to

Jammu, leaving their dormant kitchens by the orchard, where they typically cooked on traditional "Daanbur." Undeterred, we ventured to open the chestnuts nestled in spiky husks, gathering straws to ignite the

"Daanbur." The crackling sound of chestnuts bursting into a flavorful blaze was a joyous symphony. Anyone traversing the road couldn't resist joining our endeavor, captivated by the enchanting taste of chestnuts. Little ones, especially, were fervent followers, drawn into the allure of those mesmerizing chestnuts. Regrettably, a few years ago, the guardian of that cherished shop axed the branches of those two chestnut trees. The intrusion of children, throwing pebbles, irked the new custodians. Today, the once abundant and delectable chestnuts have dwindled both in quality and quantity, a poignant reflection of changing times and the altered custodianship of that precious orchard. The shifting sands of time and the evolving nature of people serve as a stark reminder.

There's a looming apprehension that the hands of progress might fall those venerable trees in the future. Yet, the indelible memories woven with those trees persist, eternally fresh in our minds, akin to a conversation held just yesterday. May the yet-unborn generation savor the essence of those chestnuts, cultivating a connection with the past that transcends the passage of time.

The author is a Ganderbal-based Columnist and holds a Master's Degree in Zoology. He tweets @peermohdamir

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Why Does Happiness Matter?



ALTAF HUSSAIN RATHER



Personality development experts emphasize the point that a person should be happy as much as possible. Happy people try to make others feel happy and thus pave the way for positive changes in their lives. Here the question arises in the mind, is it possible for every human being to be happy? And is it so simple that merely telling a person, to be happy and he will? Everything that is written and said about happiness is in the context of some reality.

Personality development experts advise adopting positive thinking in any case according to the nature of the situation. Their main emphasis is on the point that a person should face all matters realistically and choose a path for himself, that does not feel an unnecessary or unjustified burden on his heart and mind. Once again, it has to be said that what the experts say, however good it may sound, is not easy to practice. Any expert opinion is only advice. One

who follows that advice knows its complications. No expert opinion can be followed blindly. We all live within the confines of our circumstances. A lot of us wish to do many things in life but we are not always able to do that. The same is true of being happy, as we all desire to be the happiest person but the stress of circumstances tries hard to keep us sad and it usually succeeds.

Life is the name of staying calm in the face of the pressure of circumstances. We all face some kind of stress in various matters but still, it is inevitable for us to be happy or try to be happy. The extent to which one can be happy depends on how he views his circumstances and how well he prepares to deal with them. Intellectual structure plays a key role in this regard. The fact cannot be denied that the ability to fight and adapt to situations is different in every human being. Some people have such a level of low temperament that they give up even under the slightest pressure of the situation. On the other hand, many people don't feel too bad about living life while fighting the situation. It should be noted that those who have endured the sure of

adversity for a long time are slow to give up. Compared to them, those people who are living comfortably and suddenly face a great calamity lose heart more quickly and distance themselves from continuing to face difficulties. By continuing to face difficulties, the mentality of bearing a lot is established and a person can easily bear a big major setbacks.

But perhaps most importantly of all, happier people are more likely to make a positive contribution to society. In particular, they are more likely to vote, do voluntary work, and participate in public activities. They also have a greater respect for law and order and offer more help to others.

You will find many people around you, who try to be happy in one way or another and are generally successful in this effort. Being happy is a decision and it takes willpower to follow that decision. He who decides that he has to bear the oppression of circumstances only to a certain extent, takes away the space to be happy. Yes, it is not easy. It needs a lot of thinking and planning.

Happy people are found in more significant numbers in developed societies. One of the main reasons for this is that all their basic problems have been solved. Where there is economic stability, there is balance and stability in social affairs as well. When the state assumes responsibility for most of the basic issues, confusion begins to fade. Any common man all over the world feels sad when his basic needs are not being met properly. In developed societies, it

is natural for a common man to be in a very balanced state of mind. This type of state is good for a man and thus this condition plays a key role in keeping a person happy.

In Europe, people are happier in the Scandinavian welfare states because the state has taken more or less charge of everything there. People become care-free after paying taxes. They get everything from the state, that is necessary to lead a quality life. It is not difficult for a common man in these developed societies to be happy because the governments there give so much that there is no room for people to worry. For the common man in these societies, life is not just a continuation of breathing but a constant test. It matters for a common man in

backward societies to be happy. No matter how hard one tries, the pressure of the situation continues to take its toll. This is also natural. The fun of living in such a situation is when a person decides that instead of looking away from the situation, he has to look into his eyes, he has to convince himself.

The real joy of being happy is when a person is facing different kinds of pressures and does not give up. Being happy has been the need of every human being. Upheaval by various circumstances has been happening in every age. Lust for power has been destroying societies. Every human being of all ages desires a life to be as peaceful as possible and there should be room to live happily, but it is not a child's game to say it and it will be done.

To be happy, one has to struggle not only with others and the situations created by others but with one's existence. Man is prevented by his existence from moving towards improvement in many respects. What do you think about egoism? For many, their ego alone prevents them from moving towards a quality life. Such people cannot be happy even if they want to and keep creating confusion for others also. Happiness is neither related to wealth nor to power and fame. It is a pure state of mind and has to do with willpower. The more willpower, the happier one will be, in any kind of situation.

You will find many people lamenting the situation even after earning a good amount of wealth. On the contrary, many people remain happy even in the face of extreme adversity, and severe poverty, and are never found to question the circumstances. One does not reach this destination easily. It is the result of years of hard work and determination.

But perhaps most importantly of all, happier people are more likely to make a positive contribution to society. In particular, they are more likely to vote, do voluntary work, and participate in public activities. They also have a greater respect for law and order and offer more help to others.

There is even evidence that happiness is contagious, so happier people help others around them to become happier too. An extensive study in the British Medical Journal followed people over 20 years and found that their happiness affected others in their networks across "three degrees of separation". In other words, how happy we are has a measurable impact on the mood of our friend's friend's friend.

Today's man has to focus more on being happy because he is facing emotional attacks from all sides. Grievous matters are incalculable and time is very short for today's man. Even a hundred years ago, time seemed to pass very slowly. But now urban life has intensified the feeling of time passing very quickly. Now it is up to every human being to decide to be happy, who wants to enjoy his/her life.

The writer is a teacher at Govt Middle School, Kawhar Payeen, Zone Fatehgarh. He can be mailed at ratheraltaf184@gmail.com

Pfizer's Paxlovid Antiviral Drug Does Not Reduce Risk Of Long Covid: Study

IANS

NEW YORK: US pharma giant Pfizer's antiviral drug Paxlovid (Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir) does not reduce the risk of developing long Covid for vaccinated, non-hospitalised individuals, according to a study.

A team of researchers from University of California San Francisco (UCSF) revealed that among Paxlovid users, a higher proportion of individuals with

acute symptoms rebound and test-positivity than previously reported.

The findings appeared in the Journal of Medical Virology.

Paxlovid treatment for acute Covid-19 has been shown to be effective for high-risk unvaccinated individuals. But the effect of the treatment on long Covid risk, including whether it protects vaccinated people from getting long Covid, has been less clear.

To explore, the team

selected a group of vaccinated people who had reported their first positive test for Covid-19 between March and August of 2022 and who were not hospitalised.

In December 2022, the two groups reported similar conditions. About 16 per cent of those treated with Paxlovid had long Covid symptoms compared to 14 per cent of those who were not treated with the medication.

Commonly reported symptoms included fatigue,

shortness of breath, confusion, headache, and altered taste and smell.

Those who took Paxlovid and then went on to develop long Covid reported as many long Covid symptoms as those who were not treated with Paxlovid.

A small percentage of people developed severe long-term Covid, and those who had received Paxlovid were just as likely to have severe long-term Covid symptoms as those who did

not. Among individuals who experienced symptomatic improvement during Paxlovid treatment, 21 per cent reported rebound symptoms.

And among those with rebound symptoms, 10.8 per cent reported one or more long Covid symptoms compared to 8.3 per cent without rebound symptoms.

For participants who repeated antigen testing after testing negative and completing treatment, 25.7

per cent reported rebound test positivity. In total, 26.1 per cent reported rebound symptoms or test positivity.

"We found a higher proportion with clinical rebound than previously reported but did not identify an effect of post-treatment rebound on long Covid symptoms," said Matthew Durstenfeld, a cardiologist and UCSF assistant professor of Medicine.

"Our finding that Paxlovid treatment during acute infection is not associated with

lower odds of long Covid surprised us, but it is consistent with two other rigorously conducted studies finding no difference in post-Covid conditions between 4 and 6 months after infection."

The researchers, however, noted that the study may have been impacted by limitations arising from its observational nature with researchers relying on patient self-reporting of treatment and long Covid symptoms.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LeT Terrorist Killed

Shopian, a joint cordon and search operation was launched in the wee hours by Police, Army (34RR) and CRPF (178Bn) in the area.

According to a police spokesman, during the search operation, as the joint party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which retaliated effectively, leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter. He has been identified as Bilal Ahmed Bhat son of Ghulam Rasool Bhat resident of Chek Cholan, affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT, the spokesman said.

As per police records, the killed terrorist was involved in several terror crime cases including killing of local army personnel namely Umer Fayaz son of Fayaz Ahmad Parray resident of Sudsan Kulgam, hurled grenade upon non-local labours in Hermain, resulting in on spot death of two labourers. He was also involved in killing a Kashmiri pandith namely Sunil Kumar Bhat son of Sri G Bhat & injuring other Kashmiri pandit Pretimber Nath son of Arjun Nath Bhat, both residents of Chotigam Shopian.

"He was also involved in an attack on local Bal Krishan @Sonu resident of Chotigam. Moreover, he was involved in instigating local youth to join terrorist ranks and induced 12 local youth into the ranks of terrorists," he said.

Besides other terror crimes, he was also involved in killing an arrested terrorist who was leading the search party during a CASO at Nowgam in the year 2022, he said.

Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 AK series rifle, 03 magazines were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes, he said.

In this regard, Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any, reads the statement—(KNO)

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DGP-IGP Meet

structures, size and skills of counter-terror mechanisms across the country.

Shah as per news agency PTI stressed the need for training of police officers from Station House Officer (SHO) or officer-in-charge of police stations to DGP levels and upgrading of technology from police stations to police headquarters for the successful implementation of the three new laws.

He also highlighted the role of internal security in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The home minister observed that the conference has over the years emerged as a 'think tank', facilitating decision-making and formulation of new security strategies.

The conference will deliberate on a range of security-related issues of critical importance, including the security of borders, cyber threats, radicalisation, fraudulent issuance of identity documents and threats emerging from AI.

It is being held in a hybrid mode with DGPs, IGP and chiefs of Central Police Organisations attending physically in Jaipur. Over 500 police officers of various ranks are participating virtually.

Technology in policing, Left Wing Extremism, prison reforms, activities of pro-Khalistan groups and terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir are other key issues to be discussed, a Union Home Ministry official said.

The conference will also deliberate on futuristic themes in policing and security like the challenges posed by new technologies such as AI and deepfakes, and ways to deal with them.

It provides an opportunity to identify tangible action points and monitor their progress, which is presented before the prime minister every year.

The conference is the culmination of extensive deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from the district, state and national levels on identified themes, another official said.

Since 2014, the prime minister has taken a keen interest in the conference.

Free-flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned this year.

This will provide an opportunity for senior police officials to share their views and recommendations with the prime minister.

Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. After the Narendra Modi government assumed office the next year, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the MHA and the Intelligence Bureau, across the country.

The conference was organised in Guwahati in 2014; Dhordo, Rann of Kutch, in 2015; the National Police Academy, Hyderabad, in 2016; the BSF Academy, Tekanpur, in 2017; Kevadiya in 2018; IISER Pune in 2019; Lucknow in 2021; and at the NASC, Delhi, in 2023.

Before 2014, the deliberations largely focused on national security matters. Since then, the conferences have focused on both national security and core policing issues, including prevention and detection of crime, community policing and improving the police's image, another official said.

Earlier, the conference was Delhi-centric with officers coming together only for the meet.

Residing on the same premises over two to three days has served to build a heightened sense of unity among the officers since 2014, the official added.

Direct interaction of the police's top brass with the head of government has resulted in a convergence of views on crucial challenges faced by the country and the emergence of doable recommendations, the official further said.

In the past few years, the topics have been selected after detailed discussions with the highest echelons of the police service.

Once selected, several interactions on presentations are held before committees of DGPs to encourage participation and incorporate ideas from the field and also from younger officers.

As a result, all presentations are now broad-based, content-intensive and carry a set of cogent and actionable recommendations.

Since 2015, detailed follow-up of recommendations of past conferences has become the norm and is the topic of the first business session, attended by the prime minister and the Union home minister, the official was quoted as saying by news agency PTI. (With inputs from agencies)

The conference also provides an opportunity to identify tangible action points and monitor their progress.

DGP R R Swain

by a Union Home Ministry official, covers pressing concerns such as terror threats, cyber frauds, pro-Khalistani activities, implementation of recently-enacted criminal laws, the Maoist problem, inter-state police coordination, and preparations for security during general elections.

While some senior police officers from Jammu and Kashmir will attend virtually, DGP RR Swain will actively participate in the deliberations. The conference will include presentations on counterterrorism, online fraud, cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, activities of pro-Khalistani groups, and Left Wing Extremism.

The primary aim of the conference is to provide a platform for in-depth discussions on emerging internal security challenges, fostering collaboration and strategic planning.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the conference, emphasizing its significance in shaping India's policing and internal security strategies.

Key agendas include discussions on the roadmap for the implementation of new criminal laws, exploration of futuristic themes in policing and security, and strategies to address challenges posed by emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake.

The conference facilitates identification of actionable points, with regular presentations made before the Prime Minister.

Notable attendees include the National Security Advisor, Minister of State for Home, Cabinet Secretary, senior officials of the Government of India, DGP of States and UTs, Heads of Central Armed Police Forces, and Central Police Organisations.

Previous conferences have played a pivotal role in shaping India's policing and internal security strategies, and this year's event is poised to continue this tradition at the forefront of national security discourse.(KNS)

ACB Arrests BDC

alleging demand of bribe for issuance of disposal permit.

"It was alleged that the complainant is an authorized material supplier and sought a disposal permit from DMO Ganderbal after completing all procedural formalities. However, the issuance of permit was delayed on one or the other pretext. When he approached DMO Ganderbal Majid Aziz, the complainant was asked to visit BDC member Gowhat Ahmad and do whatever he demands," the statement said.

"The complainant accordingly approached Gowhar Ahmad who demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 for the issuance of document out of which Rs 10,000 was to be paid in advance today," it said, adding that the complainant chose not to pay bribe and instead approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servant as provided under law.

"On receipt of the complaint, a case under FIR number 01/2024 under section 7 PC Act 1988 was registered at PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up," the statement said.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused BDC member red handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 10,000 from the complainant. The money was recovered from the accused on spot. The accused has been identified as Gowhar Ahmad Reshi S/o Sonaulah Reshi R/o Safapora Ganderbal, BDC Member. Role of DMO Majid Aziz in the matter is being investigated. 4. Further investigation into the case is going on," it added.

Meanwhile, ACB J&K has appealed people not to pay bribe to any public servant and in the event of demand of bribe by any public servant, approach ACB J&K.

JKSSB Selected

Lt Governor and apprised him of various developmental issues of Sopore.

Later, a delegation of Industrial Association Lassipora (IAL) also called on the Lt Governor.

SC Recommends

view to ascertain the fitness and suitability of these candidates. The committee of two judges of the Supreme Court, constituted by the Chief Justice of India in terms of the Resolution dated October 26, 2017 of the Supreme Court Collegium, has assessed the judgments of these Addi-

tional Judges and found them as "good" and "reasonable."

The SC Collegium thus said that these additional judges are suitable for being appointed as permanent judges.

Urs Mubarak Of Hazrat

annual Urs of Ameer-ul-Moomineen Abu Bakr Siddiq (RA) holds immense spiritual importance for us. It's a moment of unity and faith for the entire community," said Zahoor, a devotee from Habba Kadal, Srinagar.

"Being here at Dargah Hazratbal during the Urs fills my heart with peace and spiritual warmth. It's a moment where my prayers and devotion resonate with the collective faith of our community, a bond that transcends differences and spreads love," said Zahida Begun from Khanyar Srinagar.

Similarly, the authorities ensured the smooth conduct of the Urs Mubarakh by managing the crowd and facilitating the devotees—(KNO)

CS Listens To

to the Chief Secretary for his consideration. They also raised the issues pertaining to their respective districts with him for their early resolution.

The Council Chairpersons raised the demands related to the revalidation of their savings out of their grants for carrying out other welfare measures in their constituencies. They also individually asked for more grants for schemes under execution in their districts. These representatives also sought resolution of other developmental requirements in their areas with focus on generating employment opportunities for youth.

In his remarks the Chief Secretary advised them to fast-track their planning and start tendering process well ahead of the start of working season in the month of April. He assured them that the savings made through competitive tendering process, if communicated early, would be approved by the Finance department for carrying out other developmental works in their areas.

Dulloo further made out that he is personally going to visit their respective areas in weeks ahead to have interaction with public representatives and local people there. He also shared that they should play a greater role in the crucial activities of planning and monitoring necessary for development of any area.

Moreover he told them to work in coordination with the administration for the overall development of their areas. He called them a vital link between people and administration and acknowledged their role in resolving peoples day to day affairs for which they would be given greater say in all the relevant aspects of governance in their respective DDC constituencies across J&K.

Prolonged Dry Spell

said the prolonged dry and favourable weather this winter so far has led to the regulation of airfare.

"The hike in airfare would mostly happen during January when the entire valley would be draped in snow. Since it is sunny daytime during the ongoing month, the flights don't get cancelled. Though last month some flights got delayed due to the fog," said Umar Ahmad, a travel agent.

He said the travel agents have been also appealing to the government to keep a check on airfare hikes during the last few years.

"The government was also concerned with it as travel agents held scores of meetings with the concerned department regarding hike in airfare. The airfare hike would often compel tourists to choose other destinations over Kashmir," Umar added.

Director Srinagar airport, Javed Anjum they are hopeful of no flight cancellations this year.

"During the winter of 2023, we didn't witness any flight cancellation. We have already CAT I ILS in place. Efforts are being done to further enhance the infrastructure so that no flight get cancelled at the airport," he said—(KNO)

Srinagar Smart City

handicapped, remotely controlled for convenience.

The service operates through the night in specific areas and offers a climate-controlled environment, which ensures warmth during winters and cooling in summers—a notable and positive aspect—(KNO)

PARLIAMENT SECURITY BREACH

5 out of 6 accused give consent to undergo polygraph test



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Five of the six accused persons in the December 13 Parliament security breach case on Friday gave their consent before a Delhi court to undergo polygraph test.

Delhi Police had moved an application seeking permission to conduct polygraph test of the six accused persons -- Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Amol Dhanraj Shinde, Neelam Devi Azad, Lalit Jha and Mahesh Kumawat -- who have been arrested in connection with the case.

Excluding Neelam Devi, the other five accused gave their consent to undergo polygraph test before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur of the Patiala House Courts.

The judge also extended their police custody by eight days after they were produced before the court amid tight security on expiry of their police remand.

The police had moved an application for conducting polygraph test of the accused, saying the investigators need to get more details to make the case strong and gather more evidence to unearth the entire conspiracy.

The police have also sought permission to conduct brain mapping and Narco test of Manoranjan and Sagar.

The duo had burst yellow smoke canisters inside the Lok Sabha chamber on December 13, the 22nd anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack, after jumping from the visitors' gallery before they

were overpowered by the MPs present in the House.

Two others -- Neelam Azad and Shinde -- also burst smoke canisters and raised slogans outside Parliament.

Jha is believed to be the mastermind of the entire plan, who reportedly fled with the mobile phones of the four others.

A polygraph test, commonly known as a lie detector test, involves recording physiological indicators such as blood pressure, pulse, and respiration while the individual under scrutiny responds to a series of questions.

After each response, forensic scientists provide their opinion, based on the recorded readings, regarding the truthfulness or falsehood of the accused person's statements.

"If the polygraph test fails to yield the desired results, investigators suggest that the police might proceed to request for a Narco test, a step taken in several prior cases," a police source had said.

Narco analysis, also known as 'truth serum', entails administering a drug intravenously (such as sodium pentothal, scopolamine, and sodium amytal) into the person undergoing the test.

During the hypnotic stage, the individual becomes less inhibited and is more likely to disclose information that would typically remain undisclosed in a conscious state.

Investigating agencies deploy this test when other evidence fails to provide a clear understanding of the case.

Delhi court sends Hizb terrorist to 7-day police custody

IAN S

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday sent a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist, Javed Ahmed Mattoo, an accused in 11 terror attack cases in Jammu and Kashmir, to seven-day police custody.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police in coordination with other agencies on Thursday arrested the 'A++ category' terrorist, who carried a reward of Rs 10 lakh for his involvement in a series of terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

On an application moved by the Delhi Police, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Nabeela Wali of Patiala House Courts sent Mattoo (32) to police custody for a week.

Mattoo a.k.a. Irsad Ahmed Malla alias Ehsan, who hails from Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district was allegedly involved in five grenade attacks in the Kashmir Valley.

Wanted in connection with 11 known terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, Mattoo has been evading arrest for the last 13 years.

According to the Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), H.G.S. Dhaliwal, the arrest was made possible through coordinated efforts with the cen-



tral agencies.

"A tip-off suggested that Mattoo would be arriving at NCR to collect arms and ammunition," said Dhaliwal.

On Thursday, it was learned that Mattoo is in Delhi to acquire weapons at the behest of Pakistan's ISI, with plans to execute terror strikes in Jammu & Kashmir, and another location.

A police team later apprehended Mattoo from the Nizamuddin area, and seized a 9 mm pistol, six live cartridges, a magazine, and a stolen Santoro car from his possession.

A case has been registered against him.

The Special CP said that Mattoo was part of a notorious gang of seven ter-

rorists associated with the Hizbul Mujahideen, operating primarily in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Sopore.

The police officer said Mattoo's Pakistan-based handler would coordinate the delivery of arms and ammunition, and Mattoo would carry out terror strikes in J&K.

"He is the lone surviving A++ category terrorist based out of J&K. He had earlier gone into hiding after escaping to Nepal on the directions of the ISI. The J&K Police were actively pursuing him," the officer said.

The Special CP also revealed that Mattoo was shot at a decade ago by security forces during an

encounter, resulting in a bullet injury to his leg.

"This has impacted his ability to directly engage in attacks against security forces, as he used to before the incident," the police officer said.

Mattoo's other six associates have been identified as Abdul Majid Jarger (currently in Pakistan), Abdul Qayyum Nazir (killed in a clash with security forces), Tarik Ahmed Lone (reportedly drowned while attempting to evade arrest), Imtiyaz Kundu (fled to Pakistan in 2015-16), Mehraj Halwai (killed in an encounter with the security forces), and Waseem Guru (killed in an exchange of fire with security forces).

AI could help address challenges in marine fisheries: NITI Aayog VC

IAN S

KOCHI: Emphasising the role of technology as a vital growth driver, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery said on Friday that the application of frontier technologies like artificial intelligence could help address the challenges in the marine fisheries sector.

He was speaking after inaugurating a high-level national workshop jointly organised by NITI Aayog, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Kerala Fisheries Department at CMFRI here.

Bery stressed the importance of understanding the dynamics of demand for prioritising production strategies.

"Given that demand for fish is on the rise, innovative strategies to enhance productivity are required and added that demand is the driving force of the economy," he said.

The workshop was held to discuss relevant issues in marine fisheries, develop tailored strategies, and forge partnerships between the coastal states to address the challenges and explore the prospects.

Flagging concern on the increasing trend of disparity between the states, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand said the growth of fisheries is highly imbalanced while it is much

higher in Andhra Pradesh compared to most other maritime states.

"Fish production in Andhra Pradesh is 50 per cent higher than the total production of five states, namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka combined and this has to be addressed with greater attention," he added.

On measures to boost seafood export, Chand proposed enhancing value addition and cutting-edge processing innovations in the sector.

"Major chunks of India's unprocessed seafood, including shrimps and tunas, are exported mainly to Vietnam, Thailand and Tunisia for onward re-export from there after substantial value addition. By setting up of state-of-the-art processing facilities, India can harness the unexplored value-addition potential of seafood for earning greater foreign exchange," he said.

J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), pitched for exploring untapped potential of oceanic and deep-sea resources.

Citing the estimated harvestable potential of 2.1 million metric tonne of oceanic and deep-sea resources, he said that this would offer a potential new frontier for commercial fisheries.

15 CRORE FRAUD: Dhoni files lawsuit against former business partner company

IAN S



RANCHI: Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has filed a lawsuit in the Ranchi court against two officials of Aarka Sports and Management Limited, accusing them of fraud amounting to over Rs 15 crore.

The case has been filed against Mihir Diwakar and Soumya Vishwas.

Dhoni had entered into an agreement with this company in 2017 regarding the establishment of a global-level cricket academy.

When the company failed to adhere to the terms of the agreement, Dhoni issued several notices, but receiving no response, he terminated the rights granted to the company from his side.

As per the agreement made between both the parties in 2017 for running the cricket academy, Aarka

Sports was obligated to pay a franchise fee and share profits with Dhoni as per the agreement's terms, which were allegedly not honoured.

According to Dayanand Singh, representing Dhoni through Vidhi Associates, Aarka Sports did not adhere to these terms, causing significant financial loss to Dhoni.

Due to the non-compliance with the terms, Dhoni had sent a notice to Aarka Sports on August 15, 2021, and subsequently, the rights granted to the company were revoked.

Dhoni also sent several legal notices, but to no avail.

Meanwhile, Dhoni's friend Simant Lohani a.k.a Chittu, has also filed a complaint, alleging that he was threatened by Mihir Diwakar after they took legal action against Aarka Sports.

Firepower exercise conducted by Kharga Corps in Rajasthan

IAN S

CHANDIGARH: Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command, accompanied by Lt. General Rahul R. Singh, General Officer Commanding, Kharga Corps, have witnessed Kharga Shakti at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, the Defence Ministry said here.

'Kharga Shakti', an integrated firepower exercise was conducted by Kharga



Corps, to practice and validate synchronised delivery of firepower of the Strike Corps in complete integration with surveillance resources and air power assets of the Indian Air Force.

The exercise demon-

strated seamless, effective and persuasive integrated firing in a simulated operational environment for an offensive in obstacle-ridden terrain by coordinated delivery of firepower by artillery units, armour, mecha-

nised infantry and infantry units of Kharga Corps in synchronisation with fighter bomber missions.

On culmination of the exercise, General Katiyar interacted with all ranks and congratulated them on their professionalism in conduct of the exercise. He also urged them to strive for excellence and live up to the glorious history of the Corps and its emblem 'Kharga of Maa Kali', the ultimate weapon symbolising destruction of enemy in the battlefield.

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject: Appointment of Multitasking Staff (Orderlies) in the J&K School Education (Subordinate) Service.
Reference: i). O.M No. GAD/MTGORBIV/01 12023 (E-7098912) Dated: 26.09.2023 from Monitoring Section, General Administration Department.
 ii). Letter No. JKSSB/755/2022-05 (7048574) dated 28.07.2023 from J&K Services Selection Board.

Government Order No. 05-JK (Edu) of 2024. Dated: 04.01.2024.

On the recommendations of the J&K Services Selection Board, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of following candidates as Multitasking Staff (Orderlies) in the J&K School Education (Subordinate) Service in the Pay Level SL-1 (14800-47100) with immediate effect:-

S.No.	Name Mr./Ms.	Parentage	Address	Category
1.	Aabid Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Sheikh	333 Wadwan, Budgam Jammu And Kashmir	OM/HCH
2.	Manzoor Ahmad	Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Dev	Nagrina, Keshwan Kishtwar Jammu And Kashmir	OM/HCH

The appointees shall report to the office of the Chief Education Officer, Budgam/Kishtwar, within a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which they shall forego their right to appointment and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further Notice.

The appointees shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificate (in original) to be verified subsequently:-

- Academic/Qualification Certificate.
- Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate.
- Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
- Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any applicable.

The appointment of the above candidates shall further be subject to the following conditions:

- The appointees shall furnish an Undertaking In the shape of an Affidavit as per Annexure-A to this Order.
- That if the candidate has taken loan for self employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.
- The salary of the appointees shall not be drawn and disbursed to them unless the satisfactory reports in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate is received from the concerned Authorities/Agency.
- The appointees shall be on probation for a period of two years.
- The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SR0400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.
- The inter-se-seniority of the appointees in the J&K School Education (Subordinate) Service shall be determined as per the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 as well as merit of J&K SSB.
- The appointment of the above appointees shall be cancelled ab-initio, if it is found that they possess higher qualification than the prescribed one at any stage and they shall also be liable for criminal prosecution under law.
- The appointment of the above appointees shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before Competent Court of Law.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

No: Edu-NG K/671/2023-01
 Dated: 04-01-2024

DIPK-14701-23
 DT: 05/01/2024

Sd/-
 (Alok Kumar) IRS
 Principal Secretary to the Government

India reports 761 new Covid cases, 12 deaths

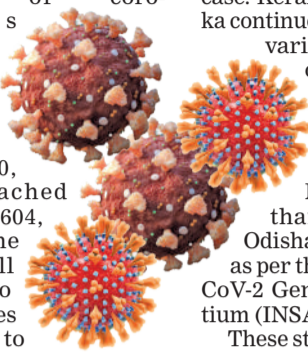
IANIS

NEW DELHI: India on Friday recorded 761 new Covid-19 cases and 12 deaths in the past 24 hours, the Union Health Ministry said. A dozen new fatalities -- five from Kerala, four from Karnataka, two from Maharashtra, and one from UP -- were reported in the span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data. On Thursday, two deaths were reported, one each from Kerala and Karnataka. Meanwhile, the total number of active cases further fell to 4,334 from Thursday's 4,423.

As of now, the total number of coronavirus cases in India, since the outbreak in January 2020, has reached 4,50,16,604, while the death toll related to Covid cases has risen to 5,33,385. The new variant, JN.1 subvariant is descendent of the Omicron subvariant known as BA.2.86 or Pirola, with Kerala being

the first state to report a case. Kerala and Karnataka continue to witness JN.1 variant cases, with other affected states being Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telangana, Odisha, and Haryana, as per the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). These states collectively reported 619 cases of the sub-variant by Thursday, with Karnataka leading with 199 cases, followed by Kerala with 148 cases. INSACOG's data revealed

that 239 Covid cases in December 2023, and 24 in November 2023, were identified with the presence of the JN.1 variant. Kerala has the highest number of active cases at 1,249 in India, followed by Karnataka at 1,240, and Maharashtra at 914. Tamil Nadu's active cases stand at 190, and Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh at 128 each. The overall recovery from Covid has reached over 4.4 crore individuals, reflecting a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent. The country has administered a total of 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines, as per the available data.



JN.1 represents 'very serious evolution' of Covid virus: Experts

IANIS

NEW DELHI: JN.1, the latest Covid-19 variant from the lineage of Omicron making a fresh surge around the globe, represents 'very serious evolution' of Covid virus, according to global experts. JN.1, classified as a variant of interest (VOI) by the World Health Organization (WHO) due to its rapid spread, is currently present in about 41 countries. It was first detected in Luxembourg in August. The WHO expects JN.1 to increase the burden of respiratory infections in many countries. The WHO has "just called JN.1 a VOI (variant of interest), and that just doesn't cut it, with the

growth advantage this variant has demonstrated. It is just extraordinary", Dr. Eric Topol, founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute in California, US, was quoted as saying to Fortune. "JN.1 is a descendent lineage of BA.2.86, with the earliest sample collected on August 25, 2023. In comparison with BA.2.86, JN.1 has the additional L455S mutation in the spike protein, making it more transmissible. "JN.1 represents 'a very serious evolution of the virus'. And it isn't over," Dr. Michael Osterholm, Director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), was quoted as saying. "JN.1 is an all new vari-

ant with numerous changes that had never been seen in any commonly circulating lineage before. This is unlike other recent variants, which were merely a few mutations from their predecessor," Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman of the National Indian Medical Association Covid Task Force, told IANIS. "Therefore, the disease patterns from an immune evasiveness and spread capability of this variant needs careful attention," Dr. Jayadevan added. He explained immune evasiveness of a variant as the ability of the virus to overcome the existing immune response within an individual. After the major variants of Covid like Alpha, Delta

and Omicron, JN.1 very likely represents a new chapter in pandemic evolution, claimed the experts. According to Ryan Gregory, a biology professor at the University of Guelph in Canada, JN.1 has ushered in "a new era". The highly transmissible variant is "on track to become the lineage from which most variants are descended for the foreseeable future", Gregory was quoted as saying to Fortune. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's Covid-19 technical lead said that the next sub-lineages of the Covid virus can "come from JN.1". "But we could also see something quite different. We could see something like an Omicron again," she said.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Shyambir chairs DLC meeting on implementation of Bye-Laws

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District level Committee of SBM (G) 2.0 was held Friday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal (Chairman District level Committee), Shyambir on implementation of Bye-Laws for Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Panchayat halqas at VC Room of Mini Secretariat, here. At the outset, the DC deliberated upon the importance of SBM (G) being taken as a priority area by the Govt. During the course of the meeting several issues were discussed and decisions were taken accordingly. The meeting discussed compilation and submission of details of Households, Commercial Establishments, Govt./private institutions, mixed Model of Waste Collection in Rural Areas, operationalization of Segregation sheds and PWMUs, Awareness, collection of usage charges and others. The chair stressed upon the Block Development Officers for submitting the halqa wise list of House-



holdings, Govt./private institutions as per the formats so that the halqa wise targets to the sanitation mentoring officers can be set in order to have a hassle-free mechanism for collection of user charges. The DC after a thorough discussion with the committee decided to adopt the mixed model mechanism of waste collection in the rural areas. The accessible/motorable areas are to be covered by door-to-door waste collection. BDOs were directed to carry out a thorough survey in their respective blocks and submit a list of points that are inaccessible/non-motorable along with their latitudes and longitudes so that the same points may be cleared by the EOI agencies on a timely basis.

The chair stressed upon the operationalization of Segregation sheds and PWMUs. The Exen PDD was given clear instructions to make the power supply available to the already constructed segregation sheds and PWMUs within a weeks-time. The installation of available machinery shall be done by the concerned vendor/agency in coordination with the KPDCL. Instructions were passed to all Block Development Officers for active involvement of their concerned DDCs, BDCs, Sarpanchs and other stakeholders for creating awareness among common masses by uploading videos regarding the importance of SWM and timely payment of monthly user charges, helping the administration to imple-

ment the SWM in real sense. It was also decided that collection user charge drive shall start from 8th of January 2024 to 15th of January 2024 under the supervision of BDOs. The DC directed all the Block Development officers to create a whats app group that shall act as a control room/helpline for the common masses. The grievances so received shall be consolidated and disposed-off on a daily basis. While discussing the segregation and forward linkage of the solid waste, the DC directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats to Liaise with the M/S Swaaha for allotment of a Block/Cluster as a model for segregation and providing forward linkage of the solid waste, so that the same may be replicated in other blocks. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Ganderbal, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Ganderbal, Exen (PDD) Ganderbal, District Panchayat Officer Ganderbal and Block Development Officers of the district.

MVD conducts enforcement drive in Reasi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: An enforcement drive spearheaded by ARTO Reasi, Tara Mani, was Friday conducted in Reasi town to bolster adherence to road safety regulations. Under the Guidance and directives of District Development Commis-

sioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, the team conducted surprise checking of several Passenger and private vehicles to enforce the Motor Vehicles Act. During the inspection, 13 vehicles were identified to be plying in violation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Consequently, fines

were imposed in accordance with the law, amounting to cash retrieval of ₹8000 from compounded challans. Moreover, an anticipated sum exceeding twenty thousand rupees is expected from challans issued for multiple violations as per the MV Act. While emphasizing the enforcement aspect,

the Team also focused on driver awareness and education regarding safe driving practices. Drivers were sensitized on crucial elements such as the usage of seat belts, ensuring vehicle fitness, the dangers associated with mobile phone use while driving, adherence to speed limits, and overall compliance with traffic laws.

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



0.495 cm

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