

Good Morning Kashmir



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Police dismantled honey trap network

HANDWARA: In a major breakthrough, Handwara police on Monday said to have dismantled a cheaters gang orchestrating a honey trap scheme, preying on unsuspecting individuals across North and Central Kashmir.

The accused, operating in areas such as Baramulla, Bandipora, Handwara, Ganderbal, and Srinagar, exploited innocent people by deceitfully promising government jobs, arranging fraudulent marriages, and offering fake inverter schemes, police said in a statement issued. **● P-02**



HM Amit Shah's J&K Visit Deferred Due To Bad Weather

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu on Tuesday has been deferred in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and forecast, officials said on Monday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to visit the Union Territory to attend the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalpa Yatra', a Central government programme, in Jammu and inaugurate projects worth Rs 1,379 crore, including E-buses and lay the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 2,348 crore.

The home minister was also scheduled to undertake a review of the security and development of Jammu and Kashmir and planned to travel to Dera Ki Gali in Poonch sector and meet the families of the civilians killed recently in this area, said a home ministry official.

However, in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and forecast thereof the programme is deferred, said an official spokesman.

Earlier, J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina said in a post on X, that the visit of Home Minister Amit Shah stands cancelled due to prevailing weather conditions in the region.

"Just been intimated that due to the uncertain weather conditions prevailing in the region, tomorrow's (9th January) visit of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sh. @AmitShah Ji to Jammu stands cancelled," Raina informed.



Chillai-e-Kalan's 2018 Deja Vu

No snowfall in sight, shrinking water bodies worry Kashmiris



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: While the chilly weather conditions have tightened its grip across Kashmir, the first 19 days of the 40-day harshest winter period, Chillai-Kalan has ended on a dry note in the Valley while as the weatherman has stated that such a dry spell has been recorded after five years when December and January months witnessed no wet spell at all.

Chillai-Kalan commenced on December 21, 2023 on a dry note while no major snowfall was received anywhere across the Valley during the period. The harshest winter period is set to culminate on January 31 and is followed by a 20-day long Chillai-Khurud (small cold) that occurs between January 31 and February 19 and a 10-day long Chillai-Bachha (baby cold) which begins from February 20 to March 2.

Pertinently, Chillai-Kalan is a Persian word which means "Major Cold".

However, in Kashmir, the dry spell has continued across the Valley in the first 19 days of the harshest winter period while the local Meteorological department here has predicted the dry spell till January 15. As per the forecast, the Valley is expected to witness the dry spell for the first 26 days of Chillai-Kalan till January 15.

When contacted, Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that such a dry spell has been witnessed in the past as well. "In 2022, the month December passed without any wet spell while in the year 2018 December and January ended without any wet spell," he said, adding that the ongoing dry spell is not a new phenomenon in Kashmir.

This has further added to the woes of the common Kashmiri who has been worried about the absence of snowfall during the ongoing 40-day long period of harsh winter cold called the 'Chillai-Kalan' which will end on January 30.

Residents of most areas in Kashmir are now deeply concerned about the shrinking water levels in local springs, wells, streams, rivers and lakes. **● P-02**

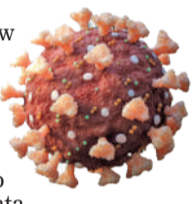
India reports 605 new Covid cases

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry on Monday said the country reported 605 new Covid-19 cases and four deaths in the last 24 hours.

The four new fatalities were reported from Kerala, Karnataka and Tripura, according to the ministry data.

On Sunday, five deaths were reported in total -- from Maharashtra, Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the total number of active cases further fell to 4,002 from Sunday's 4,049. **● P-02**



Rajnath Singh approves IAF squadron for Udhampur base

GIANS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday approved an air squadron for Udhampur base in Jammu and Kashmir and four National Cadet Corps (NCC) units for J&K and Ladakh.

"One Air Squadron at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir has been approved," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

The ministry said that Indian Air Force (IAF) has also successfully managed to land a transport warhorse C-130 J Super Hercules in Kargil. **● P-02**



"In a first, an IAF C-130 J aircraft recently carried out a night landing at the Kargil airstrip. Employing terrain

Residents of most areas in Kashmir are now deeply concerned about the shrinking water levels in local springs, wells, streams, rivers and lakes. Poonch."

Night curfew imposed along IB in Samba



GIANS

JAMMU: Authorities on Monday imposed night curfew along the International Border (IB) in J&K's Samba district.

Officials said that the decision has been taken to ensure better area domination along the IB by Border Security Force (BSF) troops.

"Night curfew has been imposed to prevent infiltration and smuggling of weapons through drones from across the IB," the order issued by DM Samba said.

"No person or group of persons shall move in the area up to one kilometre along the International Border in district Samba from 2100 hours to 0600 hour during the night," the order said.

"The decision was taken after a meeting of the **● P-02**

Kashmir Beats Switzerland in 2023 Google Searches

STEALS THE SPOTLIGHT

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: In a digital twist of wanderlust, Kashmir has soared beyond the scenic landscapes of Switzerland to claim the spotlight as the most sought-after destination of 2023 in the vast realm of Google searches. Last year (2023), Kashmir surpassed Switzerland as the most Googled destination of the world, reveals the Google data.

In 2023, Kashmir was one among the top 10 online searched destinations of the world.

In the list of the most Googled designation of the world last year, Kashmir stood at number six, just after Thailand, which got maximum searches than the valley.

Switzerland remains a perennial favourite among travelers and enthusiasts worldwide. **● P-02**



Empowering Rural J&K Beyond Boundaries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In the heart of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, embodied by the iconic Modi Ki Guarantee wali Gadi, is forging a path of progress and inclusivity.

Despite the challenging sub-zero temperatures and harsh conditions in the valley, the Yatra continues to garner a rousing welcome, showcasing the commendable enthusiasm of the people in rural areas.

One of the Yatra's shining achievements lies in its commitment to rural farmers. With 26 thousand new beneficiaries enrolled under the PM Kisan Yojana, each installment of ₹2000 and an annual sum of ₹6000 are providing crucial financial support to farmers. This injection of funds enables them to purchase essential requirements like seeds and machinery, significantly contributing to the enhancement of agricultural practices in the region.

Parallel to this, more than 15 thousand Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) have been issued during the Yatra. The KCC scheme plays a vital role in freeing farmers from the clutches of money lenders, offering soft loans that are instrumental in supporting agricultural endeavors. This strategic move aligns with the broader vision of empowering farmers economically and ensuring sustainable growth. **● P-02**

Prolonged dry spell could lead to acute water shortage: Experts



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir witnesses less snowfall during winter and prolonged dry spells, experts warn of potential water shortages in the summer, saying this could lead to low water levels in the valley's water bodies.

Renowned glaciologist, climate change researcher, and earth scientist, Professor Shakil A Romshoo, expressed concern about the below-average snowfall this winter and the extended dry spell in autumn and winter.

This might lead to water shortages during summer, which will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of water-intensive paddy culture in Kashmir, he said.

"However, it is too early to predict snowfall or rainfall during February, March and April which are normally very wet and bring about 40 percent of rain and **● P-02**

ACB arrests PCB Scientist for accepting bribe

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Monday said to have trapped and arrested Dr. Bilquees Ara Siddiqui, Scientist-B in State Pollution Control Board, Srinagar for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 5,000.

A statement issued by ACB reads that the Anti Corruption Bureau received a written complaint against Dr. Bilquees Ara, Scientist-B in State Pollution Control Board for demanding bribe for issuance of 'Consent To Operate' (CTO) for a bakery unit located at Industrial Estate, Khunmoh.

The complainant in his complaint alleged that he had applied for 'Consent To Operate' (CTO) from Pollution Control Board in the month of Nov-2023. "His application was pending with Dr. Bilquees (accused) who was unnecessarily delaying the matter. It was further alleged that on 6th of this month, the complainant visited the accused at PCB office and requested her to process his case," it added. **● P-02**

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LG inaugurates Officers' Quarters of ED in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated Officers' Quarters of Estates Department at Jammu, today. The accommodation units include 5 number of 3 BHK (G+2) constructed at a cost of Rs 6.16 crore.

Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Estates Department; Sh Anand Jain, ADGP, Jammu; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu -Samba-Kathua Range and senior officers were present.



DC Ganderbal reviews saturation of KCC, NSSs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir chaired a crucial meeting today to assess the saturation status of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) and National Security Schemes (NSSs) in the district.

The focus of the meeting was to strategize and expedite the saturation of KCC and various NSSs, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna, e-Shram, and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, aiming to benefit the farming community in Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the current status of PM-Kisan beneficiaries' saturation with KCC and issued directives for all departments to complete the saturation of PM-Kisan beneficiaries with KCC within a week.

He emphasized the need for departments to activate their field functionaries, re-approach closed KCC cases, and obtain consent certificates from disinterested beneficiaries.

Underlining the significance of these initiatives, the DDC urged officers to work with heightened dedication, fostering close

coordination, and accelerating the registration process for beneficiaries.

To ensure KCC saturation, the ADDC was directed to coordinate departmental activities, assign responsibilities, and provide daily progress updates.

Simultaneously, the DDC reviewed the progress of National Security Schemes and instructed the ACD and ALC to dedicate efforts towards achieving 100% saturation of Social Security and Beneficiary-Oriented schemes in the district. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring complete coverage under all such schemes.

The DDC concluded the meeting by urging all stakeholders to collaborate effectively, reaffirming the commitment to the welfare of the farming community in Ganderbal. He said the progress in these initiatives will undoubtedly contribute to the holistic development of the district.

Meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Assistant Commissioner Development Ganderbal, Dr Bashir Ahmad; Chief Agriculture Officer, LDM, J&K Bank, ALC and Officers of line departments.

VBSY IEC Van spurs enthusiasm in Pahalgam Block



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), continues to generate excitement amid remarkable progress in Anantnag's Block Pahalgam, drawing massive public engagement during the VBSY IEC Van's tour to Dehwaot, Yanned B, Ovoora, Veerseran, Lidroo, Batakoot, Mandlana, and Frisiana Gram Panchayats.

People also listened to the live address/interaction of Hon'ble Prime Minister with VBSY Participants.

The Yatra aims to raise awareness about a range of welfare schemes and encourage active participation under the banner of 'Jan Bhagidari' to achieve complete coverage.

Beyond mere promises, the Yatra demonstrates tangible improvements, surpassing expectations in Anantnag, uniting more than 2.50 lakh participants across 335 Gram Panchayats and 138 Urban local bodies.

In District Anantnag, the Yatra camps transformed into lively hubs, engaging people in events and offering on-the-spot services. Health camps played a crucial role, screening 93,347 individuals

for prevalent health concerns such as TB, sickle cell anemia, and non-communicable diseases.

Over 16,097 My Bharat volunteers and 2.28 lakh individuals pledged the transformative 'Sankalp Pledge' in District Anantnag. Noteworthy contributors, including 1,288 women, 3,601 students, 396 local artists, and 397 sports personalities, received accolades for their dedication.

The Yatra actively involved farmers through drone demonstrations and Soil Health Card sessions, promoting sustainable Natural Farming practices. It celebrated milestones in 100% JJM saturation, ODF+ status, and Digitization of Land Records.

At the core were 9,777 beneficiaries sharing their stories in 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' sessions, illustrating the profound impact of government schemes on their lives. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra transcends being an initiative; it stands as a people-driven movement for inclusive development. This journey reflects India's commitment to holistic development, engaging, educating, and uplifting every citizen towards shared progress.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues to uplift Pulwama's Spirit

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In the heart of District Pulwama, a compelling force for holistic development unfolds as the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues its transformative journey transcending boundaries, resonating not only in Panchayats and Municipalities but weaving itself into the very fabric of Pulwama's villages.

On Monday, the Yatra reached six villages, sparking lively celebrations and nurturing a deep sense of community spirit. Like heralds of change, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans traversed these villages, delivering the visionary message of the Prime Minister and the Yatra's mission. The residents embraced the Sankalp pledge with enthusiasm, embodying the Yatra's ideals.

Cultural programs unfolded, capturing the essence of the Yatra through captivating performances by students and locals. Government departments actively participated, setting up stalls to showcase schemes and provide on-the-spot services.

This engagement not only spotlighted initiatives but also opened avenues for the community to explore diverse opportunities.

The 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' segment unveiled heartfelt stories from beneficiaries, illustrating the tangible impact of Government interventions.

In a notable development, today's events included an impactful interaction as the Prime Minister engaged with the public across the Nation through virtual mode. The people wholeheartedly acknowledged and embraced the Prime Minister's words, adding a significant layer to the resonance of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra's mission.

Undeniably, the Yatra has achieved its core objective of ensuring the saturation of government schemes, reaching the unreached, and laying a robust foundation for Viksit Bharat. Beyond rhetoric, it transforms aspirations into reality, ensuring the benefits of Government schemes touch every individual's life.

Athar Aamir assumes charge of DC Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Athar Aamir Khan, a 2016 batch IAS officer Monday took over the charge as Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam. Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat handed over charge to the new Deputy Commissioner at mini-secretariat Kulgam.

On his arrival, the incumbent DC was accorded a warm welcome by officers present including ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC Viqar Ahmed

Giri; JDP Zahid Sajjad and other senior officers.

On assuming charge as DC Kulgam, Athar Aamir stated that he will carry forward the pace of development in the district and his priority would be prompt service delivery and holistic development of the district.

Before taking over as DC Kulgam, Athar Aamir was posted as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation & CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited.

Shakeel ul Rehman assumes charge as DC B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Shakeel ul Rehman Rather Tuesday assumed charge as the new Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bandipora district, taking over from Dr Owais Ahmad.

In a formal ceremony held at the office of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman received the charge from Dr Owais Ahmad, marking the

official transition of leadership in the district administration.

In his address to the officials and public present at the ceremony, Shakeel ul Rehman expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of Bandipora.

Rehman also acknowledged the contributions of his predecessor, Dr Owais Ahmad, and thanked him for his service to the district.

Srinagar admin accord emotional adieu to Aijaz Asad

Accords warm welcome to Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din as DC Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Administration Srinagar Monday organized an impressive function here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to bid a warm farewell in the honour of former Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad who has been posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning & Monitoring Department and Civil Aviation Department.

On the occasion, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat who assumed the charge of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar was also accorded a warm welcome by the Officers and other Staff of the DC Office Srinagar.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar RTO Kashmir, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDMs, ACD, Tehsildars, all District & Sectoral Officers and Officials were present on the occasion.

While expressing their views on the occasion, all the Officers highlighted the contribution of outgoing DC Mohammad Aijaz as the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and unanimously lauded his efforts in shaping Developmental initiatives taken in Srinagar District and in measures to ensure a prompt and efficient public delivery system.

They also underscored his tireless efforts and



measures taken in mitigation of Covid-19 pandemic, containment of drug menace, employment generation and infrastructure development.

They also thanked outgoing DC Mohammad Aijaz for bringing vibrancy in the Administration by showing keen interest in solving the public issues and guiding all the Officers of District Administration Srinagar. The Officers also enumerated the achievements made under his vibrant and dynamic guidance.

During the event, the District Administration Srinagar also accorded a warm welcome to Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on being posted as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

On the occasion, outgoing DC, Mohammad Aijaz Asad in his address spoke at length about the team spirit and the improved work culture in the District Administration at all levels. He advised all the Officers to work with a missionary zeal, sincerity and

dedication for the larger interest of the public.

Mohammad Aijaz also appreciated the efforts of the Officers for their support and cooperation during his about 3 years stay as Deputy Commissioner to make all developmental initiatives a success. He also praised the devotion, dedication and professionalism shown by the Officer in his working.

Former DC also welcomed Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and hoped that District Administration Srinagar carry forward the will not leave any stone unturned in socio-economic development of the District under his able guidance. He thanked the staff of DC Office Srinagar for extending full support during his long tenure as DC and He also solicited the same cooperation, support and understanding towards the incoming DC, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

While addressing the

occasion, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat said he expects complete dedication to public welfare and commitment to work from all Officers and assured them of his full support to honest work endeavours aimed at prompt work disposal and overall development in Srinagar District.

The incoming Deputy Commissioner said that he was honoured to take over as Deputy Commissioner of the historic, prestigious and the Capital City Srinagar. He also extended his heartfelt thanks to the outgoing DC Mohammad Aijaz Asad.

Others, who also spoke on the occasion include ADDC Srinagar Zahoor Ahmad Mir, RTO Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz, ADC Srinagar Syed Shabir Ahmad, ADC Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, ACD, Syed Farooq and other senior Officers of the District Administration Srinagar.

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NOTICE
 In continuation of Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2023 dated 08.12.2023, the syllabus for the post of Supervisor, Social Welfare Department, is notified as given in Annexure "A" to this notice for the information of candidates.
 No. JKSSB-COEEXAM/UT/10/2023-04 (7055504) (Dr. Neha Sharma)
 Dated: 07-01-2024 JKAS
 DIPK-14901-23 Under Secretary
 DT: 08/01/2024 J&K Services Selection Board

Annexure - "A"
Syllabus for Written test (Objective Type) for the post of Supervisor in Mission Poshan, Social Welfare Department.
 Marks: 120 Time: 120 mins.
 The exam shall aim to evaluate the candidates for their scientific, analytical and numerical aptitude and their general awareness over the broad range of subjects including the specialized subjects. The medium of examination shall be English.

S. No.	Subjects/Topics	Marks Assigned
1.	General awareness with special Reference of UT of J&K	20
2.	General English & Comprehension	10
3.	General Intelligence & Reasoning	10
4.	General Science	10
5.	Computer (Application based)	10
6.	Specialization	60

- General Knowledge with special reference to J&K:** Marks: 20
 - Current Events of National importance.
 - Indian History, Culture, Heritage and Freedom Struggle/ Movement.
 - Indian Constitution- Basic Features, Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, Directive principles of State policy.
 - Political & Fundamental divisions of India.
 - Demography- Census, its feature and functions.
 - Weather, Climate, Crops, Means of Transport of India.
 - Environment, Ecology & Bio-diversity
 - J&K UT: History, Geography, Economy, Heritage & Culture, J&K Reorganization Act, 2019
- General English & Comprehension** Marks: 10
 - Tenses.
 - Rearranging of jumbled sentences.
 - Narration.
 - Modals/Articles.
 - Clauses.
 - Synonyms and antonyms.
 - Pairs of words and their use in meaningful sentences.
 - Idioms and phrases.
 - Uses of Prepositions.
 - Active & Passive Voice.
- General Intelligence & Reasoning** Marks: 10
 - Basic Arithmetic:
 - Number System.
 - Percentage.
 - Average.
 - Profit & Loss.
 - Ratio & Proportion.
 - Time & Work.
 - Reasoning:
 - Number series.
 - Letter series.
 - Coding decoding.
 - Direction sense.
 - Blood relations.
 - Mathematical reasoning.
- Speed, Distance and Time.**
- Statements and conclusions.**
- General Science_Marks: 10**
 - Various sources of energy.
 - Nutrition and its types, Respiration, Transportation of water, food and minerals in plants.
 - Communicable & Non-Communicable Diseases.
 - Vitamins- Diseases related to vitamin deficiency.
 - Ecosystem - Its components, Food chains and Food webs.
 - Environmental pollution. Ozone layer, its depletion, Green House Effect.
 - Vaccines and Immunization.
- Computer** Marks: 10
 - Basic Applications of Computer and its components.
 - Fundamentals of computer sciences.
 - Input & output Devices.
 - Knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, MS Power point, PDF Internet an E-mail.
 - Concept of Computer Virus and Anti-Virus.
 - Hardware & Software, Elements of Computers Processing System Hardware, CPU, Peripherals, Storage Media, Software Definition, Role and Categories Firmware and Human-ware.
 - Role of Information Technology in Governance.
- Specialization: 60 Marks**

UNIT-1 Marks: 10

- Society, Community, Association
- Social Stratification: Caste, Class and Social Stratification in India
- Social Institutions: Norms, Values, Folkways and Mores
- Marriage, Kinship and family.
- Social Change: Industrialization, Globalization, Modernization.

UNIT-2 Marks: 10

- Gender inequalities and issues.
- Gender law & Human rights.
- Stages and theories of Human development (Freud, Erikson).
- Socialization and its theories.
- Anxiety disorders: Phobia, OCD, GAD, Panic disorder, PTSD.

UNIT-3 Marks: 10

- Human Rights: Concept and Evolution
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Understanding sex, Gender, Sexual division of labour.
- Women rights/ Child rights
- Social evils- Child abuse, Child labour, Female feticide, infanticide and Drug Addiction

UNIT-4 Marks: 10

- Poverty and unemployment
- Population explosion, Global warming and Climate Change
- Indicators of social development
- Trafficking, Beggary, Corruption

UNIT-5 Marks: 10

- Growth and development
- Food, Nutrition, Health and fitness
- Physiology and promoting health
- Food science and processing
- Chemical analysis of food
- Food and personal hygiene

UNIT-6 Marks: 10

- Government and Non Government Programmes- Medical health care, Adoption, Foster care, Institutional care, children act and children rights
- Health and Family Welfare Programmes
- Early childhood care and education
- Old age and Disability Schemes
- Poshan Abhiyan, Poshan tracker, Poshan vaticas, Supplementary Nutrition Programme
- Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM)
- Paalna- convergence of Anganwadi Centers into creches
- Ladli Beti Schemes, State Marriage Assistance Scheme etc.

Admin launches winter helicopter service for border areas in Kashmir

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Like every winter, the government on Monday launched a Helicopter service for the residents of border areas including Gurez and Tulail in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, providing a crucial lifeline for these areas, officials said here on Monday.

An official informed that the introduction of helicopter services for these areas is a positive development for travelers. "In the peak of winter, when these regions encounter accessibility challenges, this service will enhance commuting convenience. This initiative not only caters to the immediate travel requirements of the residents but also has the potential to stimulate tourism opportunities during



the winter season," the official stated.

He further said that several stations have been established including Srinagar to Gurez, Gurez to Bandipora, Bandipora to Kanzalwan, Bandipora to Badagam and Bandipora to Baduab. This includes individuals in need or patients requiring immediate evacuation for medi-

cal care. The service, officials noted, will provide relief for individuals facing challenges during inclement winter weather, such as the sick, students, and employees frequently affected by road blockades. The district administration aims to maintain these services even during heavy snowfall, ensuring

that people, especially in medical emergencies, do not endure unnecessary suffering. "The valley's limited medical facilities result in significant suffering, especially during winter, in case of medical emergencies. While there hasn't been any major snowfall in these areas yet, the administration is fully prepared to handle the situation," stated the official. Notably, the border areas of Kashmir including Gurez, Tulail, and Karnah Tangdhar remain cut off from the rest of the world for several months due to heavy snowfall. Meanwhile, officials in Kupwara Administration announced plans to soon launch a helicopter service to its border area, ensuring accessibility to the residents during winter months—(KNO)

Ophthalmologist Dr. Bashir Honored with 'Teacher of the Teachers' Award



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a ceremony held at AIIMS New Delhi, the distinguished Ophthalmologist, Dr. Bashir Ahmed, was bestowed with the coveted 'Teacher of Teachers' award by the Forum of Ophthalmic Teachers of India. The event took place on Jan 6, in Delhi.

Dr. Bashir Ahmed, a distinguished professional in the realm of ophthalmology, holds an impressive background, having earned fellowships from the Institute of Ophthalmology at Moorfields Hospital in London in 1984, and the Institute of Ophthalmology in Kiryu, Japan, in 1992.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Ahmed served as a professor and Head of the Department (HoD) of Ophthalmology at both GMC Jammu and later GMC Srinagar. His dedicated government service culminated in his retirement in 1998, leaving behind a legacy of knowledge and expertise.

Notably, earlier, during a five-year tenure in Iran, Dr. Bashir Ahmed was extended the offer of citizenship, a testament to his global impact and recognition in the field of ophthalmology. Despite receiving a tempting job offer in London, Dr. Bashir chose to prioritize the well-being of the people of Kashmir over personal pursuits. His decision exemplifies a selfless commitment to serving the community he holds dear.

Currently, in his post-retirement phase, Dr. Bashir Ahmed continues his noble mission in 'Eye Care' Kara Nagar as a Director, further contributing to the welfare of patients and the advancement of ophthalmic knowledge.

The 'Teacher of Teachers award' serves as appreciation to Dr. Bashir's tireless dedication, unwavering commitment, and remarkable achievements in the field of ophthalmology, solidifying his status as a luminary in the medical community.

Dir Agri inaugurates 07 days DLTP on Scientific Beekeeping



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Monday inaugurated seven days divisional level training programme (DLTP) on scientific beekeeping under (NBHM) at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The inaugural session of the week-long program was attended by beekeepers, students and officers of the department.

Addressing the session, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal highlighted the importance of small scale Agri- Cottage industries like beekeeping, Mushroom Cultivation and other allied activities in the overall development of agriculture sector.

He said the main focus of organising such training programmes is to promote small scale agri-cottage industries like beekeeping among the farmers and educated youth of the region.

Chowdhury Iqbal said the agriculture diversification is the key to reduce risk in farming activities and hence beekeeping has emerged as one of the important tools which not

only enhance agricultural income of the farming community but also secure it against changes in climate and soil resources.

Director Agriculture expressed satisfaction and said many people, mostly educated youth are able to earn their livelihood, because of honey bee colonies. With time, more and more young men and women are turning towards beekeeping. He said beekeeping forms the potential part of integrated farming and could play an important role in increasing the farmers income.

Director said that beekeeping as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation due to wide agro-climatic diversity enabling round the year bee flora availability.

The National Beekeeping and Honey mission (NBHM) aims at promoting bee-keeping and providing self sustaining employment opportunities among the farmers and unemployed youth in rural india.

Joint Director Agriculture Inputs, Tabassum Naz; Assistant Entomologist, Dr Qazi Showkat also addressed the participants of the program.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

JKSCRT to conduct assessment upto 8th standard in first week of March

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the winter vacations, Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT) Monday said that it will conduct formative assessment upto 8th standard in first week of March instead of the previously notified date.

Under the Student Assessment and Evaluation (SA&E) scheme up to Class 8th, JKSCERT had notified the schedule and timeline for conduct of SA&ES up to Class 8th (Elementary level) for the summer and winter zone

schools from Academic Session 2023-24

Director of JKSCERT in a communique said, "For the convenience of students and keeping in view the announcement of winter vacation in winter zone schools by JKUT, the Formative Assessment scheduled to be conducted in the last week of December 2023 in winter zone schools of JKUT shall now be conducted by the respective schools by or before 1st week of March 2024."

Earlier in October-2023, JKSCERT had devised a 'Common' format for the recording of the forma-

tive assessment under the Student Assessment and Evaluation (SA&E) scheme up to Class 8th.

Formative assessment is a range of formal and informal assessment procedures conducted by teachers during the learning process in order to modify teaching and learning activities to improve student attainment.

JKSCERT had said that the council earlier had notified SA&E scheme up to class 8th for all government and recognised schools in accordance with the provisions in National Education Policy-2020 and Right of Children to Free

and Compulsory Education Act, 2019.

"Despite continuous orientation on the scheme by this Council, there was a continuous demand from the stakeholders to have a common format for the recording of the formative assessment and result sheet thereof," it reads.

The communique further reads, "JKSCERT accordingly devised formats for; recording of formative assessment, Co-curricular Component and also devised result sheet which for wider dissemination to concerned Schools."—(KNO)

DIG CKR reviews functioning of Police Drug De-Addiction Centre



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: DIG CKR Srinagar Sujit Kumar visited Drug De-Addiction Centre at Eidgah Srinagar where the officer reviewed the functioning of the centre.

As per a statement issued, he was received by Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Khan Incharge Drug De-Addiction Centre who introduced him to all the IPD Patients.

The officer interacted with these patients and sought to know the feedback of the centre.

DIG CKR later held a meeting with staff of the centre in order to know their grievances and assured them to take these to logical conclusion. He also advised the staff to work to the best of their abilities as Drug

De-Addiction Centre has already earned a name for itself but more needs to be done as drug addiction is a social problem and needs to be fought with all the strength and resources.

Drug De-Addiction is a noble mission of Jammu and Kashmir police in its endeavour to achieve zero drug addiction in Kashmir.

On the occasion, other police officers present included SP City North Raja Zuhab, SDPO Mahraj Gunj Hari Prasad and SHO PS Safakadal Insp. Sheikh Vakil. Drug De-Addiction Centre is proving its worth by treating thousands of Drug Addicts of the valley.

So far more than number of 4500 drug addicts were treated at the centre during the last two years. (2337 in year 2022 & 2321 in year 2023)—(KNO)

MP Jugal Kishore reiterates Govt's commitment to achieve Viksit Bharat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: Marking a momentous occurrence, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, Jammu-Poonch constituency, Monday took part in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Panchayat Darui, Block Nud in District Samba.

Warmly welcomed by local residents and members of the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI), Jugal Kishore Sharma received robust support for his involvement in the initiative.

After the hearty welcome, the MP led a collective Sankalp pledge, instilling a sense of shared commitment towards making India a developed Nation.

An integral aspect of the event included a live streaming of an interaction between the Prime Minister and beneficiaries via video conferencing. The VBSY IEC Van was emphasized as a tool to ensure awareness and inclusivity in government flagship schemes.

During the Prime Minister's dialogue with beneficiaries, diverse individuals shared their experiences benefiting from various flagship schemes. The PM advocated the use of Nano Urea over traditional urea

for farmers and underscored the purpose of VBSY to bridge awareness gaps.

All participants witnessed this interactive session, fostering a deeper connection with national development discourse.

Addressing the gathering, Jugal Kishore Sharma underscored the transformative impact of government flagship schemes like KCC, NRLM and PM Vishwakarma on citizens' lives. Encouraging widespread awareness, he urged active dissemination of scheme information for maximum participation and benefit.

Inviting officials from different departments on stage, the MP facilitated discussions on their respective schemes and encouraged people to explore the benefits at departmental stalls. Numerous individuals immediately availed themselves of online services for on-the-spot benefits from various flagship schemes.

Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasized the necessity for united efforts across society to realize the vision of a developed Bharat by 2047. Urging community involvement, he called upon individuals to actively contribute to the nation's progress.

IGP takes stock of security scenario at PCR

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to enhance and evaluate security measures across the valley, the IGP Kashmir VK Birdi Monday conducted a comprehensive security review meeting at PCR Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by DD IB Nitin Tiwari, DIG CKR Srinagar Sujit Kumar, DIG SSB Srinagar Imtiyaz Ismail Parray, DIG IR Kashmir Abdul Qayoom, SSP Srinagar Ashish Mishra, SSP PCR Shoket Hussain Shah, SSP Traffic City Srinagar Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, SSP Security Kashmir Sheikh Faisal and SP PC Srinagar Ifikhar Talib. DIG NKR Vivek Gupta & DIG SKR Rayees Mohammad Bhat alongwith district SSPs, PDS attended the meeting virtually.

Besides, officers from Army, BSF, CRPF, CISF and SB also participated. During the meeting, the participating officers briefed IGP Kashmir about the overall security scenario and the security measures being adopted to counter the challenges, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

The discussions encompassed various facets, including intelligence gathering, threat assessments, emergency response protocols in view of VIP Visits and upcoming events like R-Day functions. The IGP Kashmir actively engaged

with the officers, delving into discussions about initiatives aimed at maintaining law and order, as well as anti-terrorist operations within the valley.

Highlighting the importance of continued efforts and coordination among different forces on the ground, IGP Kashmir stressed upon strengthening collaboration between different law enforcement agencies for seamless information sharing and joint operations besides, exploring innovative technologies to augment existing security infrastructure and response capabilities.

He urged officers to intensify anti-terrorist operations and take stringent action against individuals or organizations supporting anti-national activities. Besides, directed them to enhance joint patrolling especially during the night hours to prevent any terrorist movement.

During the meeting, the IGP Kashmir emphasized the importance of precision and coordination, outlining strategic measures to address potential challenges and uphold the highest standards of security.

VK Birdi expressed confidence in the preparedness of the security forces and assured the public of their commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment, besides stressed the importance of community support in maintaining peace and security in the valley—(KNO)

NOTICE

I want to change the name in electricity bill from Late Ab Khaliq Wani, S/o Late Ab Rahman Wani, R/o Shirpora, Pattan, Baramulla, bearing consumer ID: 0213040001907, Subdivision Pattan, to Gh Mohamad Wani, s/o Ab Khaliq Wani, R/o Shirpora, Pattan, Baramulla. If anybody has any objection in this regard may contact the Office of AEE Sub Division Pattan within a period of 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Mohamad Wani
9906633796

JAMMU & KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION
DIVISION LJHP GANTAMULLA BARAMULLA
Email: xenefjhp@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE No. 03

Due to poor response to this office E-NIT No. 20 of 2023-24 dated 23-11-2023 issued vide this office No. GD/LJHP/1547-53 dated: 23-11-2023 for SITC of 1 No High Pressure Air compressor (capacity 40kg/sq cm) with auxiliary panel control system and necessary pipe line/valves etc. (Complete Job) (ID: 2023_SPDC_238006_1), the critical dates are re-scheduled as under:

S.No	Activity	Date already tendered	Dates as per new schedule
1.	Date of Issue of tender notice	23.11.2023	23.11.2023
2.	Bid document download start date	23.11.2023 to 05.01.2024	23.11.2023 to 15.01.2024
3.	Bid uploading start date	23.11.2023	23.11.2023
4.	Bid uploading last date	05.01.2024	15.01.2024
5.	Last date for receipt of hard copies of techno commercial (RFQ) (one original plus one copy)	06.01.2024	16.01.2024
6.	Opening of techno commercial bids(RFQ)	08.01.2024	18.01.2024

All the terms and conditions shall remain the same.

NO: GD/LJHP/
DATED: - .01.2024

DIPK-NB-5137-23
DT: 08/01/2024

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
Generation Division LJHP,
Gantamulla Baramulla

JAMMU & KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION
DIVISION LJHP GANTAMULLA BARAMULLA
Email: xenefjhp@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE No. 05

Due to poor response to this office E-NIT No. 16 of 2023-24 dated 27-10-2023 issued vide this office No. GD/UHP/1302-08 dated: 27-10-2023 for SITC of one no Reduction gear box for H/R gate of Barrage (Complete JOD; iiu. 2023_SPDC_234970_1), the critical dates are re-scheduled as under:

S.No	Activity	Date already tendered	Dates as per new schedule
1.	Date of Issue of tender notice	27.10.2023	27.10.2023
2.	Bid document download start date	27.10.2023 to 05.01.2024	27.10.2023 to 15.01.2024
3.	Bid uploading start date	27.10.2023	27.10.2023
4.	Bid uploading last date	05.01.2024	15.01.2024
5.	Last date for receipt of hard copies of techno commercial (RFQ) (one original plus one copy)	06.01.2024	16.01.2024
6.	Opening of techno commercial bids(RFQ)	08.01.2024	18.01.2024

All the terms and conditions shall remain the same.

NO: GD/LJHP/2154-59
DATED: - 06.01.2024

DIPK-NB-5143-23
DT: 08/01/2024

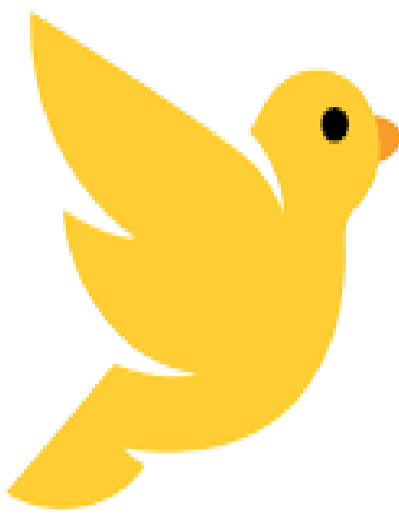
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
Generation Division LJHP,
Gantamulla Baramulla

Book Review

Canary's Voice By Shafkat Aziz



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR



canary

Shafkat Aziz Hajam, hailing from north Kashmir's frontier district, Kupwara is a noted poet of international repute as his poetry items are often carried by esteemed magazines and anthologies of global reputation. Whenever any poetry competition is held at the national or international level or poems are invited for submission in anthologies, Shafkat's poems most often get a chance to be featured. Not only Shafkat participates in poetry recitation events too on varied global level platforms. Be it Haiku, Limerick, Odes, or simple poems, Shafkat's poetic prowess is acclaimed by literary circles. On social media platforms, one can feel his poems being recited by children from Asian, African, and even European countries.

Tens of his poems have already been translated into many living languages of the globe, reflecting the impact of his skill and thought. He is an avid poetry writer and has a couple of poetry collections to his credit. Presently his masterpiece poetry collection which is under my review is "Canary's Voice" published by Wular Publishing House Anantnag. This collection spread over 84 pages mostly unfolds children's Islamic poems. It contains 72 Islamic poems for children. It is pertinent to mention here that Shafkat mostly writes children's literature especially poems about our little chaps. The cover page of this beautiful collection is adorably designed to lure poetry lovers. In the foreword of this book Dr Zainul Hussain of Azad Narang Inter-College Bareilly UP writes "Shafkat Aziz Hajam from India Kashmir, has made a tremendous effort with two magnificent inking prowess in writing a collection of rhymes (most of which are Islamic).

Dr. Fizza Younis has written a detailed account titled "The Words of Appreciation" about this collection. She writes "Although I don't know Shafkat Aziz Hajam on a personal level, I know

him from his work. And nothing speaks more about a person than the words they write from their heart". Hamida Foud, poetess and English language teacher from Egypt writes in "Words of Encouragement" that in some poems, the Poet emphasizes the value of time. He deals with the blessings of Allah's mercy. He reveals how we can enjoy our lives when we are keen on satisfying Allah so that we become happy and get peace of mind". The poetic prowess of Shafkat gets unfolded in the book with its first poem appearing on page 13, about remembering our Allah in times of joy, sorrow, and every time and everywhere we go. He goes on with mini-Islamic poems like Allah is one and I am a Muslim. He uses the simplest of his vocabulary just to aim at developing affection and love for understanding Islamic concepts among little children through his poetry. These micro-poems are so nicely composed that our children easily comprehend the message stored in them.

Allah hates liars, Ask only Allah and A True Muslim are some of the poems found in the book which are artistically woven to reflect the religious bent of the author. O Allah for Hajj and My dear Teacher like many other poems in the book, help inculcate moral values among the little school-going children or those still enjoying the mother's sweet lap at home. Hate the Shaytan and Come to Masjid-like poems would surely help our children to develop a love for offering prayers in the Mosque and hate the devil and devilish acts. Fear Allah and Shower upon me your Mercy poems

are in the form of a morning prayer composed by the author which children can sing during their morning assembly. When Allah wishes, is another one making children believe that Rain, grain, snow, and wind can be there only if Allah wishes and even a tiny straw can't change its position without being ordered by one omnipotent. O Allah, I have no Words, is a poem in which the author expresses his gratitude to Allah in the language of a child who keeps us away from committing sins, feeds us, and shows us the right path.

O dear Allah you know, in this one Shafkat has made a reflection of a child's innocence who never harms or hurts anyone, never does anything wrong nor hates any soul. Get up early Every day and A good student I am, poems are in the form of moral lessons for children who after waking up early in the morning would make ablution followed by a prayer to Allah. If I were a bird, this one would take our children to the world of birds who sing different melodious songs early in the morning in nearby gardens and on tall trees, move anywhere they like across fields and even borders not restricted by the laws of the land and enjoying fully in the world of absolute freedom. This all is impossible for us being humans and living on the same planet but following the rules and laws. Singing Birds and O Dear Butterfly, have successfully expressed the emotions of a child who possesses inherent love for birds and flying moths like butterflies.

O, dear Rainbow, children express a special kind of joy and are thrilled to

watch a Rainbow soon after the rain showers over the sky. They immediately move out of their homes to have a first glimpse of this seven-coloured head and tail-less natural phenomenon. In A Child's Language author has skillfully crafted this one on page 66. Let's end Strife and Read the Holy Quran, like poems can potentially remove animal instincts among children and make them responsible and civilized future citizens of the country, as ending strifes and reading the global message of peace and tranquility is the foundational principle of all religions of the world. O dear Teacher and Come to School, engraves in the minds of little children the role played by teachers in moulding and shaping students and schools as the seats of learning and transformation.

I am a Princess and I am a Prince, reflect the aspirations of four years boy and girl found in this poetry collection. In the literary landscape of the valley Shafkat Aziz Hajam stands tall for being a widely published and anthologized young poet who has received applauds and appreciation from all quarters since he embarked on the literary Odyssey. He has a unique style of expressing his emotions through his thoughts and inking them through poetry. I wish him all the best ahead and I hope if he relentlessly carries his work forward and through perseverance, he can touch the skies in the literary world.

The writer is a columnist hailing from Qazigund. He can be mailed at rayeeskumar31@gmail.com

Gloomy Snow Prospects

The orchardists in the north and the south of Kashmir are a worried lot. The absence of a proper snowfall from the last 45 days has cast a dark spell on the yield prospects for next year. The orchardists claim that the moisture rendered to the soil by the accumulated snow is absolutely essential for the crop yield of the next year. There has been no snowfall this winter. The harshest period of winter called, "Chillai Kalaan" in vernacular is almost half over. By now we were expecting many feet of snow to accumulate in the highland skiing destination of Gulmarg. We were expecting the tourists and professional ice hockey players to swoop down on the ice hockey rinks. We were expecting skiers to negotiate the curves and ups and downs in the snowy meadows of Srinagar. Snow is unique to Kashmir. There is no other skiing destination in the whole of India as beautiful as Gulmarg, as vast as Gulmarg, and as affordable as Gulmarg. The administration had done its best to prepare Gulmarg for winter tourism. The weather prediction also looks awfully scary. There is no major prediction of a major snowfall in the next ten days which essentially means we are left with a window period of ten days from 21st January to 31st January wherein a snowfall is actually long-lasting enough to improve water volume in rivers and rivulets and grant enough moisture to land which is suitable for horticulture. Horticulture is indeed the backbone of our economy. The part of GDP which horticulture provides is much higher than what the tourism sector provides.

What is the plan B if it does not snow till January 31 at all? What are our agriculture scientists up to? How would we sustain a good horticulture yield even with lesser or no moisture granted by accumulated snow? There has to be scientific ways to lessen the damage to the yield.

We can only hope and pray that a spell of snow falls soon. Snow is unique to Kashmir. Snow is what makes Kashmiris a unique set of people. Without snow, we are not who we truly are. Praying for a good spell of snow.

A Towering Figure

Tribute To Fida Kishtwari



SADAKET A MALIK

The Missile Man of India APJ Abdul Kalam once said, "We all are born with a divine fire in us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness". These lines of a great intellect of the time resonate with Abdul Rashid Fida, popularly known as Fida Kishtwari was born in Kishtwar in the year 1932, was a prominent figure whose life journey began with the ink of literary brilliance. His story proved an unwavering commitment to literature and a passion for the art of expression.

Educated at the prestigious Jamia Urdu Aligarh University, Abdul Rashid Fida's academic journey culminated with the attainment of Aadeeb Kamil, laying the foundation for a life dedicated to the pursuit of literary excellence. The year 2003 marked a significant milestone in his literary journey as he wrote "Fikare Natmam." This debut publication not only showcased his literary finesse but also heralded the commencement of a remarkable voyage through the realms of creativity.

The golden years spanning from 1953 to 1974 bore witness to Abdul Rashid Fida's impactful stewardship as the Secretary of Bazam e Adab Kishtwar. During this period, his intellectual acumen and dedication contributed significant-

ly to the burgeoning literary scene, fostering a dynamic cultural environment in Kishtwar. His leadership played a pivotal role in shaping the literary community, leaving an indelible mark on literary history.

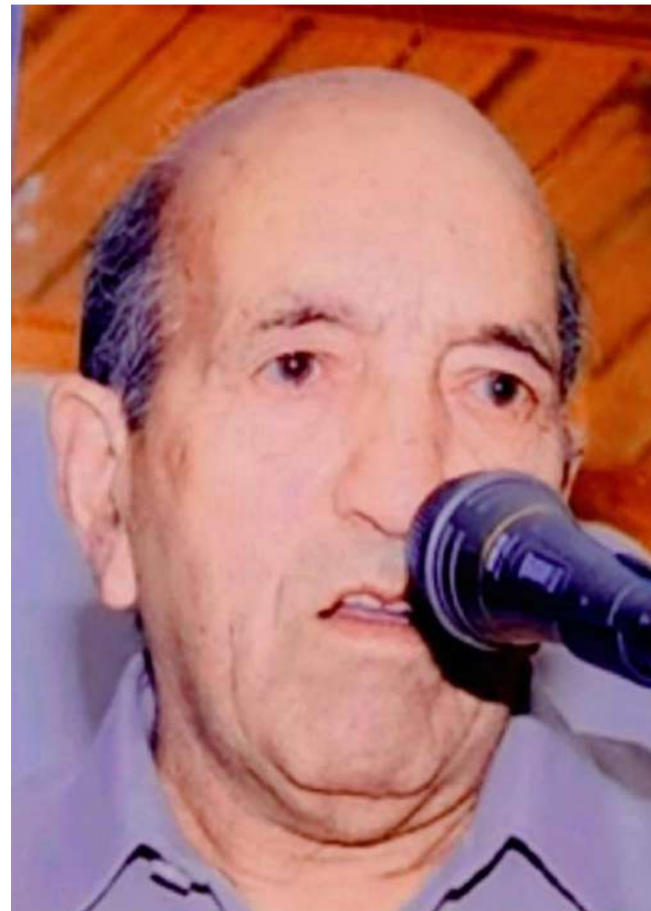
In the present moment, he acted as the President of Gulistan Adab Kishtwar, a position where he continues to be a guiding force, nurturing the creative spirit of aspiring writers and poets. His leadership in Gulistan Adab Kishtwar not only justifies his profound love for literature but also emphasizes his commitment to creating a space where ideas can flourish and artistic expression can thrive.

Beyond the corridors of literary organizations, his legacy extends into his role as an active peace activist during the tumultuous '90s. His commitment to societal causes, coupled with his literary contributions, elevated him to the status of a revered figure in the community.

With a view to acknowledge his literary achievements, the J&K Senior Citizens Council bestowed upon him the prestigious recognition in May 2011 as one of the distinguished writers of Kishtwar. This accolade serves as a lasting testament to his enduring impact on the literary panorama.

His life and work depict the transformative power of literature, transcending time to leave an indelible mark in literature. His legacy continues to inspire budding writers and his contributions are forever interwoven into the rich cultural fabric of Kishtwar—a celebration of a man whose words resonated with the profound richness of his soul.

Renowned for his poetic work, Fida Kishtwari had



verses that match with the hearts of readers. His poetry, infused with the essence of Kashmiri culture, paints vivid landscapes of emotions, capturing the intricacies of human existence with a delicate touch. In the lyrics of Fida Kishtwari, one finds echoes of love, the melancholy of separation, and the resilience of a community navigating the ebb and flow of time. His poetic expressions serve as a bridge connecting readers to the rich cultural heritage and emotional nuances of Kashmir.

Beyond the written word, his recitations bring his poetry to life, captivating audiences with the emotive

power of his spoken verses. His performances resonate in the hearts of those who have had the privilege of experiencing the magic of his poetic recitals.

His significant role in various capacities, including Tehsil President, LPEF (Sampat), President of Hind Mazdoor Kisaan Panchayat HMKP (George Fernandes), Basic Member of Akhil Bharat Rachnatmakta Samaj J&K Chapter headed by Didi Nirmala Deshpande.

His extensive involvement extended to being a member of the Association of People of Asia (APA) until 2008.

In addition to these roles, he actively participated in

the J&K Senior Citizens Council for Peace and Civil Rights from 2009 to 2012. Recognizing his literary prowess, Fida Kishtwari was honored in May 2011, he writers of Kishtwar by the Senior Citizens Council.

On the eve of 74th Independence Day, he was given recognition by the then Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajinder Singh Tara. In a gesture of appreciation, DC Kishtwar, accompanied by senior officials of the District Administration, made a special visit to his residence at Gudhali Chowk Kishtwar.

In a special programme Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar personally presented a certificate, trophy, and medal to Fida Kishtwar, acknowledging his exceptional contributions across various domains, with a particular focus on his commendable endeavors in Journalism. This felicitation served as a tribute to the unwavering commitment and meritorious services rendered by Fida Kishtwar over the years.

As a poet, his legacy is not confined to ink and paper; it is touched in the collective memory of a community that finds solace and inspiration in his verses. His poetry continues to be a source of inspiration, reflection, and a timeless celebration of the human spirit. In the flow of his words, Fida Kishtwari remains a poet par excellence, weaving the emotions that disseminate across generations. Fida Kishtwari has left this world this week and is no more among the people.

Sadaket Malik is a freelance columnist, linguist, writer, and Educational consultant. He can be mailed at ignou1264@gmail.com

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

Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam

From Nari Shakti to Rashtra Shakti



DR. NOWHERA SHAIK

Bharat, despite its democratic credentials, has grappled with gender disparity in legislative bodies. The bill addresses this historical underrepresentation, with only 15% of parliament and 10% of state legislatures comprising women. Globally, India ranks 141 out of 185 in the Global Gender Gap Report, emphasizing the need for transformative measures to ensure inclusive governance.

Key features of the bill include the reservation of one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and the Legislative Assembly of Delhi. This extends to seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The reservation, effective after the census and delimitation, will last for 15 years or until modified by Parliament.

Implementation Timeline: The bill stipulates that the reservation won't be applicable in the upcoming 2024 elections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah clarified that the next government will conduct the census and delimitation exercise post the 2024 elections, setting in motion the process for reservations.

Delimitation Commission: The Delimitation Commission plays a crucial role in implementing the reservation. The process involves analyzing census data, demarcating boundaries, and making recommendations. The commission's orders are binding and not subject to court scrutiny, ensuring a fair and transparent process.

India's Political Landscape: The bill addresses India's historical underrepresentation of women in politics. Despite being a vibrant democracy, only one woman Prime Minister and two female Presidents have led the nation. India ranks low in global gender parity, necessitating transformative measures for inclusive governance.

Positive Reception: The bill received bipartisan support, with just two votes against it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed it as a historic step toward women-led development. Dr. Nowhera Shaik, the President of AIMEP, played a pivotal role in advocating for the bill, aligning with her party's mission of prioritizing women's welfare and empowerment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the historic debate in the Lok Sabha, lauded the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, as a monumental step towards empowering women and reshaping the nation's political landscape. In an impassioned address, he termed the bill as the "Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam," emphasizing the need for unanimous support from all lawmakers. PM Modi expressed that the bill is not just a legislative move but a commitment to women-led development.

PM Modi envisioned the bill as a catalyst for increased female participation in governance, recognizing the untapped potential of women in contributing to the nation's growth. His praise for the legislation reflects a commitment to fostering gender equality in India's political arena.

Dr. Nowhera Shaik's Advocacy: As the founder and national president of AIMEP, Dr. Nowhera Shaik has consistently championed women's rights and political empowerment. She welcomed the bill, expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Modi. Her party, AIMEP, stands as the only political entity prioritizing women's welfare and empowerment in the country. She has been at the forefront of welcoming and supporting the Women's Reservation Bill. The Women's Reservation Bill is a monumental step towards ensuring that the voices and perspectives of women are represented at the highest levels of governance. It's a testament to the progress we can make when we unite for a common cause.

This bill recognizes the remarkable abilities of women and grants them the rightful place they deserve in shaping our nation's future. It's not just a political move; it's a societal shift towards equality."

President Nowhera Shaik's proactive engagement with the cause is evident in her efforts to meet with the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. She not only elaborated on the problems and aspirations of women in the country but also submitted a memorandum highlight-



ing the urgent need for the Women's Reservation Bill.

AIMEP is the only political party in the country that has taken up women's welfare and empowerment as a top priority. Our commitment goes beyond words; it's reflected in our actions and advocacy.

Meeting with the President was a crucial step. We urged him to pass the pending Bill on women's reservation in parliament and state legislatures. It's time for a transformative change.

Moreover, she emphasized the party's demands, including stopping child labor and providing educational facilities for child laborers. AIMEP has also called for the formation of a national-level Monitoring Committee to oversee women welfare schemes launched by the central government.

women hailed the proactive measures taken to address historical gender disparities. The bill was seen as a manifestation of the government's dedication to fostering an environment where women can actively participate in decision-making processes. The nationwide resonance of approval underscores the bill's significance in resonating with the aspirations of millions of Indian women.

The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, is anticipated to serve as a catalyst for heightened women empowerment and increased morale among women throughout India. By guaranteeing a substantial presence of women in legislative bodies, the bill sends a powerful message that women's voices matter in shaping the nation's future. Dr. Nowhera Shaik, through her steadfast advocacy, has emphasized that this leg-

A 2015 report highlighted the dismal state of women's representation in decision-making positions, reflecting India's poor ranking (141 out of 185) in the Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum.

The passing of the 'Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam' bill before the upcoming general elections garnered attention. India's gender parity struggles have often placed it at the bottom of global lists, emphasizing the need for legislative reforms.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called September 19 a "historic day" as the lower house engaged in an eight-hour debate over the bill. The opposition, led by the Indian National Congress, debated credit attribution for the legislation. Modi urged unanimous support for the bill, emphasizing its signifi-



The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, signifies a significant stride towards gender equality in Indian politics. Dr. Nowhera Shaik's support underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing women's representation. As India looks ahead to the next general elections, this landmark legislation sets the stage for a more inclusive and diverse political landscape.

The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, received widespread acclaim from diverse sections of women across the country, signaling a collective endorsement for its transformative potential. Women from various walks of life, spanning urban and rural communities, welcomed the legislation as a significant stride towards gender inclusivity in Indian politics. Dr. Nowhera Shaik, as a prominent advocate for women's rights, played a crucial role in spreading awareness and garnering support.

raising the Modi-led government,

isolation is not just about political representation but a profound recognition of women's capabilities.

The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, addressed the Lok Sabha, affirming that reservations wouldn't be implemented in the upcoming 2024 elections. He clarified that the next government would initiate the process post-elections, conducting census and delimitation exercises to introduce reservations for women in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

With the country's population estimated to have increased by 30% since 2011, the Lok Sabha seats are expected to rise by around 210, totaling approximately 753. Even if the Census begins in late 2024, the subsequent Delimitation exercise will take additional time.

Women's representation in Parliament remains low, with only 15% of seats in the lower house and 12% in the upper house occupied by women.

cance in empowering women and contributing to women-led development.

In Lok Sabha, PM Modi stated that the bill marked the beginning of a new era for women's participation in Parliament, framing it as a crucial decision for empowering democracy. He announced the introduction of an important constitutional amendment bill, aligning with the government's commitment to women-led development. As the country heads to the polls in May 2024, the 'Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam' aims to reshape India's political landscape and address longstanding gender disparities in legislative representation.

Analysis of the Bill
The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, is a pivotal step toward addressing gender disparity in legislative representation. With just 14% of Lok Sabha legislators being women at the time, the legislation mandates a 33% reservation for women in both

state legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha. The law, receiving assent from President Droupadi Murmu, signifies a commitment to fostering women's participation in policy making and governance at both state and national levels. Currently, Chhattisgarh leads with 18% women legislators, while Himachal Pradesh has only one, and Mizoram none.

The Bill introduces a constitutional amendment with provisions for reserving seats in Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Additionally, seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) will also include women. The reservation will be effective after the census and delimitation exercise, lasting for 15 years or until determined otherwise by Parliament.

Despite the significant increase in the number of female voters in India, with women accounting for almost half of the 950 million registered voters, their representation in Parliament has remained low. The move is seen as essential for achieving gender equality and places India on a path toward global gender parity.

India's past records on women's representation in political positions have been dismal, with only one woman Prime Minister and two female Presidents since independence. The global gender gap report ranks India 141 out of 185, emphasizing the urgency of addressing this issue.

The passing of the bill saw an eight-hour debate, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasizing its historic significance. The legislation received support from the All India Mahila Empowerment Party, led by Dr. Nowhera Shaik, who commended the government's move toward women's political empowerment.

The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, holds the promise of illuminating the future for Indian women in the years to come. By ensuring a significant and mandatory presence of women in legislative bodies, the bill not only breaks down barriers but also creates a platform for diverse voices and perspectives. This landmark legislation sets the stage for a more inclusive and equitable society, where women, constituting almost half of the nation's voters, will play a pivotal role in shaping policies and decisions that impact their lives. As the reservation takes effect and women assume a more prominent role in governance, it paves the way for an inspiring narrative of empowerment, progress, and the realization of the untapped potential that women bring to the forefront of India's political landscape. The bill signifies a beacon of hope, heralding a future where women's contributions are not only recognized but actively encouraged, fostering a more dynamic and egalitarian India.

In recent years, India has transitioned from mere women's development to a model of women-led development, recognizing the potential in harnessing women's talents. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives focus on empowering women economically, with schemes like Jan Dhan and Stand-Up India. Financial inclusion has made women self-reliant, fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.

Political representation of women has seen improvement, with reservation policies in local governance bodies. Panchayati Raj ensures women hold at least one-third of seats, enhancing their role in decision-making. Increased paid maternity leave and rural housing schemes contribute to women's well-being and economic power.

Government schemes like Stand-Up India and emphasis on Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have supported women entrepreneurs. Loans worth Rs. 33,152 crores have been sanctioned under Stand-Up India, benefiting over 1.44 lakh women. SHGs, especially all-women ones, play a vital role in economic and social empowerment. Collateral-free loans for women's SHGs have increased to Rs. 20 lakhs, benefiting 63 lakh SHGs and 6.85 crore households.

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) mobilized 8.7 crore women into 81 lakh SHGs, focusing on socio-economic empowerment. Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under DAY-NRLM, such as Pashu Sakhi and Krishi Sakhi, contribute to the program's effective implementation at the ground level. Overall, these initiatives reflect a concerted effort towards empowering women and fostering their active participation in India's progress.

Author is Founder & National President of All India Mahila Empowerment Party. She can be mailed at drnowheraoffice@gmail.com

Vikramjit Singh chairs Investor Facilitation Meet of JKPTPO



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, Monday chaired an Investor Facilitation Meet at Udhog Bhawan, here to address the issues and concerns of the industries to whom land has already been allotted by the Government.

The agenda of the meet was to resolve the issues and concerns of the industrialists and to ensure that their projects start the production at the earliest.

The Investor Facilitation Meet was organised by Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization

(JKPTPO) for Investors in both the Divisions of J&K, and this is the eighth meet since March 2023.

The primary objective of the meet was to engage with industries who have been allocated the land to understand their challenges, and collaboratively devise effective solutions to accelerate the commencement of operations. It is important to note that 169 units with an investment of Rs. 7,096 crore have been allotted land in different industrial estates and are setting up their units at various stages. More than 60 industrialists from both the divisions participated in this meet. Some of the

investors also joined the meeting virtually.

Commissioner Secretary appreciated JKPTPO for hosting such sessions saying that "Focus of the Government is to continue the interface with those investors who have commenced the work on ground and facilitated resolution of their issues to enable commencement of commercial production."

Vikramjit Singh, during the session, had one to one discussion with investors regarding the issues faced by them in different areas such as land, power supply, change of land use, availing incentives & subsidies, infrastructure develop-

ment, etc.

The meet was attended by Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director, JKPTPO, Inderjeet, Managing Director, SIDCO/SICOP, Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce Department, Jammu, Khalid Majeed, Director Industries & Commerce Department, Kashmir, Imran Mehmood, FA/CAO, JKPTPO and Megha Baogia, General Manager, JKPTPO.

Commissioner Secretary noted the grievances projected by the participants and assured that necessary support will be provided to the industries for smooth and hassle-free operations.

VBSY shows significant progress in empowering public of Ramban

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, led by Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, is making noteworthy progress in Ramban District.

The Yatra focuses on implementing government schemes, involving people in both rural and urban areas. Local youth actively participate in sports and commit to develop India by 2047.

In 42 day odyssey, over 78,000 people, including 30,000 women, participated. They showed keen interest in schemes like PM-JAY Ayushman Card, Poshan ICDS, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, KCC, PM Kissan Nidhi, and more. Notably, 3423 new PM-JAY Ayushman Cards were



issued, improving health-care accessibility.

As many as 3900 individuals underwent anemia test as part of the Poshan

Abhiyan, while the Health Department conducted TB screening of 17000 individuals and NCD, of 48100 individuals, emphasizing

a commitment to public health.

The Agriculture Department issued 1900 KCC cards to farmers, supporting the growth of agriculture and allied sectors. Nearly 2200 people shared their success stories under "Meri Kahani Meri Zabani."

Today, the IEC Van visited Panchayat Nogam and Tnraypora, witnessing significant public participation.

A program was held in Ward No 7 in Ramban town motivating the people to avail government-sponsored schemes. Stalls set up by various departments provided awareness, and registration for AB-PMJAY (Golden Cards) and eKYC of Ration Cards. Two beneficiary families of PMAY were felicitated with token keys to their houses.

BOOSTING MSME SECTOR

Ramban Admin holds awareness Event on RAMP Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: The District Industries Centre (DIC), Ramban, in collaboration with the District Administration, Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), and other Government Departments, organized a seminar/awareness camp here in the Conference Hall Ram to generate awareness about the Raising and Accelerating MSME's Performance (RAMP) scheme of MoMSME.

The program aimed to broaden outreach, seek feedback on existing MoMSME schemes and identifying challenges impacting MSME



sector growth, particularly in relation to the parameters considered in RAMP, such as disbursement link indicators (DLIS).

Abhay Ravetkar, Team Leader J&K RAMP from

Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, presented the RAMP program through a PowerPoint presentation and sensitized participants about the procedure for submitting online surveys under the scheme.

The general public was highly impressed by the scheme, expressing willingness to co-operate in facilitating the survey to boost industrial and commercial activity in the District.

The event saw the presence of key figures, including the Lead District Manager, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, representatives from line departments, FPOS, SHGS, and entrepreneurs of Ramban District. Their valuable inputs were recorded for the successful implementation of the RAMP scheme by MoMSME.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Police dismantled

"The perpetrators, posing as doctors, engineers, and government employees seeking marriage, manipulated their victims with various modus operandi, accumulating substantial sums, particularly from vulnerable segments of society," police said.

"The fraudulent activities included promising government jobs, orchestrating sham marriage proposals, and a deceptive inverter scheme. In the latter, the accused, masquerading as Engineers from the Power Development Department, duped individuals into paying an advance of 4200 Rupees for inverters purportedly provided by the department," police said.

"Promptly responding to the issue, Handwara police registered Case FIR No. 01/2024 under relevant sections of the law at the Kralgund police station. The investigation is in its early stages, and further arrests are anticipated as authorities work diligently to dismantle the entire network. The crackdown on these fraudulent activities underscores the commitment of law enforcement to safeguard the public from such deceptive practices," the statement added—(KNO)

India reports

As of now, the total number of coronavirus cases in India, since the initial outbreak in January 2020, has reached 4,50,18, 739, while the overall death toll has risen to 5,33,396.

The new JN.1 sub-variant is a descendant of the Omicron subvariant known as BA.2.86 or Pirola, with Kerala being the first state to report a case.

A total of 682 cases of the JN.1 have been reported from 12 states across the country till January 6, according to sources.

Kerala, Karnataka witnessed JN.1 variant cases, while Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telangana, Odisha and Haryana were also affected, as per the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG).

Data suggests that the JN.1 variant is not causing a significant rise in new cases or hospitalisations and deaths.

199 cases were reported in Karnataka, 148 in Kerala, 139 in Maharashtra, 47 in Goa, 36 from Gujarat, 30 each from Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, 26 in Tamil Nadu, 21 in New Delhi, three in Odisha, two in Telangana and one in Haryana.

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.

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.

Rajnath Singh approves

masking enroute, the exercise also detailed a training mission of the Garuds," the ministry said.

The ministry said that NCC units for J&K and Ladakh include one mixed (boys and girls) Army Battalion each at Udhampur, Kupwara and Kargil (Ladakh) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The ministry said that, in addition to the existing 27,870 cadets, the strength in J&K and Ladakh will increase by 12,860, which is a 46.1 per cent rise.

It said that currently, the Directorate has two group headquarters, with a total of 10 NCC Units, covering all

the three geographical regions.

No snowfall in sight

As far as the forecast is concerned, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy over plains while there is a possibility of very light rain at one or two places of Jammu division and very light snow over isolated extreme higher reaches of Kashmir.

In between January 10-15, the weather is expected to remain dry, saying that overall no significant weather activity is expected till 15th January.

Moreover, the mercury continued to settle below freezing point in Kashmir with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recording a low of minus 4.3 degree Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir also recorded a low of minus 4.2 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a low of minus 4.0 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist place, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.3 degree Celsius. In Kupwara, the mercury settled at minus 5.0 degree Celsius while in Kokernag, a minimum temperature of minus 2.1 degree Celsius was recorded—(KNO)

Night curfew

district-level standing committee where officials of the BSF suggested the imposition of the night curfew on one kilometre-long strip from the IB enabling their troops to perform their duties more effectively.

"It is felt by the district administration that it is expedient that the movement of people in border areas is regulated so that there is better area domination by BSF in border areas and nefarious designs of forces inimical to Indian security are subverted," the curfew order issued under section 144 by the DM concerned said.

The order further added that any person found violating the aforementioned order shall be dealt with in accordance with the law. Since it is not possible to serve the order individually it is being issued ex-parte.

This order shall remain in force for a period of two months from the date of its issuance, if not withdrawn or rescinded earlier.

Kashmir Beats

This shift in online search behavior highlights the curiosity of the globetrotters to explore the valley of Kashmir, which is often compared with Switzerland.

In the number of most Googled destinations of the year 2023, Vietnam topped followed by Goa at the second spot. Bali and Sri Lanka ranked at third and fourth spot, respectively in the list of the most Googled destinations of the world in 2023.

Thailand got the fifth rank followed by the valley of Kashmir at sixth position. Coorg got the seventh rank for being Googled by maximum users last year followed by Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Italy and Switzerland got the ninth and 10th rank in the list of most Googled destinations of the world in 2023. Tourism in Kashmir has seen an uptick, with travellers increasingly drawn to the unique blend of natural beauty and historical significance the region offers.

Given the unique interest of people in exploring Kashmir, the valley last year has witnessed a significant increase in the flow of tourists.

More than two crores tourists visited the valley this year with the number of foreign arrivals too showing

an uptick.

Travel agents claimed the revival of foreign tourism this year will further promote Kashmir globally.

"This year, we witnessed foreign tourists visiting Kashmir in bulk numbers from countries including Thailand, Europe and the Gulf. Since winter mostly attracts tourists, we are hopeful to witness a further uptick in foreign arrivals in January, February and March," said Umar Ahmad, a travel agent—(KNO)

Empowering Rural J&K

in the agricultural sector.

The overarching objective of the Yatra is to leave no deserving beneficiary behind. As it winds through rural landscapes, efforts are being made to identify and include those who might have been overlooked in previous initiatives. This meticulous approach demonstrates a commitment to equity and fairness, ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every corner of rural Jammu and Kashmir.

Beyond the realm of agriculture, the Yatra has also become a platform to celebrate and recognize talent. More than 7 thousand artists have been rewarded during the journey, acknowledging their contributions to the rich cultural tapestry of the region. This not only serves as a source of encouragement for local artists but also highlights the cultural diversity that defines the essence of Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, the Yatra has turned the spotlight on sports, with over 12 thousand sportspersons being awarded. This emphasis on sports not only promotes a healthy and active lifestyle but also nurtures the budding talents that might one day bring glory to the nation. By recognizing and supporting sports at the grassroots level, the Yatra contributes to the holistic development of individuals and communities.

In conclusion, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is more than a political journey – it is a transformative force that empowers rural Jammu and Kashmir across various fronts. From uplifting farmers through financial assistance to recognizing and rewarding artists and sportspersons, the Yatra embodies a comprehensive approach to development. As it continues its path, the Yatra leaves an indelible mark on the lives of the people it touches, fostering a vision of an empowered and vibrant rural landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prolonged dry spell

snow in the region. Let us hope to have good rain and snow during these months," Prof Romshoo added.

Acknowledging the significant contribution of water from snowmelts and glacier melts, Prof Shakil said if the dry spell prolongs and extends till February, which he termed "most unlikely," the region could witness low water levels in our water bodies this summer.

Dr Suhaib A. Bandh, Assistant Professor, of Environmental Science at S P College Srinagar told KNO that the impact of extended dry weather on Kashmir's water bodies is diverse and significant, which could result in a cascade of environmental concerns.

"Kashmir, renowned for its gorgeous lakes and rivers, is under significant stress as the dry spell continues. Reduced precipitation and faster evaporation rates cause a drop in water levels throughout bodies of water, worsening an already precarious ecological equilibrium," he said.

Dr Bandh added that the reduced influx from melting snow aggravates the problem, affecting the region's

hydrological cycle and water level declines endanger aquatic ecosystems, threatening the flora and wildlife that rely on these areas.

The decreased supply of water has implications for agriculture, he said, adding, "The depletion of historic lakes such as Dal Lake has ramifications for tourism and local economies."

Dr Suhail said that water scarcity increases competition among diverse sectors for the limited resources available, potentially leading to water-related conflicts. "Sustainable water management approaches, effective irrigation techniques and conservation measures are critical in addressing these concerns. To ensure the resilience of Kashmir's water bodies in the face of changing climatic trends, collaborative efforts at the regional and local levels are required," he said.

Dr Aamir Hussain Bhat, an Environmental Science lecturer in J&K's higher education department said dry weather in Kashmir significantly affects its water bodies, causing a multitude of challenges across the region.

"Diminished precipitation during extended dry spells drastically reduces the water levels in rivers, lakes, and streams that are the lifelines of Kashmir," he said, adding that this decrease in water levels not only threatens the aquatic ecosystems but also imposes severe constraints on agriculture, a primary livelihood for many residents.

The drying up of water bodies leads to reduced irrigation capabilities, impacting crop yields and overall agricultural productivity, Dr Bhat said, adding that the shortage of water affects the availability of drinking water, escalating the risk of waterborne diseases and creating hardships for the local populace.

He said the ecological balance is disrupted as the shrinking water bodies struggle to support diverse flora and fauna, endangering the region's biodiversity.

"The societal and economic ramifications of the prolonged dry weather underscore the urgent need for sustainable water management strategies, conservation efforts, efficient irrigation practices and diversification of livelihoods to mitigate the adverse effects on Kashmir's water bodies and the community dependent on them," Dr Aami added.

Dr Tariq Rasool, a senior scientist at SKAUST said, "Snowfall during winter doesn't only act as a source of rain for the latter days in summer, it also recharges the groundwater. So, dry winters surely affect the water table during summers."—(KNO)

ACB arrests PCB

The statement said that she demanded Rs 20,000 as bribe from the complainant for issuance of CTO. However, after negotiation the amount was settled as Rs 5,000.

"The complainant chose not to pay a 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 FIR No. 02/2024 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up," the statement said.

During the course of investigation, the statement said that a trap team was constituted. "The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 5,000 from the complainant. The money was recovered from the accused on the spot."

The accused has been identified as Dr. Bilquees Ara Siddiqui D/o Ghulam Nabi R/o Sarnal (Gulshan Abad) Anantnag, working in Pollution Control Board as Scientist-B. Further investigation into the case is going on, the statement said—(KNO)

India summons Maldives envoy over derogatory remarks against PM

IAN S

NEW DELHI: After three Maldivian ministers made derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned Maldives High Commissioner Ibrahim Shaheeb over the matter.

Shaheeb reached the Foreign Ministry's office at South Block in Delhi on Monday morning.

According to the information, India has expressed its displeasure on the issue. The three ministers who made objectionable remarks on Modi have been dismissed by the Maldives government.

The Indian High Commission in Male had raised this issue with the Maldives government on Sunday. It may be noted that the controversy started at a time when Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has left for a week-long visit to



China.

After India raised strong objection, the Maldives government has issued a statement giving clarification. According to the Maldives government, the statements given by the ministers in this matter are personal. The government of Maldives says that the government has nothing to do with this matter.

The controversy started when three Deputy Ministers of Maldives criticised Prime Minister Modi on social media platforms after his visit to Lakshadweep. They alleged that India is trying to present Lakshadweep as an alternative tourist destination to Maldives.

Prominent opposition leaders of Maldives have also criticized their own government on this matter. The derogatory remarks of Maldivian ministers are also being condemned across India. Indian film stars, sportspersons and celebrities are urging people on social media to visit Indian tourist places instead of going to Maldives. Many Indian tourists have also given information on social media about cancellation of their trip to Maldives.

IIT Delhi develops 'Work4Food' for food delivery agents

IAN S

NEW DELHI: IIT Delhi on Monday said that their research team has developed 'Work4Food' which not only guarantees government-mandated minimum wage compensations for delivery workers but also seeks to minimise platform costs while ensuring customer satisfaction.

"'Work4Food' concept has also presented at the prestigious International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence," the IIT Delhi in a statement said.

It said that 'Work4Food's' minimum income guarantee, coupled with the flexibility it offers to platforms in onboarding delivery agents based on demand-supply dynamics, minimises unnecessary travel – a common practice

among the delivery agents to strategically position themselves for the next order.

Prof. Abhijnan Chakraborty, Computer Science and Engineering Department, IIT Delhi said that this can have a long-term effect on reducing air pollution caused by vehicular emissions, at least until the entire delivery fleet transitions to battery-operated vehicles.

The IIT Delhi said that it is a unique approach for gig which ensures income guarantees based on government-mandated minimum wage rates.

The institution said that Fairwork Project is a global initiative that seeks to improve the working conditions of digital platform workers, including food delivery riders.

"The project assesses and ranks platform companies based on their adherence to fair labor practices to promote better standards in the gig economy," the IIT Delhi said.

As per the IIT the Fairwork India's 2023 report has shed light on a critical issue in the food delivery industry in India, where none of the major food delivery platforms were found to provide hourly local minimum wages to their delivery workers after accounting for fuel and other expenses.

The institution said that the gig economy model has been a driving force in the food delivery industry, making it difficult for the delivery workers to secure their rightful earnings.

"Food delivery platforms have faced chal-

lenges in increasing order delivery fees beyond a certain point, creating a complex dilemma for all stakeholders involved," the IIT Delhi said.

According to the IIT the proposed formulation includes Income Guarantees. The scheme ensures that all delivery agents receive income guarantees based on government-mandated minimum wage rates, allowing them to earn a fair and consistent income.

The institution said that while online food delivery companies often cite the gig nature of the work and operational constraints as barriers to implementing local minimum wage guarantees, the novel solution introduced by the IIT Delhi researchers promises to address the issues.

EaseMy Trip suspends all flight bookings for Maldives

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Amid the online boycott Maldives campaign, EaseMyTrip, headquartered in the national capital, has opted to halt all flight bookings to the Maldives.

This decision comes in response to derogatory remarks made by now-suspended ministers against India and Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, stemming from his recent visit to Lakshadweep.

Established in 2008, EaseMyTrip was founded by Nishant Pitti, Rikant Pitti, and Prashant Pitti.

"In solidarity with our nation, @EaseMyTrip has suspended all Maldives flight bookings #TravelUpdate #Supporting-Nation," the founder and CEO, Nishant Pitti wrote

on X. Maldivian government on Sunday suspended its three ministers for remarks against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his Lakshadweep visit, local media reported.

The ministers -- Mariyam Shiuna, Malsha and Hassan Zihan -- have been suspended for their derogatory remarks

against Prime Minister Modi on X, Atoll Times reported.

Though Prime Minister Modi promoted Lakshadweep as a tourist destination and did not even mention Maldives, irked minister of the Island country said: "India faces significant challenges in competing with the Maldives in beach tourism."

'Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show'

HAL to showcase indigenously modified Sukhoi

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Monday said that it will participate in the 10th edition of 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2024' and also showcase the indigenously modified Sukhoi during the event.

The 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2024' will take place from January 9 to 13.

"We have identified over 100 critical items for indigenisation and will display some of them during the event," HAL in a press



statement said.

CMD HAL C B Ananthakrishnan said that one of the major attractions at HAL stall will be Su-30 MKI aircraft which has been modified indigenously for integration of air-to-ground BrahMos missile manufactured in India.

He said that the missile weighs 2500 kg and has a range of nearly 300 kms.

"HAL manufactured 220 Su-30 MKI aircraft so far and has also overhauled over 100 Su-30 MKI. HAL's Prachand Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) will be on static display," Anan-

thakrishnan said. He said that LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take-off at an altitude of 5000 m (16,400 ft) with considerable load of weapons and fuel meeting the specific requirements of Indian Armed Forces.

He said that the scale models of Su-30, LCA, ALH, WSI, HTT40 and Do-228, HAL stall will showcase core competencies and capabilities of Indian industries, opportunities in indigenisation of critical aerospace parts, aggregates, LRUs, materials, and consumables.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD
 CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar.
 www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject; Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Chemistry and Toxicology), Home Department, held on 06-01-2024 - Provisional Answer key regarding.
 The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Chemistry and Toxicology), Home Department, UT Cadre advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022, under Item No. 43 on 06th January, 2024.

The Provisional Answer Key of the question paper (Series A, B, C, D) for the above said examination is provided at Annexure "A" to this notice for the information of the candidates.

Any candidate having objection(s) to the answer key, may submit his/her objection(s)/ representation(s) in respect of such question(s) on prescribed format/proforma annexed herewith as Annexure "B" along with the documentary proof/evidence substantiating the claim (hard copies only) and a fee of Rs. 200/- (in the form of demand draft) per question (refundable in case of genuine/correct representation/objection) in favour of the Accounts Officer, J&K Services Selection Board.

In case, the objection is found correct, the Answer Key will be revised accordingly in respect of all candidates. No candidate will be informed about the acceptance/non-acceptance of his/her objection individually.

The objections/representations can be submitted in offline mode only, in the office of JKSSB, CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/JKSSB, Zamzam Building, Rambagh, Srinagar on three working days starting from 08-01-2024, during office hours only. The Board shall not entertain any such representations/objections after the expiry of the stipulated period or through any other mode.

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/100/2023-03 (7362014) Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
 Dated: 06-01-2024 Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

ANNEXURE - "A"

Provisional Answer Key of the Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Chemistry and Toxicology) conducted on 06-01-2024.

Text Booklet Question No.	Series A	Series B	Series C	Series D
Q1	C	D	D	B
Q2	B	B	D	B
Q3	C	B	B	A
Q4	A	C	B	C
Q5	B	B	D	A
Q6	C	A	B	C
Q7	A	B	C	C
Q8	B	B	C	D
Q9	B	A	D	A
Q10	D	D	A	C
Q11	D	A	B	A
Q12	A	B	C	C
Q13	C	A	D	D
Q14	D	B	A	D
Q15	A	A	A	A
Q16	C	B	A	C
Q17	C	A	C	B
Q18	C	D	B	A
Q19	C	A	C	A
Q20	B	B	A	C
Q21	B	D	B	B
Q22	C	B	D	A
Q23	D	A	C	D
Q24	A	C	D	D
Q25	C	C	B	D
Q26	C	B	B	C
Q27	B	B	B	B
Q28	B	A	D	B
Q29	C	A	D	C
Q30	B	B	A	A
Q31	D	D	B	C
Q32	B	D	B	B
Q33	B	B	A	C
Q34	C	B	C	A

Q35	B	D	A	B
Q36	A	B	C	C
Q37	B	C	C	A
Q38	B	C	D	B
Q39	A	D	A	B
Q40	D	A	C	D
Q41	A	B	A	D
Q42	B	C	C	A
Q43	A	D	D	C
Q44	B	A	D	D
Q45	A	A	A	A
Q46	B	A	C	C
Q47	A	C	B	C
Q48	D	B	A	C
Q49	A	C	A	C
Q50	B	A	C	B
Q51	D	B	B	B
Q52	B	D	A	C
Q53	A	C	D	D
Q54	C	D	D	A
Q55	C	B	D	C
Q56	B	B	C	C
Q57	B	B	B	B
Q58	A	D	B	B
Q59	A	D	C	C
Q60	B	A	A	B
Q61	D	B	C	D
Q62	D	B	B	B
Q63	B	C	A	B
Q64	B	C	A	C
Q65	D	A	B	B
Q66	B	C	C	A
Q67	C	C	A	B
Q68	C	D	B	B
Q69	D	A	B	A
Q70	A	C	D	D
Q71	B	A	D	A
Q72	C	C	A	B
Q73	D	D	C	A
Q74	A	D	D	B
Q75	A	A	A	A
Q76	A	C	C	B
Q77	C	B	C	A
Q78	B	A	C	D
Q79	C	A	C	A
Q80	A	C	B	B
Q81	B	B	B	D
Q82	D	A	C	B
Q83	C	D	D	A
Q84	D	D	A	C
Q85	B	D	C	C
Q86	B	C	C	B
Q87	B	B	B	B
Q88	D	B	B	A
Q89	D	C	C	A
Q90	A	A	B	B
Q91	B	C	D	D
Q92	B	B	B	D
Q93	A	C	B	B
Q94	C	A	C	B
Q95	A	B	B	D
Q96	C	C	A	B
Q97	C	A	B	C
Q98	D	B	B	C
Q99	A	B	A	D
Q100	C	D	D	A
Q101	A	D	A	B
Q102	C	A	B	C
Q103	D	C	A	D

Q104	D	D	B	A
Q105	A	A	A	A
Q106	C	C	B	A
Q107	B	C	A	C
Q108	A	C	D	B
Q109	A	C	A	C
Q110	C	B	B	A
Q111	B	B	D	B
Q112	A	C	B	D
Q113	D	D	A	C
Q114	D	A	C	D
Q115	D	C	C	B
Q116	C	C	B	B
Q117	B	B	B	B
Q118	B	B	A	D
Q119	C	C	A	D
Q120	A	B	B	A

DIPK-14857-23 Sd/-
 DT: 08/01/2024 Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

ANNEXURE - "B"

Representation regarding objection(s) to Answer key pertaining to Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Chemistry and Toxicology) held on 06-01-2024.

(NOTE: USE SEPARATE FORMS FOR SEPARATE QUESTIONS)

Name of the Applicant : _____

Exam Name : _____

Advertisement No(s). : _____

Application No(s). : _____

Roll No. : _____

Date of Exam : _____

Exam Centre Division (Jammu/Kashmir) : _____

Correspondence Address : _____

Contact / Mobile No. : _____

Demand Draft No. date : _____

Candidates Account No. (16 digit) & IFSC Code: _____

Question No. & Series	Details of the Objection	Resource Material (copy to be enclosed)	Remarks

Correct Answer/Option as per candidate: _____

Date of Application: 01-2024 Signature of the Candidate

Note: Application for each question/answer shall be made on separate page in the given format, otherwise the first question entered in the format shall only be considered.

Govt likely to designate officers as administrators of Panchayats

NASIR AZAM

SRINAGAR: As Panchayats in J&K are completing their five-year term on Tuesday (January 09), the administration of the Union Territory is likely to designate officials/officers as their administrators.

Sources said that J&K government is likely to designate officers/officers as administrators of Panchayats for exercising their powers. "The government would soon issue a notification for appointing administrators of Panchayats. All the powers and duties of

the Halqa Panchayat would be exercised and performed by these administrators," they said, adding that an exercise has been carried out in this regard.

As per Jammu & Kashmir Panchayat Raj Act-1989, the administrators so appointed shall hold office for a period of six months which may be extended by the government for a period of three months by a notification in the official gazette.

Officials said that powers of Panchayats cannot be delegated to district Development Council

(DDC) members.

"There is no legal provision for transferring powers of Panchayats to DDCs," they said, adding that Panchayats and DDCs are two separate bodies with their powers defined in J&K's Panchayat law.

Constituted on January 10, 2019, the five-year term of Panchayats in J&K will end on January 09, in accordance with the law governing their functioning.

Simultaneously, the BDCs will also complete their term on Tuesday, even as an electoral exercise for their consti-

tution was held almost a year after the Panchayat election.

It is worthwhile to mention that elections for Panchayats were expected to be held in October - November 2023, but were delayed due to different legal and procedural issues.

In the last week of December, the administrative council headed by LG Manoj Sinha proposed amendments in Jammu & Kashmir's Panchayati Raj Act to grant reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in these institutions—(KNO)

Secy Health reviews functioning of H&ME Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, conducted a comprehensive review of department's operations during a meeting held here at Civil Secretariat Monday.

The meeting was attended by various senior officers including Director SKIMS Soura, Principals from all Medical and Dental Colleges, Mission Director NHM, CEO Ayushman Bharat, Director Health Services Kashmir and Jammu, Director AYUSH, Director Family Welfare MCH, and Immunization, Director Finance HME, Managing Director JKMSCL, Joint Director (Planning) HME and other senior officers from Health & Medical Education Department.

Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Director (Coordination) New Medical Colleges J&K, delivered a presentation on various aspects of Health and Medical Education Department, encompassing existing health facilities, status of manpower, upcoming infrastructure, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, operational status of new Government Medical Colleges, as well as imminent operationalization of Bone & Joint Hospitals and State Cancer Institutes in Jammu and Srinagar.

Secretary enjoined upon all officials to work conscientiously in providing best healthcare facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He instructed all Heads of Departments to work with utmost dedication to ensure delivery of quality health services to the general public.

Dr. Abid Rasheed directed the MD JKMSCL to ensure timely procurement of drugs, diagnostic and treatment machinery and equipment to prevent any disruptions in patient

care services. He further emphasized facilitating necessary procurements for operationalization of State Cancer Institutes, Bone and Joint Hospitals, and other healthcare institutions.

Highlighting the importance of digital interventions in healthcare delivery, Secretary stressed the need of imperative utilization of technology to expedite and enhance the quality of healthcare services for patients in need. He asked for removal of any impediments hindering the use of technology in the healthcare sector.

During the review of implementation of PMJAY Sehat and functioning of Health & Wellness Centers, Dr. Abid Rasheed directed for conducting impact assessment studies for these flagship programs. Additionally, instructions were issued to the concerned officers to expedite the finalization of recruit-

ment rules and referral of vacancies to recruitment agencies while reviewing the HR status.

While reviewing the major developmental projects, it was emphasized that a close liaison be maintained by the HoDs with the executing agencies and District Development Commissioners to ensure timely completion of the projects. Further, it was stressed upon that the handing over and taking over process of ongoing projects be ensured between JKPC and respective R&B (PW) Divisions.

Dr. Abid Rasheed emphasized the necessity for all officers to work closely in coordination. This concerted effort aims not only to improve public services across healthcare institutions for patient care but also to elevate the quality of undergraduate and postgraduate education to match that of premier institutions in the country, he maintained.

DC Kupwara chairs DCDC meeting, reviews Cooperative sector

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Monday chaired the District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting at DC office Complex here to review the Cooperative sector in the district.

During the meeting, Assistant Registrar Cooperatives (Headquarters) Kupwara, Irshad Jeelani, while giving the overview of the present status of cooperative societies in the district, informed the chair that the department has taken several initiatives to strengthen the cooperative

movement in the district.

It was given out in the meeting that there are a total of 48 Functional Cooperative Societies in the district which include 22 PACS (Primary Agriculture credit Societies), 5 Cooperative marketing societies, 6 Sales and service societies, 4 tribal Sale and service societies, 5 Poultry co-operative societies, 4 Dairy Co-operative societies besides 119 Cooperatives (Under J&K Self Reliant cooperative Act 1999).

Chair was apprised that total membership of 22 PACS in the district is 19816 and out of total 385 Panchayat Halqas, 315 Pan-

chayat Halqas have been covered by PACS.

The DC directed the Cooperative department and other allied departments to work towards the objective of strengthening the cooperative movement in the district and deepening its reach to the grassroots level. She further directed the concerned officials to make vigorous efforts to increase the viability of PACS and diversify their business activities to make them vibrant economic entities at grassroots level.

The DC also reviewed the progress of adoption of model by-laws of PACS for making them multipurpose

and Multidimensional.

While reviewing the district wise targets for establishing new Multipurpose PACS or Primary Dairy/ Fisheries cooperative societies in uncovered Panchayats/Villages, the DC directed the Cooperative department to cover the uncovered areas and Panchayats and handhold the PACS properly to make their activities successful.

DC further directed to establish Rural Haats in all sub divisions of the district.

The meeting was attended by DGM, NABARD, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kupwara, AD Fisheries, AD Food, and other officers.

G'bal Admin launches massive User Charge Collection Drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In a concerted effort to ensure the effective implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in the Panchayats of district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir called upon all sections of society to rally behind the district administration's initiatives.

For the comprehensive and vast involvement of the area and for effective

management of various aspects of SWM, the DC emphasized that the district administration has engaged agencies for waste collection, segregation, and final disposition.

To ensure uniformity in user charge collection across the district, officers have been deployed at the Panchayat level, designated as 'Sanitation Mentors.' Their role is crucial in overseeing that fee collection is meticulously carried out, and the public is urged to

pay the specified charges set by the administration.

Additionally, Block Development Officers (BDOs) are instructed to nominate an official for each Panchayat, collaborating with the 'Sanitation Mentors.' These nominated officials will be responsible for record-keeping and all documentation, including fee collection within their respective Panchayats.

Assistant Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr Bashir Ahmad highlighted that the

district administration has been actively working on Solid Waste Management for the past year. He affirmed that the necessary infrastructure is in place, and door-to-door waste collection has already commenced in all blocks of the district.

Stressing the importance of community involvement, ACD appealed to all residents to pay the user charges as stipulated by the administration for the sustainability of the SWM program.

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